



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



# Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA)

25 – 27 April 2023 Tunis, Tunisia



# Strengthening the Capacity for Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Control in Africa

*The Continents' Strategic Approach*

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*Fisheries and Aquaculture Trade and Investment,  
AU-IBAR, Nairobi, Kenya*

# Outline of the Presentation

1. Introduction to AU-IBAR
2. Africa's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector
3. Opportunities and threats for the sustainable growth of Africa's fish sector
4. Safe-guarding the fish sector against biosecurity threats and enhancing access to markets
5. Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks

# The African Union's –Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

*Who we are?*



www.au-ibar.org

## Who We Are

*The Africa Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources is a technical institution under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC).*

*AU-IBAR is responsible for animal resources development and is taking urgent actions to transform the animal resources sector (livestock, fisheries and wildlife) to redress current challenges resulting from growing demand for animals and animal products, and impacts of socio-economic, environmental and climatic changes on the status and utilization of Africa's animal resources for the benefit of its citizens.*

## Our Vision

*An Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace.*

## Our Mission

*To provide leadership and integrated support services for the development of animal resources in Africa*

## Our Mandate

*To support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources to enhance nutrition and food security and contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of the people in the Member States of the African Union*





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### HOW WE DRIVE CHANGE

Leveraging continental policy frameworks and stakeholders, we inject motivation, opportunity, and capacity into processes that have the potential to lead to systematic changes at all levels in creating 'the Africa We Want' through Animal Resources Development



### AGENDA FOR ACTION

To Address Africa's Animal Resources Development Challenges

**THREATS**

Poverty Inequalities  
 Decreasing Research Funding  
 Animal Food Safety  
 Poor coordination  
 Consumer Preference  
 Population Growth  
 Species Extinctions  
 Lack of implementation and Enforcement of Regulations  
 Water and Land Scarcity  
 Animal Diseases  
 Ecosystem Integrity

**Climate Change**  
**Urbanisation**  
**Mitigation**  
**Conflicts**  
**Hunger**  
**Zoonotic Diseases**

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Investment **One African Voice**  
**Agenda2063** Employment  
 Continental Platforms **Blue Economy**  
 Youth engagement **PFRS** **LiDeSA**  
 Valuing Animal Resources  
**Regional Cooperation**  
 Animal Resource Value Chain **Gender equality**  
**Private Sector** New business Practices  
 Technology **AfCFTA** Stakeholder engagements  
**CAADP** Animal Health Strategy for Africa  
 Animal Welfare **Malabo Declaration**

AU-IBAR's functions are detailed into the following specific projects:



Strengthening Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa



Strengthening Veterinary Governance and Animal Health Systems



Strengthening Agricultural Trade Systems and Intra-African Trade in Animals and Animal Products



Building capacity for a sustainable blue economy development (Sustainable animal resource)



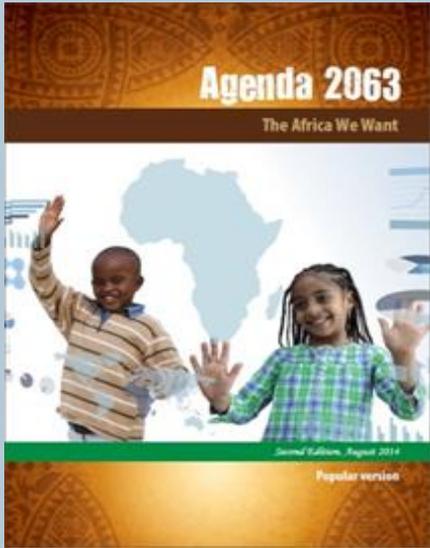
Sustainably Conserving, Managing and Utilizing Animal Resources and their Ecosystems



Enhancing African Youth and Women in the Animal Resources Agribusiness Incubation



# Africa's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector



Concern over poor performance of Africa's fish sector

## Fish for all Summit, 2005: Status of Africa's fish sector

### Contribution & value

Total inland and marine fish production 7.3 million ton/yr

Food & nutrition for 200 million

income for 10 million  
*(production, processing & trade)*

Export earnings USD 2.7 billion

### Sustainability & growth?

Natural fish stocks at their limits

Rapid population growth (2.5%)

Declining fish per capita consumption trends (8kg pc)

increase aquaculture production by 260% to maintain 8kg pc to 2020

**CAADP**

The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), an Agenda 2063 initiative to support AU-MS & REC eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by raising economic growth through agriculture-led development.



*Literally all from artisanal SSF*

## *Key recommendations from the Fish for All Summit*

- Strategic investments were urgently needed to safeguard the future contribution of Africa's fish sector to poverty alleviation and regional economic development.
- Investment was needed to:
  - (i) improve the management of natural fish stocks;
  - (ii) develop aquaculture production; and
  - (iii) enhance fish trade within domestic, regional and global markets.

