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Women Shellfishers and Food Security Project

Overview

Centre for Coastal Management
University of Cape Coast, Ghana



The Problem

Urgent need to build the case for locally driven livelihoods that enhance rather than degrade natural resources management, and that engage and benefit women

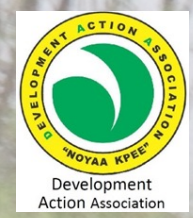
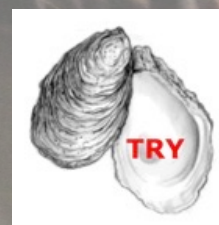
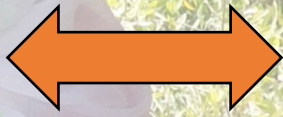
- 10 million Africans in depend directly on small-scale fisheries
- 90 million indirectly
- Women are 15% of harvesters and 90% of processors
- Shellfish harvesting in estuaries is mainly by women
- Annual catch of shellfish missing from official data
- Mangroves ecosystems provide services that are undervalued and under threat
- Micronutrients and iron in shellfish contribute to healthy diets

The Opportunity

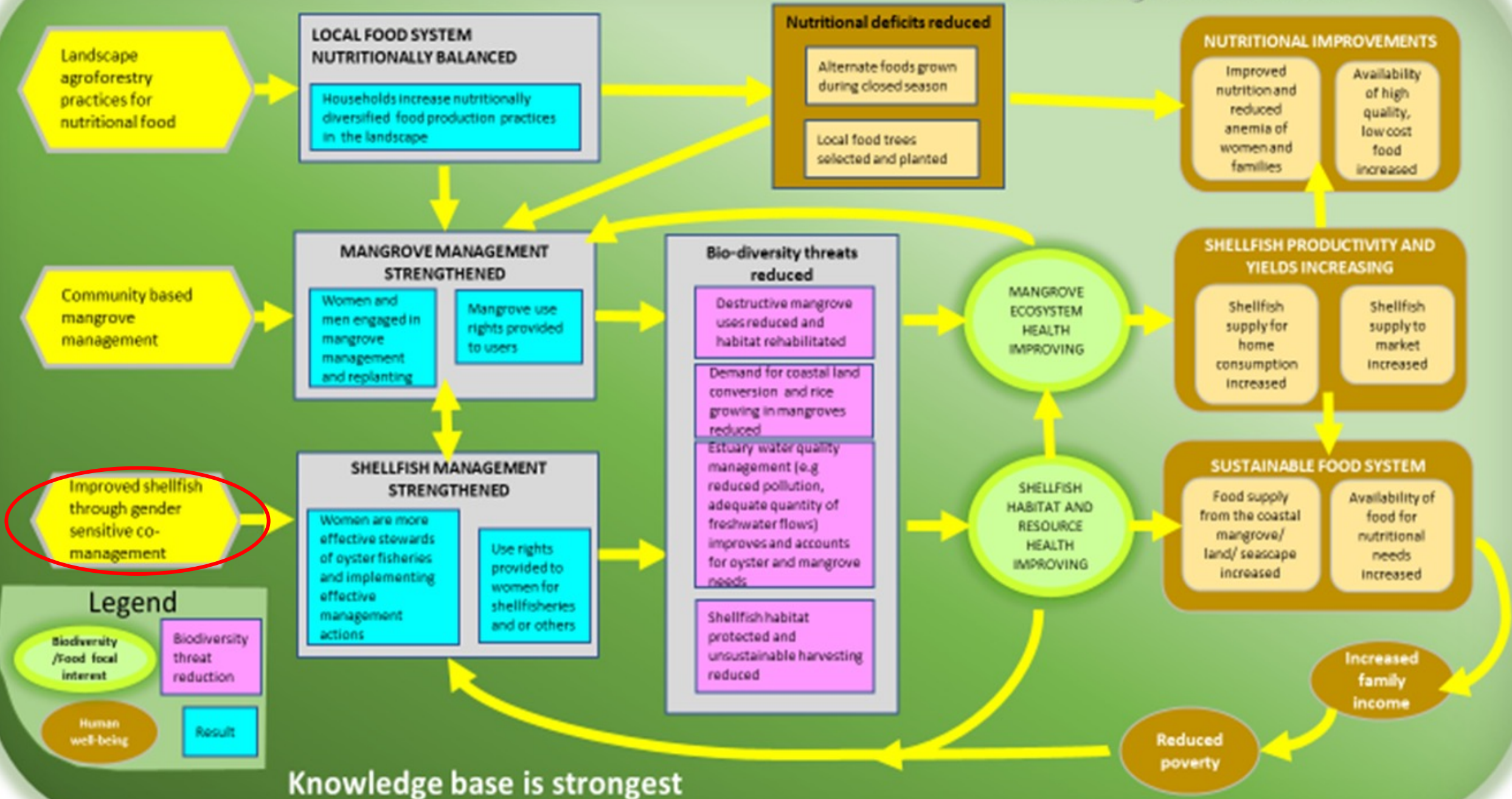
Sustainable Shellfisheries

Mangrove Conservation

Food Security



Knowledge base is weakest



Knowledge base is strongest



Three Key Activities

1. **First-ever participatory regional assessment in 11 coastal countries (Senegal to Nigeria)**
2. **Test the theory of change with site-based research in The Gambia and Ghana**
3. **Foster a community of practice around development and dissemination of a toolkit**



