



SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN AFRICA: A REGIONAL PORTRAIT

TBTI GLOBAL PUBLICATION SERIES

Edited by Moenieba Isaacs, Paul Onyango and Shehu Latunji Akintola

TBTI Global Book Series

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Too Big To Ignore (TBTI; toobigtoignore.net) is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership supported by over 550 members from around the world. The network aims at elevating the profile of small-scale fisheries, arguing against their marginalization in national and international policies, and developing research and governance capacity to address global fisheries challenges.

TBTI Global Book Series is a publication series that aims to highlight why we need to pay close attention to small-scale fisheries. The series will be of use to anyone interested in learning more about small-scale fisheries, especially about their important contribution to livelihoods, well-being, poverty alleviation and food security, as well as to those who are keen to help raise profile of small-scale fisheries in the policy realm.

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2.3 Traditional Octopus Fishery, Southwest Madagascar

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Importance The fishery is one of the main sources of livelihood. In this area, the Vezo people have been fishing for centuries (Astuti, 1995). The ground is arid and there is little opportunity for agriculture; people do farm but minimally for maize, cassava, or cattle, making these communities completely reliant upon the sea (Harris, 2011).

Challenges This fishery, similar to other small-scale fisheries, suffers from a lack of governance, compliance and enforcement. Open access to outside fishers exists without clear regulations for limiting catch, effort or damage to the wider marine ecosystem. There is also the issue of large data

deficiencies in terms of knowledge of stock status and dynamics. Another issue is the poor knowledge regarding correct handling of the catch to maximize quality and value. Consequently, fishers often get a poor price for their octopus which exacerbates overfishing as fishers seek to alleviate economic hardship.

Opportunities In order to address the issues this fishery is facing, the solutions should include: empowerment of communities through co management (creation of Locally Managed Marine Areas); uniting fishers to understand the challenges and take part in the decision-making process (establishment of a multi-stakeholder fishery management platform); education regarding fish handling and fisheries management; data collection and research to inform better management; and stakeholder amalgamation to ensure comprehensive and cohesive management and value maximization

across the seafood supply chain. Barriers such as basic healthcare, education and security must also be addressed to allow people the time and focus to partake in successful fisheries management.

Information source(s):

Astuti R (1995) People of the sea. Cambridge University Press. 1 pp.

Blue Ventures

Harris A (2011) Out of sight but no longer out of mind: A climate of change for marine conservation in Madagascar. Madagascar Conservation & Development 6: 7-14
Elephant Marsh Fishery, Malawi

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Traditional octopus fishery, Southwest Madagascar

At a Glance

SSF type(s)	Indigenous, Commercial, Subsistence
Ecosystem type(s)	Marine
Ecosystem detailed type(s)	Beach, Coastal, Coral reef, Inter-tidal, Lagoon
Term(s) used to refer to SSF	Artisanal, Coastal, Indigenous, Inshore, Small-boat, Small-scale, Subsistence, Traditional
Main gear type(s)	Gleaning (collected by hand), Grappling and wounding (harpoons)
Main SSF vessel type(s)	(Dugout) canoe, Outrigger craft, Piroque, Wooden, Sail boat, Un-decked/open (with or without inboard engine)
Time period of data	2019
Total number of SS fishers	15500

Southwest Madagascar, Madagascar



SSF Definition

No definition provided.

Distribution Channels

Retained for household consumption and given to family/friends Sold in local markets Sold to outside markets



Key Species & Landings

Octopus cyanea
900 t

Major Issues

Ecosystem health

Social justice

Livelihoods

Markets

Climate/environmental changes

Poor governance

Stakeholder conflicts

Key Rules & Regulations

- Seasonal closure
- Area closure
- Gear restriction
- Community-based rights systems
- Marine protected areas

Household Income from SSF: 70%
(octopus and other species)

Non-fishing Livelihood Activities

Animal/livestock husbandry
Small trade
Small own-business
Tourism-related activities
Wage/hired labour



Governance

- Co-management/co-governance
- Community-based management

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