

## **Aichi Biodiversity Target 6: Sustainable Management of Aquatic Living Resources:**

This Target states that by 2020, **all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.**

This is a most important target for The Gambia as the country is virtually defined by the River Gambia, and mirror, to a large extent, the developmental opportunities and challenges of the country. The river runs throughout the length of the country and fans out extensively into its numerous tributaries and wetlands all of which support specific aquatic biota. In terms of fisheries, there are both artisanal and industrial fishing in the Atlantic Ocean from the coastal areas, as well as inland fisheries, mainly of the freshwater species.

There have been glaring instances of abuse of the marine and other aquatic resources of The Gambia over the past few decades. It has been established that the practice of 'basket fishing' or the use of *dumbo* fishing by mainly Malian migrant fisherfolk causes untold loss of juvenile fishes at several sites along the River. On the other hand, the dumping of unwanted, pelagic species by ocean-plying trawlers. In 2017 and 2018., this indiscriminate and destructive dumping of unwanted caught fish along the coastal settlement of Gunjur by the Chinese registered company called Golden Leaf provoked protests by the community and environmental groups in the area. This unprecedented civil society activism forced Government to review the company's license, especially that of the fish processing plant. A court case against the company was instituted was instituted by the National Environment Agency (NEA) for the pollution caused but the proceedings were stopped due to pressure from above and instead, an out-of-court settlement ensued under which Golden Leaf agreed to clean up the mesh and discontinue the discharge of effluent until it could be certified as safe.

Although, literature on the protection and conservation of aquatic plant species, a few ornamental grass species are now highly valued as sources of traditional incenses called *Thuraye* in the local markets. Consequently, this wetland species requires conservation as well as sea weeds that provide nutrients to the fishes.

**TABLE 6.1: NATIONAL ABT 6 PERFORMANCE AND LINKAGES WITH THE SDGs**

<p>SDG 1: End poverty in all of its forms everywhere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.4 Despite the various gender rights policies and actions, there are no equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance. Studies revealed that women don't enjoy less than 50 % of productive resources that men have;</li> <li>• 1.5 Not much has been registered in building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. Both public and civil society initiatives have been implemented, though.</li> </ul>
<p>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>2.1: In spite of tremendous efforts and modest successes, huge gaps exist towards ending hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;</p> <p>2.2: National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) and other players have made considerable gains in ending all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.</p>
<p>SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p>	<p>8.1: Notwithstanding policy commitments, The Gambia is way off fully adopting resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavoring to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production</p>
<p>SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>12.1: In stark contrast with the target to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, we have witnessed the plunder and unsustainable exploitation of forests (circa 2.3% decline p.a) and marine resources.</p>
<p>SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources sustainable development.</p>	<p>14.2: Modest successes in sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts including, by strengthening their resilience;</p> <p>14.4: Less successful has been the policy to regulate harvesting and overfishing, IUU and destructive fishing practices;</p>

	14.7: the gambia, as an LDC which, together with SIDS, has not adequately attained economic benefits from her marine resources, aquaculture or tourism despite modest successes in the latter.
SDG 15: Protection, Restoration and Promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (Forests) and combat desertification)	15.1: Through reforestation and Sustainable Land Management, considerable conservation and ecological restoration has been achieved, mainly through project nterventions.

**TABLE 6.2: IMPLEMETNTATION INDICATORS AND PERFORMANCE DATA**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only limited sustainable management of fisheries resources (less than 10%) and these include seasonable closures and ban on nightly fishing, control of fishing nets (mesh sizes) have been achieved ;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overfishing –significant along the coastline; wasteful fishing-extensive in inland waters (<i>dumbnos</i>); IUU-Extensive in all places</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspite of the modest measures given above, there is growing evidence of overfishing with certain dermasal species exploited above MSY and wasteful fishing;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the destructive impacts of the massive illegal logging in recent years which enrosched some state parks, the number of PAs have been increased as 14 new community-based ones have been added</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The compounding effects of drought, massive logging and desertification have led to extensive habitat losses as water bodies dry up and certain species getting extinct</li> </ul>