

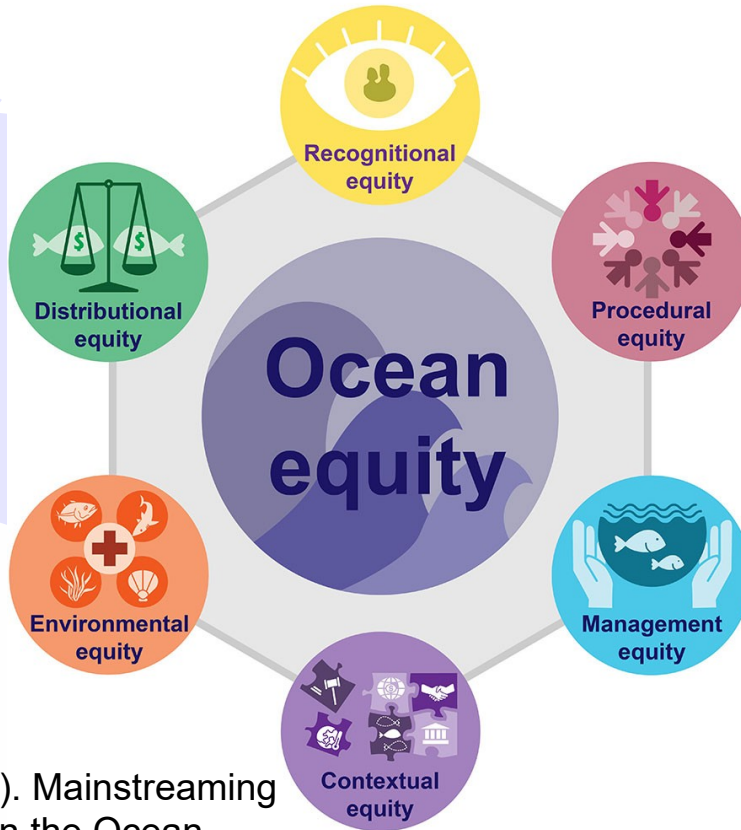


*Mundus  
maris*



# Coastal Communities and Environmental Protection

**Stella Williams**, Mundus maris, Nigeria



# Defining ocean equity



## Recognitional equity

The acknowledgement and consideration of local rights, values, visions, knowledge, needs and livelihoods in policy and practice.



## Procedural equity

The level of inclusiveness and participation in decision-making and the embodiment of good governance principles.



## Management equity

The extent of local capacity for, leadership in and authority over management activities.



## Distributional equity

The degree of fairness in the allocation of benefits and the minimization of harms to local populations and among groups.



## Environmental equity

The safeguarding and maintenance of local environmental quality, sustainability and nature's benefits to people.



## Contextual equity

The extent to which broader contextual factors enable or undermine local social equity and the advancement of equity in policy and practice.

Bennett, N.J. (2022). Mainstreaming Equity and Justice in the Ocean. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, Vol. 9 DOI 10.3389/fmars.2022.873572



# Overconfidence in technology

Some technologies scale well, but unintended negative effects are often insufficiently accounted for.

The hype and rush for new technologies often starts with a global claim with little or no analysis of alternative options. Do we hand control over without assessing complex interactions and future effects, not to mention human rights?

Jasanoff, Sheila (2016). *The Ethics of Invention: Technology and the Human Future*. W.W.Norton, 320 p. ISBN: 978-0-393-07899-2.

Pic: used in different sources





# Reconnecting people and planet

Approaches to managing social affairs usually do not scale as cues even from ubiquitous brands give rise to different responses in different localities and countries.

Harnessing a combination of traditional and indigenous knowledges and providing intelligible access to the sciences holds potential for an equitable 'Blue Economy'.



