

Translated from Spanish

Information provided by the Government of Spain as a contribution to the preparation of the Secretary-General's study on the sustainable development of marine resources, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/222

In view of the many obligations arising from the agreements and action plans on fisheries resources and marine environment protection adopted by the international community, whether in the context of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or of the United Nations itself, together with the Millennium Development Goals on poverty eradication, Spain attaches ever-greater importance to the issue of financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

In an effort to assist the fisheries and aquaculture sector of developing countries in achieving sustainable development and in implementing and monitoring compliance with the necessary regulations, Spain has signed memorandums on fisheries and aquaculture cooperation with three coastal African States: Mauritania (November 2006), Mozambique (April 2007) and Guinea-Bissau (January 2008). It has also signed memorandums with Yemen (November 2004), Viet Nam (June 2007) and the Philippines (December 2007), and with Peru, Mexico, Uruguay, El Salvador, Panama and Ecuador in Latin America.

Spain's most important cooperation activities focus on the following areas:

- Supervision and control of fishing activity: support for the establishment of satellite tracking and monitoring centres and provision of fisheries inspection systems;
- Support for scientific and technological institutes with a view to training professionals in assessing fisheries resources;
- Establishment of nautical and fisheries training schools, including training on health and hygiene issues relating to fisheries products, and promotion of equal opportunities between men and women through training and technical assistance; and
- Development of artisanal fishing and of first-sale marketing systems for artisanal fishing products.

These activities are in addition to the scientific cooperation which Spain has carried out with developing countries since 2002, using two Spanish oceanographic research vessels to conduct a scientific assessment of resources of interest to such countries and to help train their scientists.

Specifically, Spain has conducted scientific campaigns in Gabon (2002), Guinea-Bissau (2002), Angola (2003), Algeria (2003 and 2004), Morocco (2004, 2005 and 2006), Namibia (2005, 2006 and 2007), Mozambique (2007) and Mauritania (2007).

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