*Thereafter, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Africa's Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) .....*

IUU, poor  
governance, access to  
markets, regional  
integration,  
coherence in policy  
and development  
approaches



## Malabo Declaration, 2014: Policy Framework and Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)

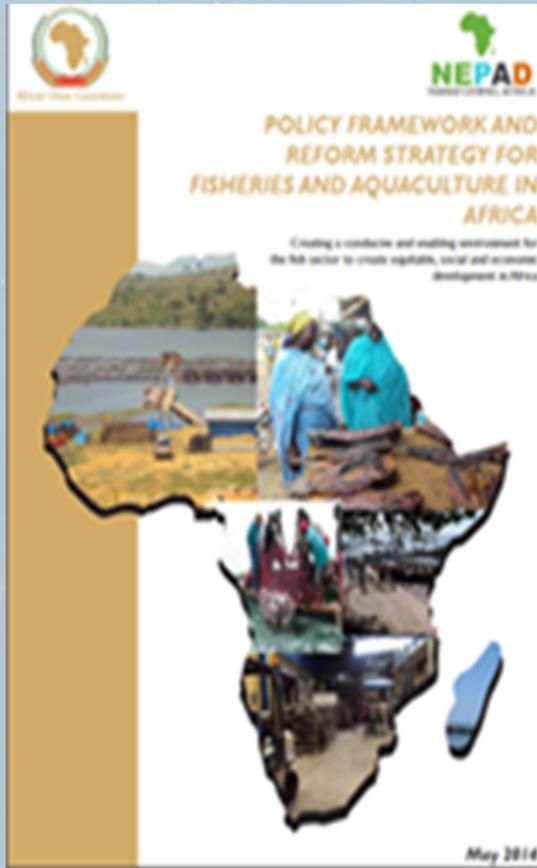
Africa's blueprint providing structure guidance for transforming the sector to improve sustainable management and utilization of fisheries resources, equity and its contribution socioeconomic development.

### Policy pillars

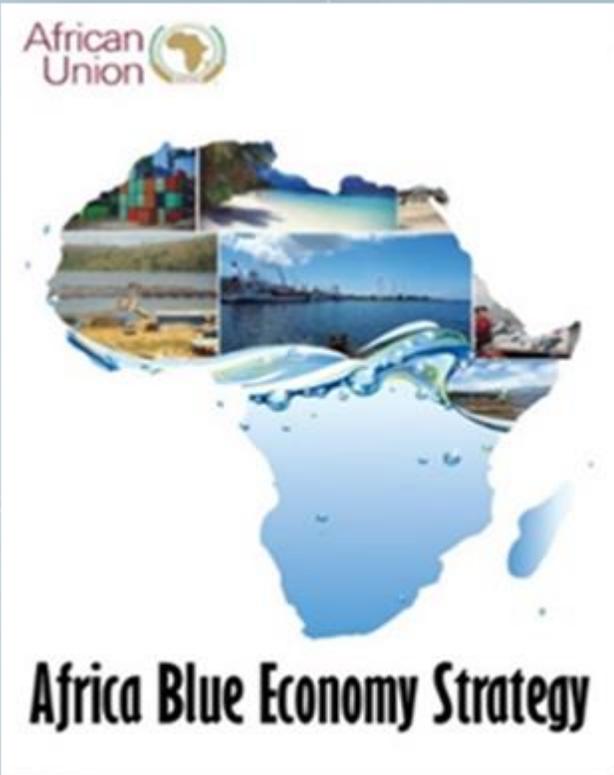
1. Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use
2. Small-scale Fisheries Development
3. Sustainable Aquaculture Development
4. Responsible and Equitable Fish Trade and Marketing
5. Strengthened Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation
6. Awareness Enhancing and Human-Capacity Development
7. High Seas Fisheries

### CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

- Strengthening Resilience and Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in African Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Gender and Youth
- Private Sector Investments & Financing Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