Jasanoff, S. (2004). Ordering knowledge, ordering society. Chapter 2 pp. 13-45 in Jasanoff, S. (ed.), *States of Knowledge: The Co-Production of Science and the Social Order*. Routledge

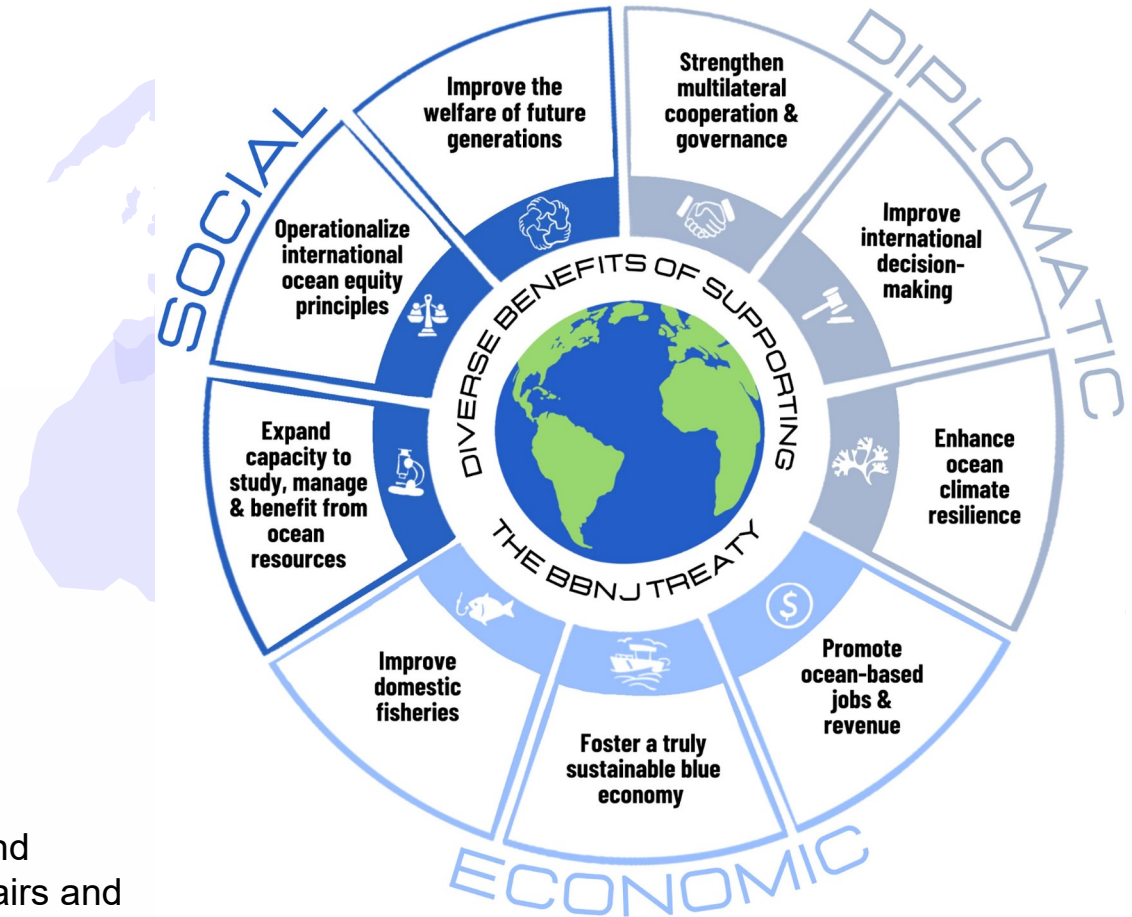


# From International Agreements...

Governments have agreed on a treaty under the Law of the Sea for protecting biodiversity in waters beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). It subjects the High Seas among others to measures to protect 30% for biodiversity recovery.

The admirable consensus-forming international negotiation processes harbour many lessons for advancing maritime security, especially when local communities are participating in governance affecting their futures.

Santos, B.S., *et al.* (2022). The diverse benefits of biodiversity conservation in global ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction. *Front. Mar. Sci.*, Sec. Marine Affairs and Policy, Vol. 9 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.1001240>





# ...to implementation 'on the ground' (1)

Human security needs **participation in governance with economic and life perspectives for young people** to stay in the countries and not take high risk journeys across the sea or the desert in pursuit of dreams that have already ended in death or bad delusions for many.

