

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

Article 1: NAME AND ADDRESS

The organization is called: The National Consultative Committee for the conservation and management of the Small pelagic fish stocks here referred to as NCC.

The **Address** of the Committee is:

Fisheries Department,
6 Marina Parade
Banjul
The Gambia
Tel: 420 1515<mailto:>

Article 2 PREAMBLES

The project “ Towards regional policies for sustainable fisheries for small pelagic in Northwest Africa” being implemented by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), aim to support processes leading to coordinated policies and management of small pelagic fisheries between countries bordering the Canary Current upwelling system; Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia. The species concerned are: sardine (*sardine pilchardus*), sardinella (*sardinella aurita* and *sardinella maderensis*), horse mackerel (*Trachurus trecae*, *Trachurus trachurus* and *caranx rhonchus*), chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), bonga (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*).

The project focuses basically on strengthening the institutions and instruments of cooperation for the joint management of the stocks shared between three countries of the SRFC; Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia and including the Kingdom of morocco. The first step in the process is to support the establishment of a national consultation framework for improved management of small pelagic through the establishment and strengthening of co-management committees also known as Local Consultative Committees, at the local level. Seven fishing villages (Banjul, Bakau, Old Jeshwang, Tanji, Sanyang, Gunjur and Kartong) were identified as landing sites for small pelagic fish and local co-management committees established in each of them to assist the fisheries authorities with conservation and management of these resources. From these committees and other institutions and individuals, a National Consultative Committee was constituted together with other stakeholders including fisheries administration and research..

The objective of the consultative framework is to support the formulation, preparation and implementation of management plans for sustained use of the small pelagic fisheries both at national and regional levels with the support of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission guided by this constitution.

This constitution will be known as the constitution of: The National Consultative Committee (NCC) for Management of Small pelagic fishery.

The National Consultative Committee is non-political and includes people from a variety of social backgrounds.

SECTION II: The COMMITTEE

Article 3: Aims and Objectives of the National Consultative Committee for the conservation and management of the small pelagic fish stocks..

The global goal of the NCC is the conservation and management of the small pelagic fish resources contributing to food security needs of the Gambia and poverty alleviation through employment generation and improved earnings.

Specific objectives

1. To act as a consultative mechanism for stakeholders in the bid to conserve and manage the small pelagic fish stocks
2. Promote co-management practices for conservation and management of small pelagic fisheries
3. Provide local knowledge for the rational and sustainable management of the small pelagic resources
4. Work in collaboration with relevant government institutions, sub-regional fishery bodies, NGOs and Projects for the conservation, management and development of the small pelagic fisheries resources.
5. Participate in the preparation of management plans for the small pelagic fishery
6. Promote sustainable use of these species through sensitization and resource mobilization.

7. Participate in the enlightening and sensitization of stakeholders on the benefit and challenges of concerted management of shared stocks such as small pelagics
8. Facilitate adoption and implementation of concerted management measures for the trans-boundary stocks
9. Participate in the coordination of the harmonization of management measures for trans-bordering stocks for their sustained management within countries bordering the Canary current mainly: Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and The Gambia.
10. Encourage and promote dialogue between Managers, Scientist and Fishermen
11. Promote effective participation of women in the small pelagic fishery production chain.
12. Promote the preservation, proper handling and marketing of small pelagic fish in compliance with international food hygiene standards for both local and the international consumption.
13. To contribute to the reduction of post-harvest fish losses, food security and poverty alleviation through a co management approach.
14. To create awareness in the protection and management of the of the landing sites as well as the marine ecosystem.

Section 5

Article 5: MEMBERSHIPS

The National Consultative Committee has a membership of 15; the composition of which is outlined below:

- Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources & National Assembly – one person
- Fisheries Department – two person
- Co-Management Committees at Landing Sites – 7 persons from (Banjul, Bakau, Barra, Gunjur, Kartong, Jeshwang, Tanji)

- GAMFEDA – one person
- NAAFO – one person
- National Environment Agency – one person
- Member of Parliament – one person
- Gambia Navy – one person
- Association of Industrial Fishing Companies

Article 6: GENERAL MEETINGS

1. The first General Meeting of the Committee shall be held at such time as may be determined by the Chairperson of the National Consultative Committee for Management of Small pelagic fishery.
2. A general meeting shall be held at least twice a year at such time and place as shall be determined by the executive;
3. Every member shall have the right to vote and be voted for at a General Meeting;
4. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall chair all General meetings. In the absence of the chair person, his/her assistant shall assume the chair;
5. Where an emergency meeting is requested by one third of the general membership, the Executive Committee shall have no option but to convene the meeting within seven (7) days.

Article 7: VOTING

A simple majority shall resolve voting in the general meeting and shall be by show of hands for all matter discussed at the general meeting. In case of a tie (equal votes on each side), the chairperson of the general meeting shall have a deliberative casting vote

Article 8: QUORUM

1. The quorum for the general meeting shall not be less than one half of the members of The National Consultative Committee for Management of Small pelagic fishery.
2. The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be 2/3 of the members
3. Decisions taken by a meeting held without a quorum shall be null and void

4. The Quorum for emergency meetings shall be 2/3 of the general membership

Article 9: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The National Consultative Committee shall have power to dissolve the Executive Committee or remove any officer by a vote of 2/3 of the members of the Committee at an Emergency General Meeting call for the purpose.