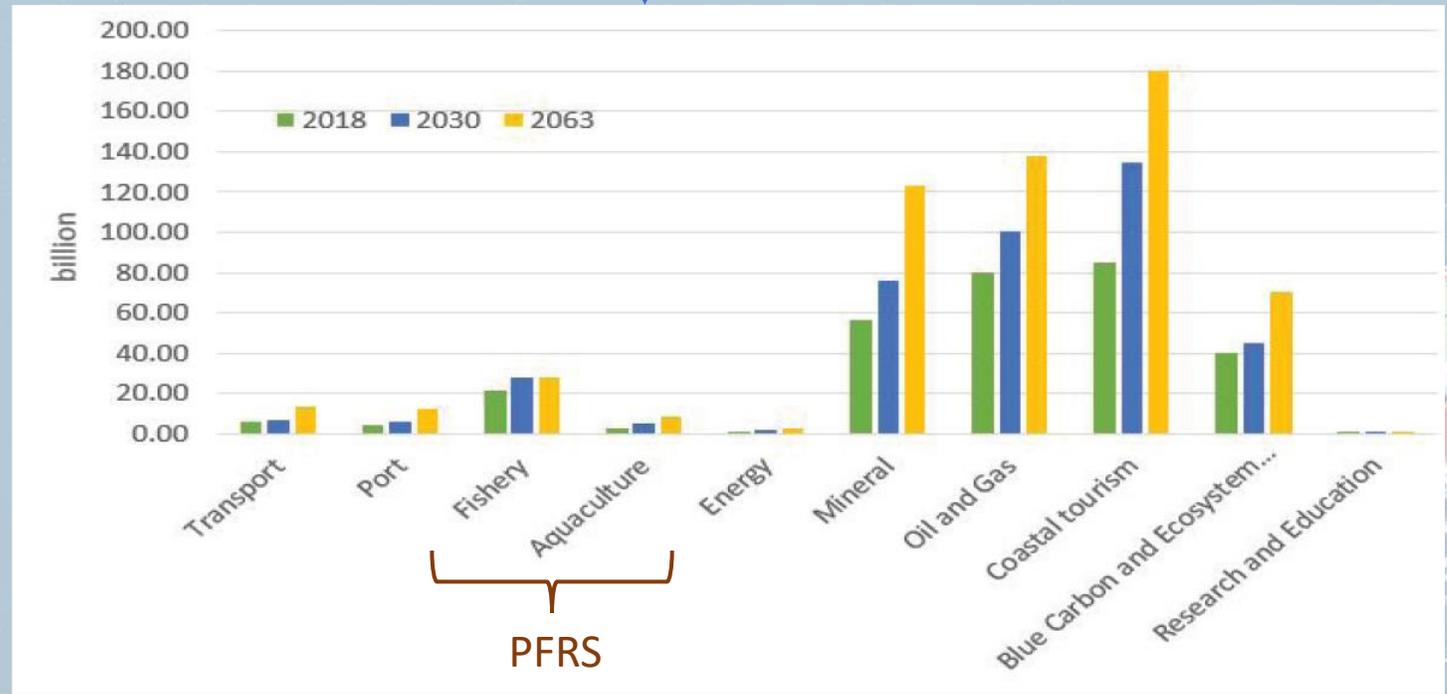


... by further building on to the SDG's and the AU's Lome Charter & AIMS 2050 since 2019..



develop a sustainable and competitive maritime economy based upon Africa's oceans and inland waters

*status and expectations*



# Guiding Principles for the Sustainable Aquatic Animal Resource Management and Utilization in the Africa Union:



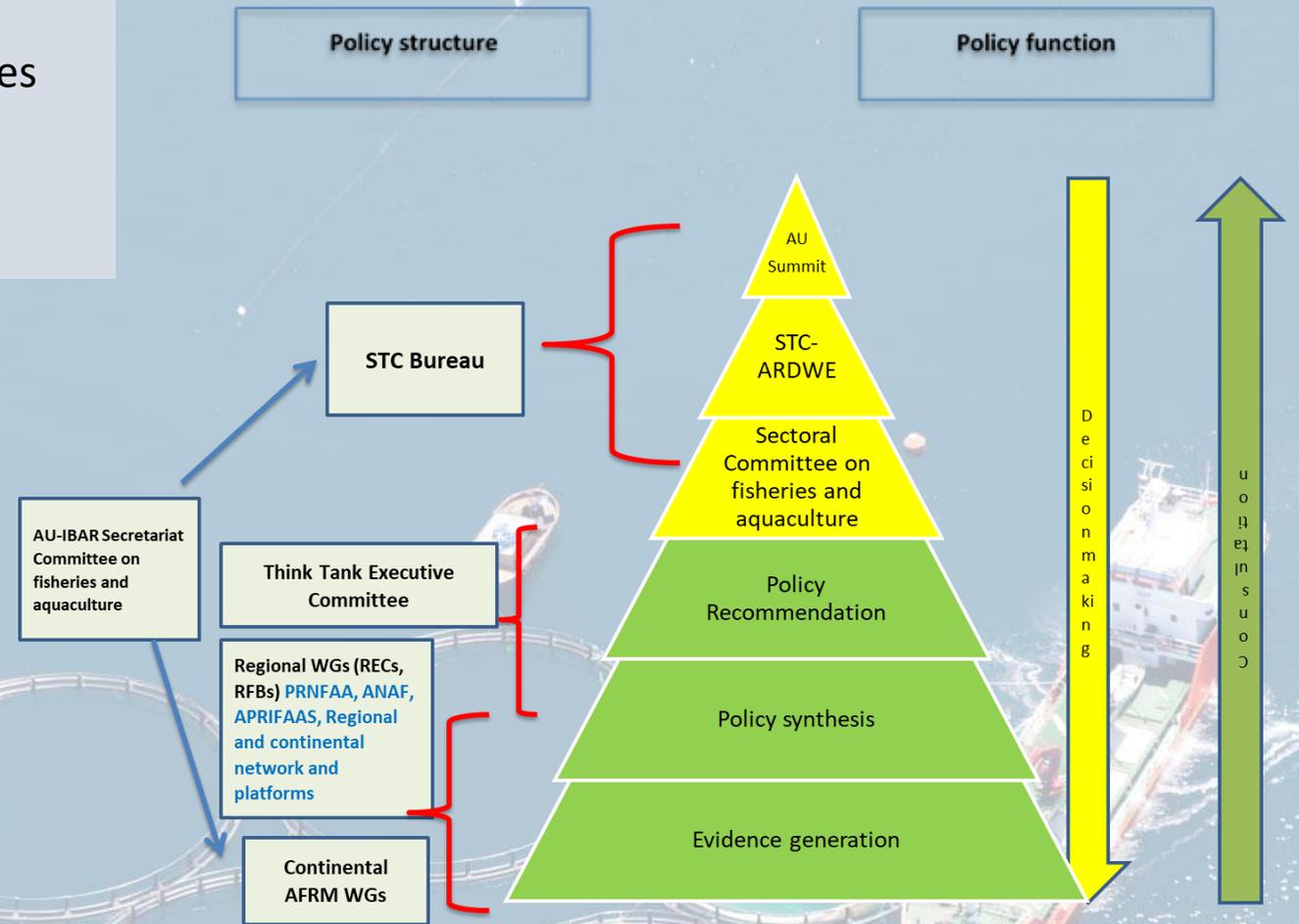
## Notably (not exclusively):

- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- AU Agenda 2063, CAADP, AfCTA
- FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- WTO SPS Measures (WOAH Aquatic Code and Codex Alimentarius)
- The Biodiversity Convention
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Development plans and protocols of the respective AU Regional Economic Communities and institutions

## The implementation of the PFRS, its principles and values?

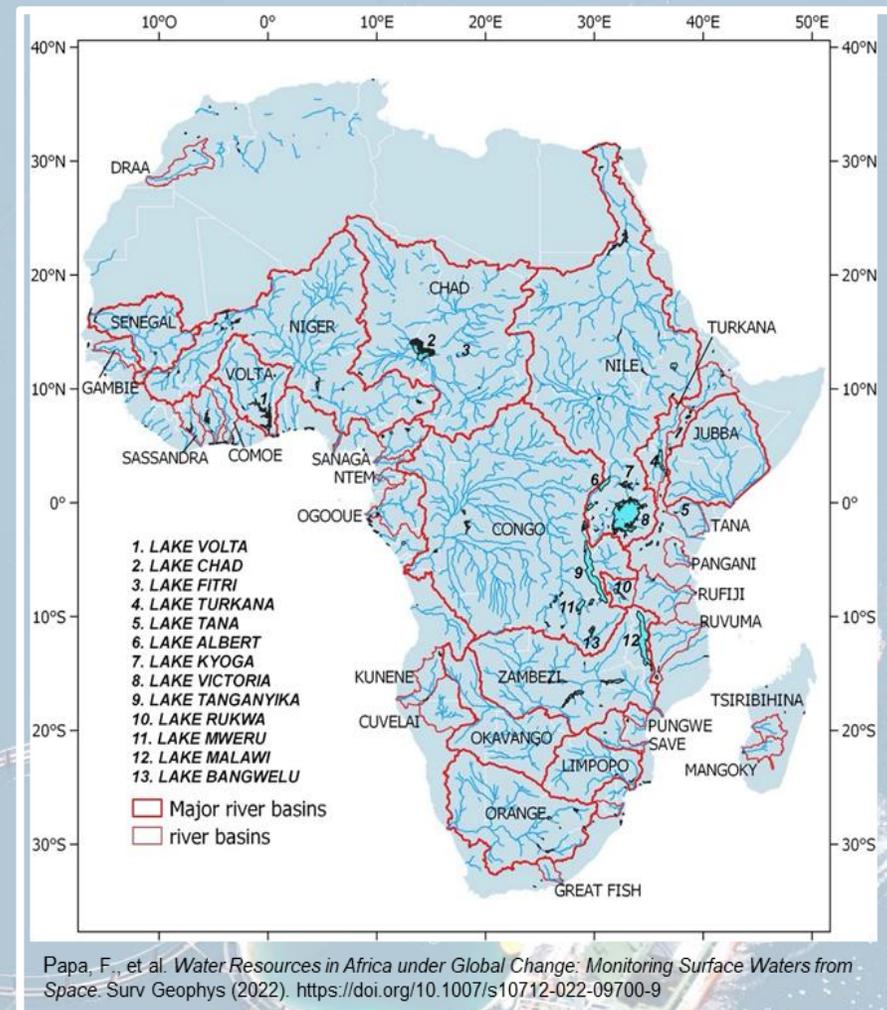
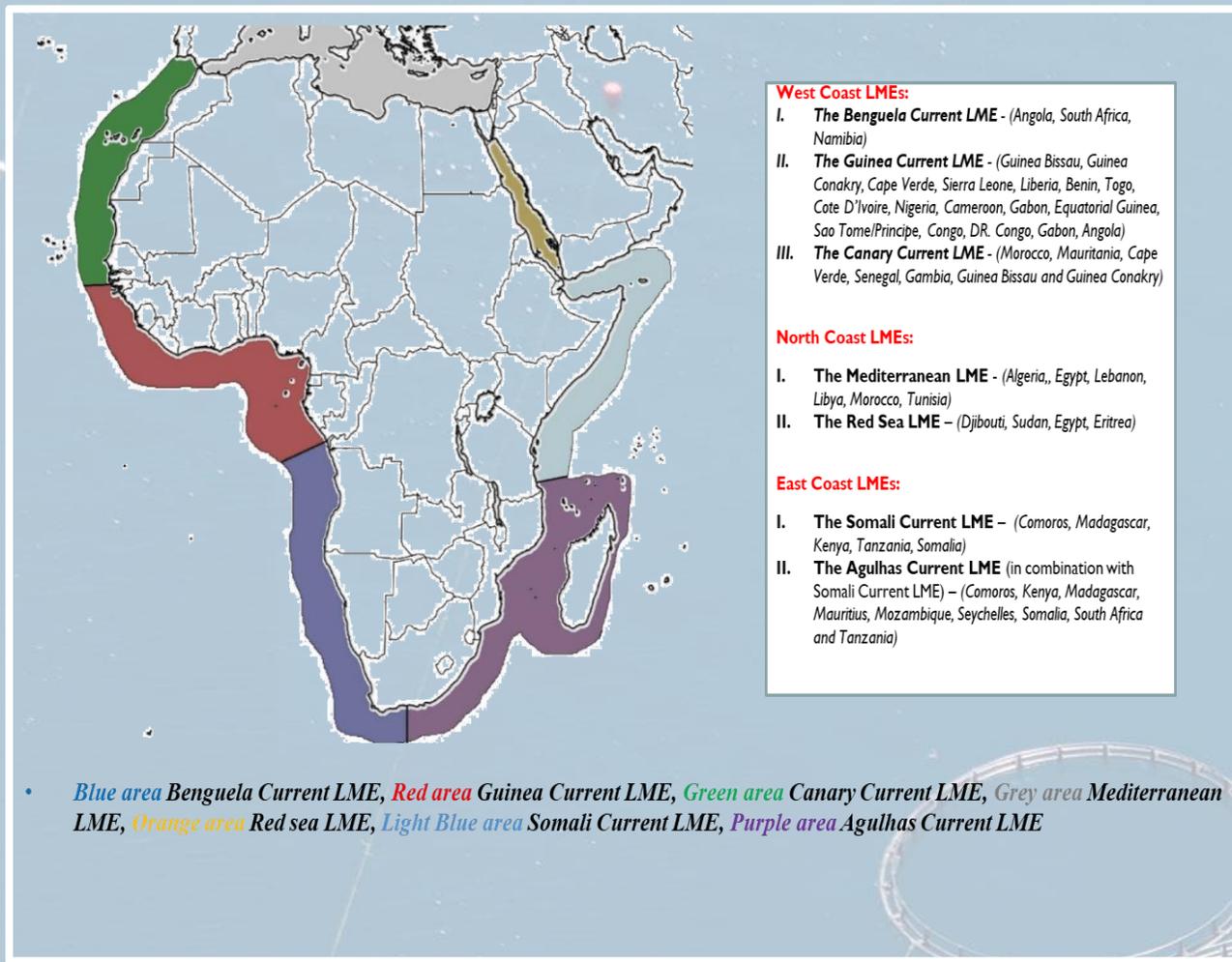
### *The Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism*