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The Estuarine and Mangrove Ecosystem-Based Shellfisheries of West Africa Spotlighting Women-Led Fisheries Livelihoods



Women Shellfishers and Food Security Project | October 2021
A report on the region-wide participatory assessment of shellfisheries in West Africa

Activity I

First-ever West Africa regional assessment of shellfisheries in 11 coastal countries (Senegal to Nigeria)

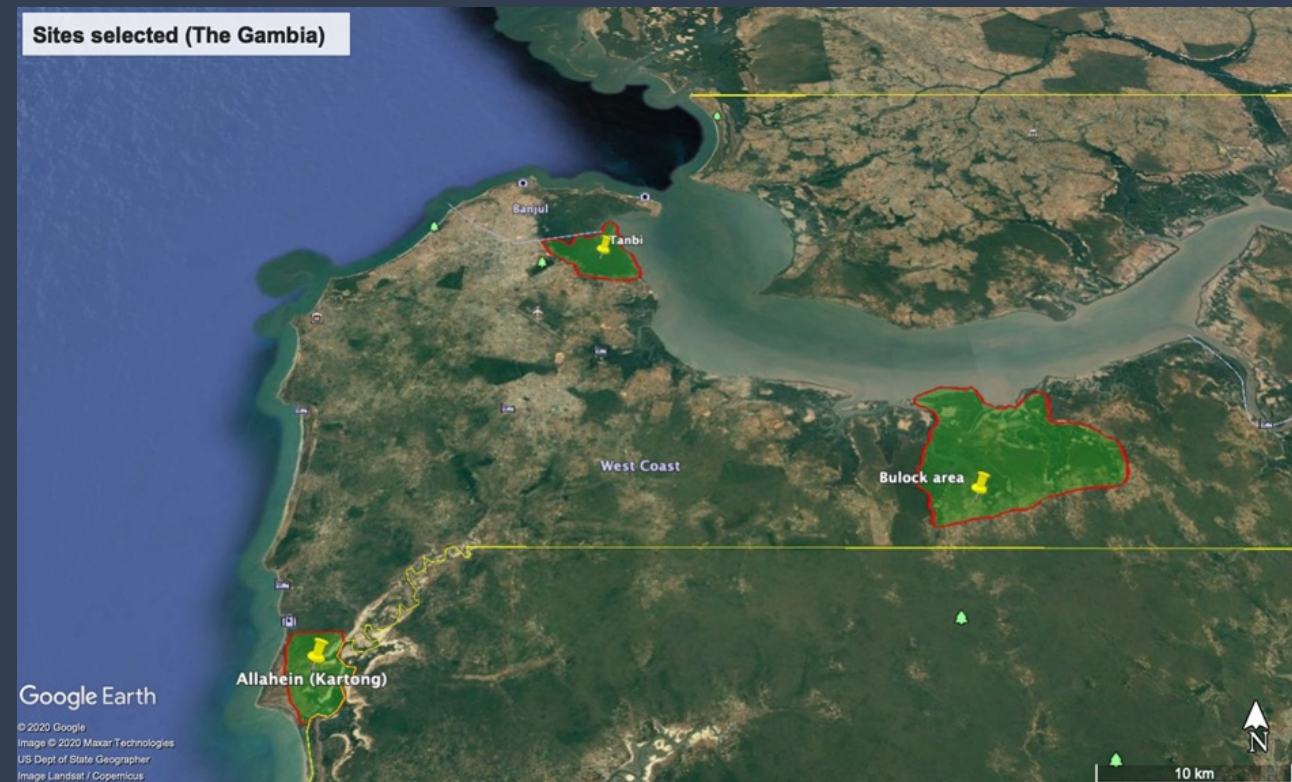


Activity 2: Site-Based Research

- **Assessment of threats and drivers of mangrove degradation and preferred restoration options**
- **Developing a sustainable land/seascape collaborative vision**
- **Integrated food and nutrition complementarity profiles using agricultural and wild foods and feeds**
- **Analysis of shellfisheries and bio-physical parameters of the estuaries**
- **Anemia research**
- **Multivariate analysis**

Three Sites Each in Ghana and The Gambia

- Existing shellfish activity
- Significant involvement of women shellfishers
- Existing mangrove systems-based livelihoods
- A range of mangrove health conditions and changes over time