## Some necessary steps:

- People to **know their rights**, e.g. the Guidelines to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries
- Video on the **SSF Guidelines** and gender equity in **Pidgin English, Wolof, Yoruba** done, **Fante** in preparation with partners in Nigeria and Ghana



Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines Video in Pidgin English



Gender Equity Video in Pidgin English



## ...to implementation 'on the ground' (2)

We provided e.g. our long-term partner in **Cameroon**, Bénévoles Océan led by Jeauberte Djamou, with materials for a **role play** to build consensus among stakeholders for making a marine protected area work even though they may have conflicting interests, at least at first glance.

They enacted that with all 11 stakeholder roles for World Ocean Day 2024 celebrations. One step to act on the **Global Biodiversity Framework**

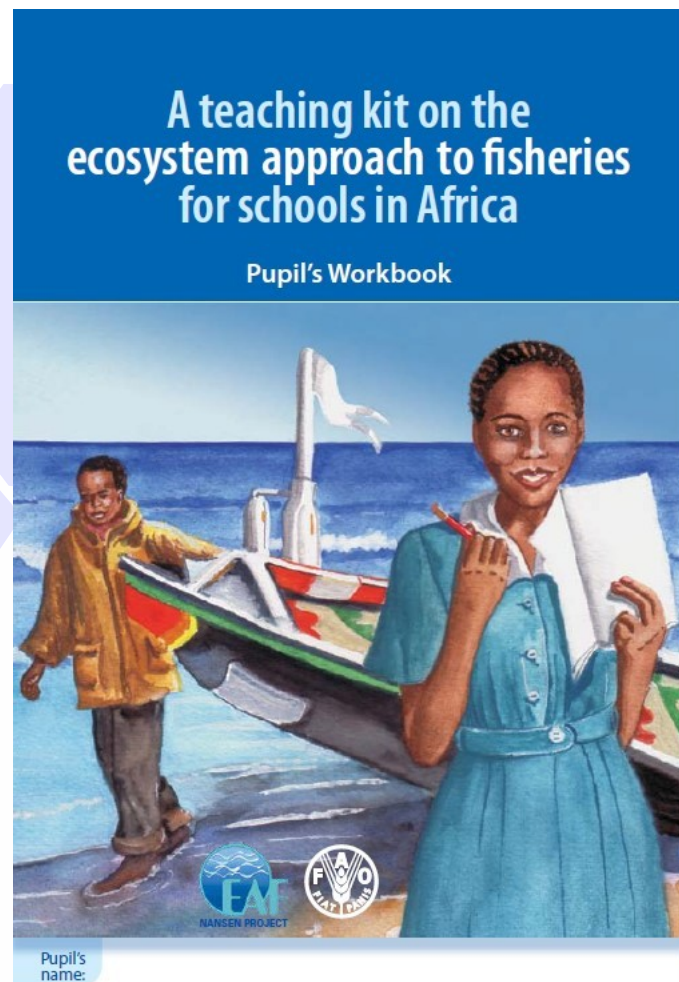




## ...to implementation 'on the ground' (3)

Industrial resource extractions and pollution provoke damage to the coastal environments and their ecosystems which sustained many people's livelihood. That is a powerful driver for irregular migration and criminal acts. Restoring resources brakes that vicious circle. How?

- **Teaching and adopting the ecosystem approach to fisheries** from early age (e.g. teaching kit developed by *Mundus maris*)
- **Take out less than can regrow**
- **Let juvenile fish grow to reproduce**
- **Curb pollution**
- **Compensate small-scale fishers for a transitional period with reduced fishing until recovery to avoid being drawn into criminal practices**







## ...to implementation 'on the ground' (4)

In Nigeria *Mundus maris* together with Fish Party and other partners organises webinars and other activities to alert particularly younger professionals in coastal communities to the importance of being well-informed and influencing policy in favour of marine and social protection, **create opportunities for women and youths.**

Work in direct support to women in fishing communities through **capacity strengthening** alternates with efforts to engage government stronger in **policy** development pro poor and pro safety.



Picture: Oluwaseyi Aiyeobasan on Pixabay



## ...to implementation 'on the ground' (5)

Example: Will the Ghanaian government walk the talk?

It has become a participant in the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (**FiTI**) this year and is Ocean Panel member.