- ⇒ coherence in all fisheries and aquaculture approaches including governance
- ⇒ All-inclusive, bottom-up participatory approaches, One Voice



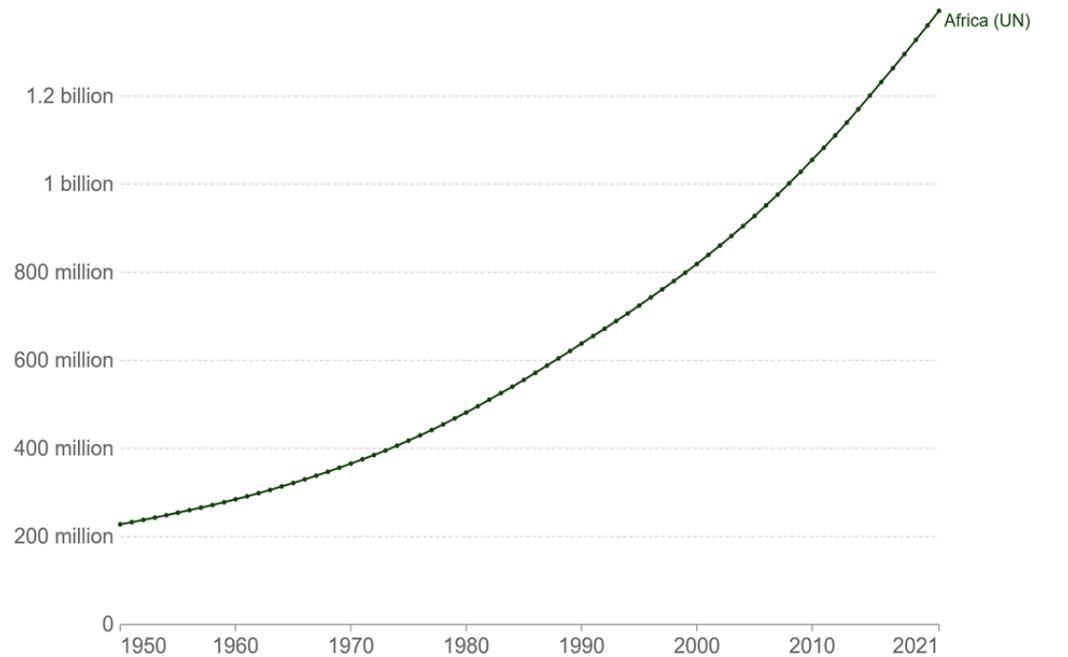
# Opportunities and threats for the sustainable growth of Africa's fish sector