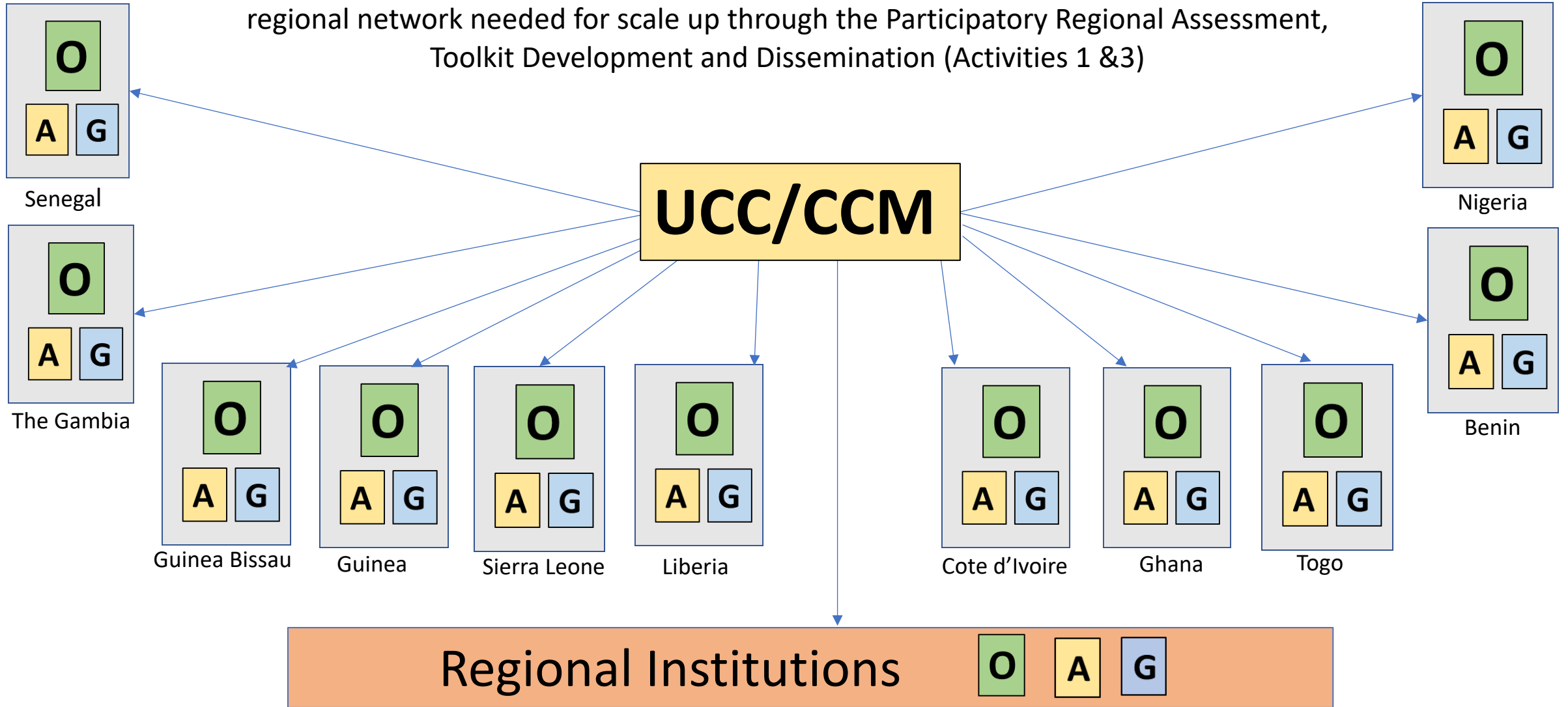




Activity 3

Foster a
community of practice
around development and
dissemination of
a toolkit

Building the knowledge base by engaging and modeling the institutional partnerships and regional network needed for scale up through the Participatory Regional Assessment, Toolkit Development and Dissemination (Activities 1 &3)



O = Women oyster & shellfish associations/communities

A = academic and research institutions

G = government departments



Outcomes

74 shellfish and mangrove stakeholders are trained and:

- **Have increased awareness of the concepts in the theory of change**
- **Have tools to design sustainable interventions and outcomes**
- **Are networked regionally**
- **Identify plans or resources to pursue opportunities for scale up**



Workshop Objectives

Engage stakeholders across West Africa in empowerment of women in shellfish livelihoods as a driver of mangrove conservation and resulting food security and nutrition outcomes through:

- **Increased stakeholder awareness** of rights-based, women shellfisheries co-management approaches
- **Equipping stakeholders** to adapt and apply successful approaches for replication and scale-up in West Africa with:
 - An improved evidence base
 - A toolkit
 - A community of practice

Specific Objectives

- **Disseminate findings on the Theory of Change** from the site-based research
- **Disseminate the Toolkit** for Women Shellfisheries Co-Management
- **Engage stakeholders** as resource persons and institutions for training others and using the toolkit for country-specific application

Thank You

Merci