The chairperson within a week should convene a meeting on the receipt of a written petition signed by at least 2/3 of the registered members of the association

SECTION 4: ADMINISTRATION/FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

Article 10:

Candidates for the various positions of responsibility within the National Consultative Committee for the conservation and management of small pelagic fish resources must manifest their enthusiasm, dedication, capacity for work, respect for all members of the committee and above all, have a high sense of responsibility. Voting to fill positions shall be by secret ballot at the general meeting of the General Body.

Article 11: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Executive Committee shall administer the affairs of National Consultative Committee for the conservation and management of the small pelagic resources and its fisheries and reports to the General Body through the chairperson.
- b) The Executive Committee of the National Consultative Committee shall comprise the following officers:
 - 1) Chairperson
 - 2) Vice chairperson
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) Secretary
 - 5) Advisers (Technical and Policy)

Each of the above mentioned officers should hold office for a period of two years and can be re-elected. They shall be elected at a general meeting of the General Assembly.

Decisions reached at Executive Committee meetings shall be binding on all members of the committee. The members of the Executive Committee shall hold at least 4 meetings annually and may hold other emergency meetings as may be required at any time by the chairperson or for members of the Executive Committee after seven day notice being given to all other members of the matters to be discussed.

There shall be a quorum only when 2/3 of the members of Executive Committee are present at such meetings.

At meetings of the Executive Committee, decisions shall be determined by simple majority of the members present and voting on the question. In case of equality of votes, the chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

Any resolution of the Executive Committee may be withdrawn or amended from time to time by the committee subject to the approval of the general body.

Article 12: FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Functions of the Executive Committee shall be:

1. To take care of the day-to-day affairs of The National Consultative Committee for the conservation and management of Small pelagic resources.
2. To enforce the constitution of the Organization;
3. To implement policies objectives and programmes of the Committee as laid down by the General Meeting;
4. To initiate and undertake all such activities as may further the objectives and aims of The National Consultative Committee.
5. To deal with all other matters affecting the interest and the functioning of The National Consultative Committee
6. To give instructions to all officers of The National Consultative Committee with regard the conduct of business.

Article 13: CHAIRPERSON

The chairperson shall be responsible for calling both General and Executive Committee meetings. The chairperson or his or her representative will represent the National Consultative Committee at all forums with regards small pelagic resource conservation and management

Article 14: SECRETARY

The secretary shall be responsible for:

- a) The recording and keeping of minutes of all Executive Committee and General Meetings of the Committee
- b) Drawing up the agenda and notice of all such meetings and all other programmes connected with the Committee in consultation with the chairperson

Article 15: TREASURER

The treasurer shall with the Director of Fisheries be responsible for the collection and safe keeping of the funds of the National Consultative Committee. They should ensure that all funds of the National Consultative Committee for Management of Small pelagic stocks are deposited in the bank and submit report on the financial status of the committee;

Keep a cash book in which all financial transactions of the National Consultative Committee shall be recorded

Article 16: MINUTES

Minutes of the proceedings of any meeting of the committee and of every meeting of the Executive Committee shall be recorded and signed by the chairperson of such meeting. Such minutes, when recorded and signed, shall serve as evidence of proceedings without the need for further proof of all meetings and proceedings of the committee.

SECTION 5:

Article 16: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

All amendments to the Constitution shall be subjected to the approval of at least 2/3-majority vote of the members present at any General Meeting

No resolution or motion for the alteration or amendment of the Constitution shall be discussed at a General Meeting unless notice of the proposed resolution, motion stating the nature of the alteration or amendment, is submitted to the Secretary not later than seven days before the date of the general meeting.

Article 17: DISSOLUTION

- a) The National Consultative Committee shall only be dissolved if 2/3 of the members or the Fisheries Authorities file a motion of its dissolution, which shall be brought before a General meeting, called for that purpose. Within 30 days of the receipt of the motion by the chair, and provided that 3/4 of the NCC members voted in favour of the dissolution; the decision shall be carried;
- b) In the event of the committee being dissolved as provided above, all debt(s) and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the committee shall be fully discharged and remaining funds shall be transferred to the Fisheries Department;

Article 18: ARBITRATION

An Appeal Board comprising a representative of the Executive and four other members from the general membership shall be constituted at a General Meeting. Apart from the representative of the Executive Committee, any other member shall be elected to chair such board. The complainant shall have a member of his/her choice to represent him/her at the Board in pursuance of his/her petition. The decision of this board shall be final and binding on all parties.

Executive Committee Members

NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE
Ousman Bojang	Chairperson	
Mama Badjie	Vice Chairperson	
Dawda Saine	Secretary	
Ebou Mass Mbye	Treasurer	
Ousman Drammeh	Adviser-Technical	
Momodou Kanyi	Adviser- Policy	