## Vast and diverse marine and fresh-water aquatic ecosystems and resources



## ***Growing domestic and regional demand and markets for fish products***

Population, 1950 to 2021

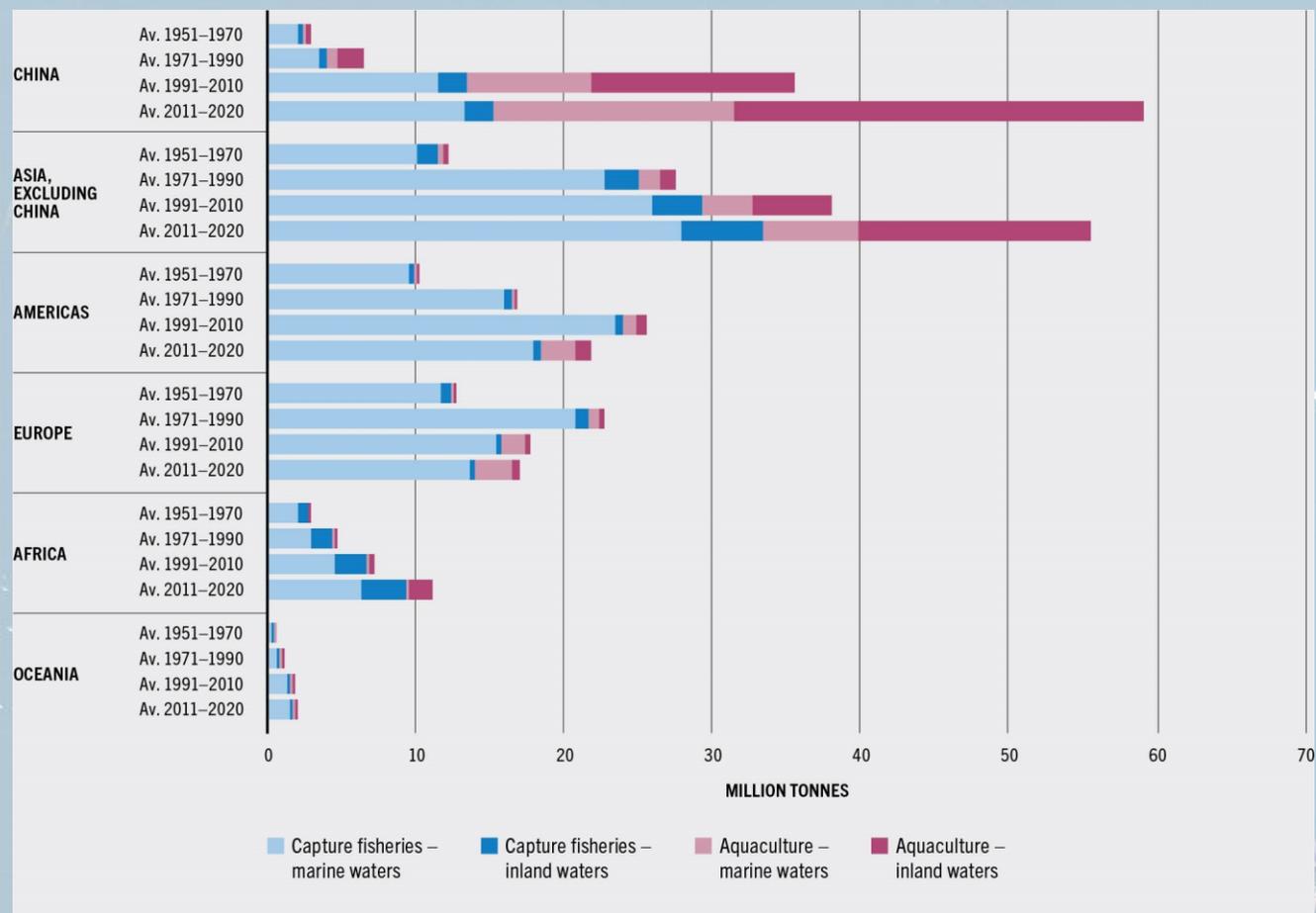


Source: United Nations, World Population Prospects (2022)

