

PRESS RELEASE



Launch of the Namibia Civil Society Consultation: Sustainable Fisheries Management and a Sustainable Future?

14th-15th May 2008

Safari Court Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

The Namibia Civil Society Consultation is the first step in a two year Commonwealth programme on Marine Fisheries Management and Coastal Zone Communities, which has been underwritten by the UK Department for International Development and the Australian government. It is being managed by a Commonwealth consortium consisting of the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit (CPSU) and the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC). Findings will be reported to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) due to take place in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009.

Following a successful launch of the Commonwealth Fisheries Programme, held in London on the **19th April 2008**, the Windhoek meeting responds to a recognised need for a civil society platform to address the real-life concerns, practices and experiences of SADC fishing communities within the broader topic of fisheries management, and SADC and national fisheries policy

The consultation will bring together stakeholders from across the SADC region involved in sustainable fisheries management including: civil society groups involved in the advocacy of coastal fishing/artisanal fishing communities, fishing co-operatives, and other ad hoc groups working in coastal fishing communities within Southern Africa. This will help build representation, enhance a capacity for dialogue, and support an ongoing input into fisheries management policy. The Commonwealth consortium's mission is to:

- provide participants with a voice; a platform for these representatives to share their specific experiences with other delegates from Southern Africa
- gather and record a regional plethora of experiences, best practice solutions, and raise awareness of issues that do not receive media or official attention
- to integrate a civil society perspective, with practical knowledge and insights, into national and international policy.

For more information please contact **Homera Cheema** or **Dr. Victoria teVelde**:

Homera.Cheema@sas.ac.uk

+44 020 7862 8847/07506785197

Victoria.teVelde@sas.ac.uk

+44 020 7862 8864