Workshop OB3b – “Small-scale fisheries and MPAs/fishery reserves: how to achieve successful management and sustainable livelihoods”

PESCATOURISM:
An activity to diversify the fishing sector to serve the needs of marine coastal areas – the experience of the Taza National Park (Algeria)

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Context

• Pescatourism: an ancient practice more or less allowed, depending on the areas;
• Increasing difficulties have led to a search for alternative activities to diversify the fishing sector;
• The preservation of a resource and human heritage: a shift from a quantitative to a qualitative approach?
• A challenge in both the north and the south of the Mediterranean;
• A major objective for a marine national park: the national park of Taza in Algeria;
• A demand from the professional fishing sector;
• The wilaya of Jijel, a popular tourist area which is still preserved from mass tourism.
Actions / Results

• A two-year project;
• A representative sample of pilot vessels representative for all fishing activities: vessels less than 12m length and over 12m length;
• A port-based development strategy: Ziama, El Aouna and Jijel;
• The definition of operating principles: safety, communication, etc.
• Other complementary activities: catering, accommodation, recreational fisheries.
Actions / Results

- Direct involvement of State central services: ministry of fisheries, transport and tourism;
- Planning of tests for the final development of the activity;
- Field study carried out in Corsica and Sardinia;
- Adoption of a national regulation on 27 July 2016 “setting the terms and conditions to carry out urban and recreational for-profit maritime transport activities”;  
- Pescatourism recognized as a fishing activity to “introduce the profession of fisher or aquaculture farmer and show the marine environment ”;
- The discovery of the marine environment, an exclusive prerogative of fisheries.
Challenges / Prospects

- Pescatourism: a sustainable local development approach above all;
- Strong local involvement: a multi-stakeholder project;
- A process in several phases that requires time;
- An increasing demand from the fishing sector and growing concerns for the future: what will it be working as a fisherman in 30 years?
- Many other options for high added value activities:
  - Tasting of fisheries products;
  - Guest housing in fishermen villages;
  - Discovery of marine wildlife (whale watching);
  - Discovery of the fisheries cultural heritage.
Recommendations

• To develop marine ecotourism activities within MPAs;
• To give a crucial role to small-scale fisheries within the context of marine ecotourism: “ambassadors of the sea”;
• To monitor and assess the impacts of activities aimed at diversifying fisheries in MPAs: example of the natural reserve in the Strait of Bonifacio;
• To acknowledge the great potential for income-generating activities that benefit both the professional fishing sector and fisheries-dependent communities;
• To upgrade fisheries regulations;
• To promote the exchange of experiences in the whole Mediterranean coastal area.
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Thank you - merci

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