CC BY

- Fish common in diets African households
- Rapidly growing population
- Young population
  - ⇒ human resource potential
  - ⇒ Need jobs
  - ⇒ Food and nutritional needs
  - ⇒ Growing markets for aquatic animal products

## Production, fish food and nutrition security



FAO, 2022. The state of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture.  
Online: <https://www.fao.org/publications/sofia/2022/en/>

- Africa's fish sector  $\approx$  1.3% of continental GDP
- In 2020, Africa's inland fisheries produced 3,000,000 tons that accounted 25% to global inland fishery production
- Inland fisheries largely SSF
- Average aquaculture growth over last 10 years  $\approx$  14.5% (mostly inland freshwater)
- Aquaculture growth characterized by more farms, growing diversity of production systems and intensification
- Aquaculture production  $\approx$  2,259,839 tons fish, 50% produced by Egypt.
- Most inland fish production is consumed within the continent.
- Average fish p.c. consumption 10 kg/pc/year

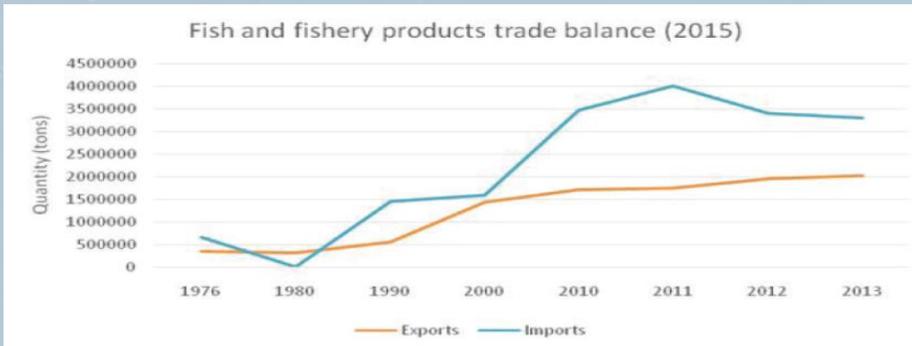
- Most of continent's fish production in shared aquatic ecosystems
- The major commercial fishery and aquaculture producing areas comprise transboundary water bodies
- Major commercial aquaculture food species are wild relatives of native species that are also important commercial fisheries.
- Most of the aquaculture production is done in open and semi-closed systems (*i.e. cages, long line/rafts, ponds and flow-through tank systems respectively*).
- Varied feed types from different sources/qualities within same water body/watershed => *manufactured feeds, on-farm and farm residues used as feed depending on system*
- As for feed, similarly varied seed quality, which generally in most parts of continent is not assured.

## Fish food and nutrition deficit

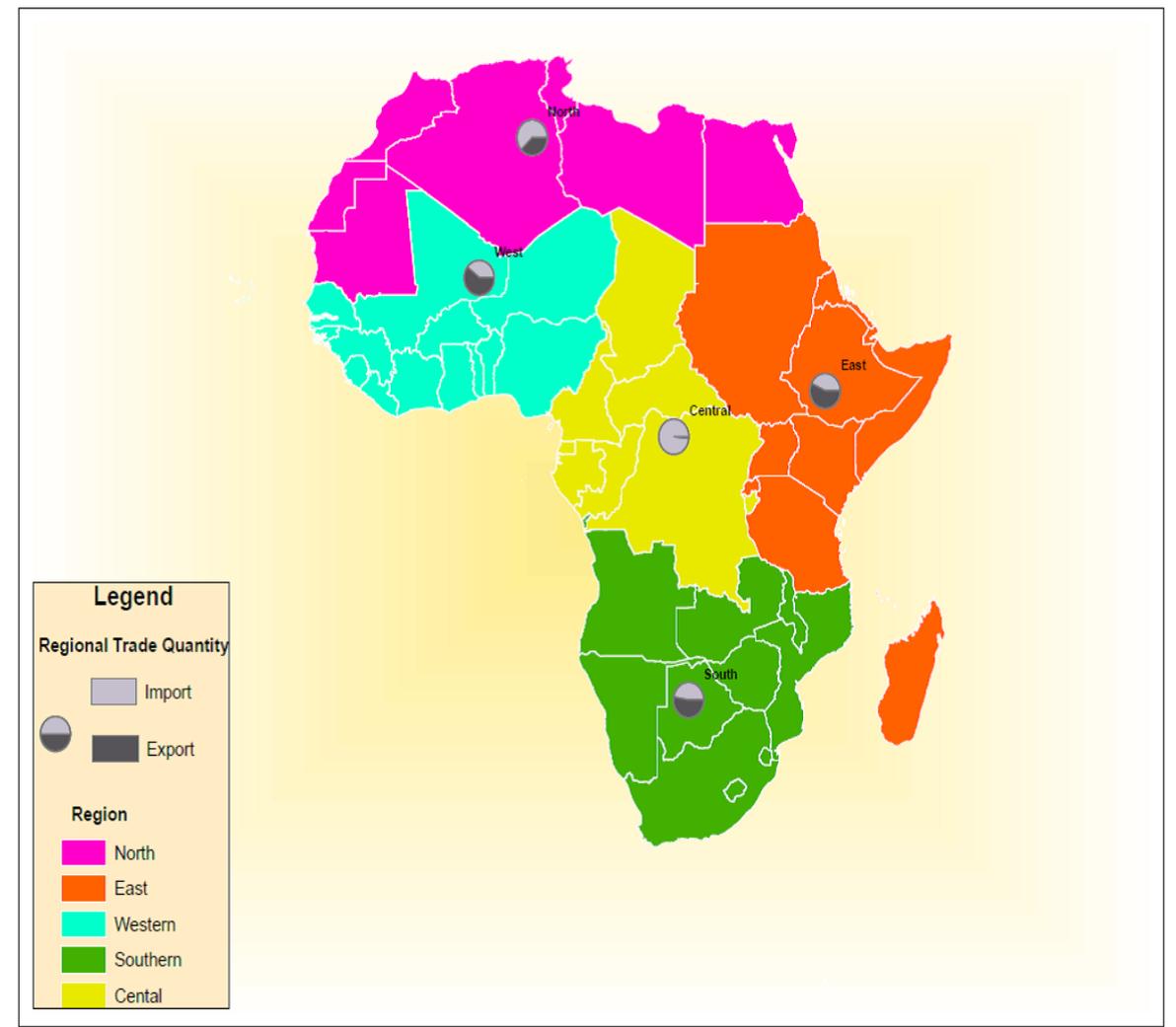
- Africa exports high value fresh and marine fish products to international markets, but increasingly is net importer of cheaper food fish domestic consumption.
- Imports still, do not meet actual demand



