

## Artisanal Fisheries in Angola



### Introduction

The main livelihood of Angola's coastal communities comes from artisanal fisheries. The area from Lobito to the mouth of the Kunene River is by far the most productive of Angola's fishing zones, with an abundance of horse mackerel, sardines, tunas and a range of demersal species. Angola's northern fishing zone extends from Luanda to the mouth of the Congo River, and the central fishing zone from between Luanda and Lobito. The Institute for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (IPA) was created in 1992 for the promotion and development of artisanal fisheries communities. This short document is based on information gathered by IPA.

### Coastal communities

As in most developing countries, the population living on the coast face difficult and poor conditions. There are 102 communities along the 1 650 km of Angolan coast, their numbers dwindling in the desert regions of the extreme south. Benguela, Namibe and Luanda are major artisanal fishing areas.



Coastal communities in Angola, according to IPA data

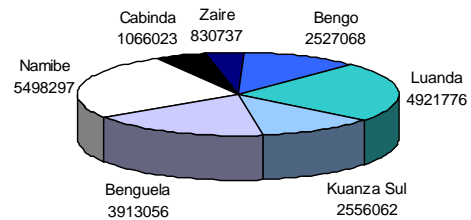
Cabinda (18)	Zaire (20)	Bengo (12)	Luanda (15)	Kuanza Sul (9)	Benguela (16)	Namibe (12)
Labi	Mussera	Ambriz	São Tiago	Praia de Sousa	Cuio	Cabo Negro
Luvassa	Impanga	Kinkankala	Boa Vista	Kikombo	Gengo	Praia Amélia
Funga	Tombe	Binge	Hotanganga	Sumbe Salinas	Chiome	Saco Mar
Caio	Kifuma	Pambala	Cacuaco	Foz R. LOnga	Chamume	Mucuio
Lombo-Lombo	Kungo	Catumbu	Samba	Praia Dengue	Vitula	Bentiaba
Chinga Changi	Kinzau	B. Dande	Ramiro	Torre-Tombo	Baía Farta Sede	Baba
Futila	Mucula	Sobe desce	Benfica	Sumbe sede	Kasseque-Quioche	Baía das Pipas
Buço Mazi	N'Zeto	Sangano	B. Kuanza	Karimba	Macaca	Chapéu Armado
Malembo	Ponta Padrão	Cabo Ledo	Mirador	Porto Amboim	Senga	Tômbwa Sul
Cacongo	Maradeira	S. Braz	Casa Lisboa		Cabaia	Tômbwa sede
Bembica	Kipai	Kitoba	Chicala 1		Saco	Porto Pesqueiro
Tchafi tungo	Kivanda		B. Bengo		Caota	Lucira
Landana	Kakongo		Buraco		Damba Maria	
Chicaca	Tomboco		Carpo Soca		Praia Bebé	
Sangu Simuli	Kinfinda Muango				Lobito Velho	
Techississa	Kingombo				Compao	
Massabi	Kinpanga					
	Kintaku					
	Lucumba					
	Missanga					

## Some figures

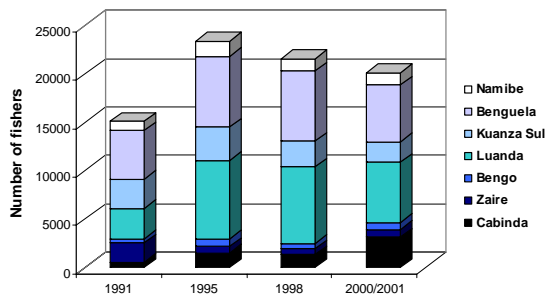
Artisanal fishers, numbering 23 – 25 000, typically use basic methods and gear. The types of boats used include the *piroga*, a canoe made of wood or fibre, the *chata*, a small-planked open boat also made of wood or fibre but more sophisticated and sometimes equipped with outboard engine, and the *catronga*, a boat up to 10 m with an inboard engine. The boats often lack motors and any mechanised equipment for fishing or navigation.

According to IPA survey data, total artisanal catches in 2002 were 120 000 t. Artisanal fishers catch horse mackerel and lower value species like groupers, snappers, seabreams, croackers and spiny lobster, whereas semi-industrial and industrial fishers mainly target horse mackerel, sardinella, shrimp and deep sea red crab.

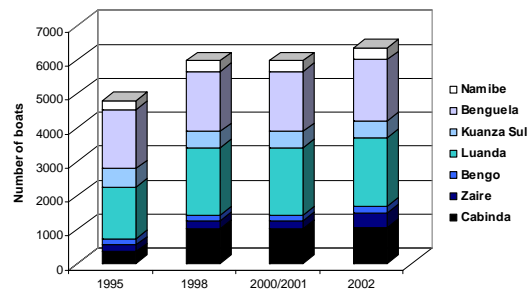
Catches in the coastal provinces of Angola (kg)



Number of fishers in the coastal provinces



Number of boats in the coastal provinces



## Fishing activities

In addition to gillnetting and angling, fishers practise inadequate and often destructive methods such as the beach netting method known as *banda banda*, and the use of poisonous roots or plants and explosives. Beach netting methods are deployed in 47 of the 102 coastal communities, according to IPA data. Fishing activities are typically low capital based and labour intensive.

Net manufacturing and repair, boats maintenance and the fishing are duties of the men, whereas all activities relating to fish landing, processing and selling are the responsibilities of women. The fish is usually salted and dried, though in the north of the country smoking methods are also used.

Fishing cooperatives have been established in a number of communities. The first cooperative was created in 1978 in the Cacuaco municipality, Province of Luanda. Communities, through local government, establish the cooperatives that are legal entities and serve as a conduit for government support. The cooperatives have their own statutes, which are officially approved and published by the Ministry of Justice.

Cooperatives represent not only a way for people to pool their strengths and resources, but they constitute ideal management units for a section of the coast. There is no doubt that the cooperatives are useful and appropriate structures to engage natural resource management as well as launch coastal conservation initiatives.