Yet, a recent report by journalist Gideon Sarpong deplors the disappearance of Ghanaian fisheries observers from Korean and Chinese industrial vessels flagged in Ghana. Several public figures, Persons Exposed to Politics (**PEP**), have not declared their potential **conflict of interest** by owning vessels e.g. of Dalian Mengxin Ocean Fisheries. Ghanaian law prohibits foreign ownership of industrial vessels.



Over 80% of companies licensed to operate fishing vessels in Ghana failed to declare beneficial ownership, despite evidence of foreign ownership ties. No rule enforcement.



# Hardship for local fishers, women and men

The disappearance of ‘people fish’ largely from overfishing by industrial vessels of undeclared, but suspected Chinese beneficial ownership creates great hardship for owmen and men in local artisanal fisheries in **Ghana**.

In **Senegal** similar conditions have provoked a spike in irregular emigration by whatever means. The confirmed death toll is more than 500.

A large alliance of civic organisations urges the government to take more decisive action to stop the loss of lives and youths for the future of the country. *Mundus maris* supports the appeal.



Foto: Herbert Bieser from Pixabay



# Murky operations of European vessels too

EU Red Card for Cameroon, thus no imports of fish from the country. Yet, 12 vessels, owned, managed, or associated with companies tied to the European Union, continue to raise the flag of Cameroon.

Surprisingly, trade data from the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA), revealed that nearly €10 million worth of fish had entered the EU from Cameroon between January 2023 and September 2023, despite the ban.

Ocean Whale harvests small pelagics e.g. in Bissau and neighbours aggravating the resource crisis.

## LIST OF EU REGISTERED FISHING COMPANIES THAT FLY THE FLAG OF CAMEROON AND FISH IN WEST AFRICA

			
NAME: MARSHAL KRYLOV COMPANY: BALTREIDS IMO: 8035099	NAME: MARSHAL VASILEVSKIY COMPANY: BALTREIDS IMO: 8033869	NAME: MARSHAL NOVIKOV COMPANY: BALTREIDS IMO: 8036108	NAME: SEI WHALE COMPANY: OCEAN WHALE IMO: 8035099
			
NAME: VEGA (AKA SKAGEN) COMPANY: <small>INDIVIDUALLY OWNED BY BOVINA LIMITED, CYPRUS NOW OWNED BY PESCADO IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.</small> IMO: 8325353	NAME: SVEABORG COMPANY: CAMELFORD IMO: 7610414	NAME: HELSINGFORS COMPANY: MONT ALBERT IMO: 8033297	NAME: GREY WHALE COMPANY: OCEAN WHALE IMO: 7703962
			
NAME: FREDERICKSHAMN (AKA FREDRIKSHAMN) COMPANY: LANGWARRIN IMO: 8730132	NAME: PILOT WHALE COMPANY: OCEAN WHALE IMO: 7703986	NAME: RIGHT WHALE COMPANY: OCEAN WHALE IMO: 8228543	NAME: CRYSTAL HOPE COMPANY: OCEAN WHALE IMO: 8314299

SOURCE: GLOBAL FISHING WATCH AND EQUAGE

Foto: Daniel Abugre Anyorigya



# Transparency and accountability

- Invest in people, **strengthen coastal communities and collective action**
- Strengthen respectful links of communities with regional and national governments to create spaces for innovative solutions not based exclusively on resource extraction and export – **hold governments accountable** for keeping citizens out of harm's way and rebuild resources to “grow the cake available for sharing”
- Build **broader coalitions** incl. with local businesses; this enhances chances of success, but this requires rights-based approaches without excessive power differences; accept it's hard work, willingness to learn, recognise women as equals
- Women must have **access to social services and professional support** - networks and trust are key
- Enhance **preparedness for adverse effects**, that reduces negative impacts, though we mostly react to crises and disasters rather than prevent them; emphasise cultural heritage
- Connect international agreements to local experience to enhance





# Support fisheries governance

See the video of the Environmental Justice Foundation funded by the European Union about involving small-scale fishers in fighting IUU fishing by industrial fleets and defend their livelihoods



**A Global Toolkit for Participatory Fisheries Governance**



# Small selection of literature

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# Thanks for your attention

More Info:

[www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org)

[williams@mundusmaris.org](mailto:williams@mundusmaris.org)