Africa: Trade Flows (blue arrows- international imports, white circular arrow – intra-regional fish trade). FAO, 2022. State of World Aquaculture and Fisheries.

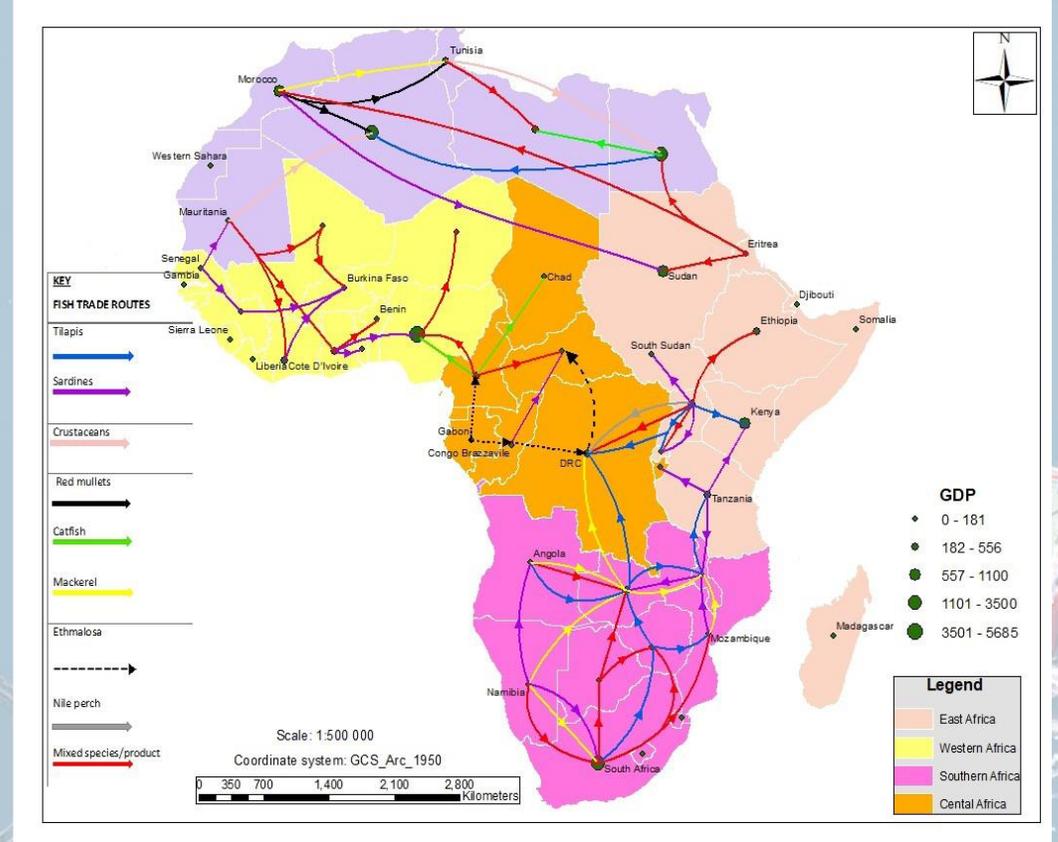
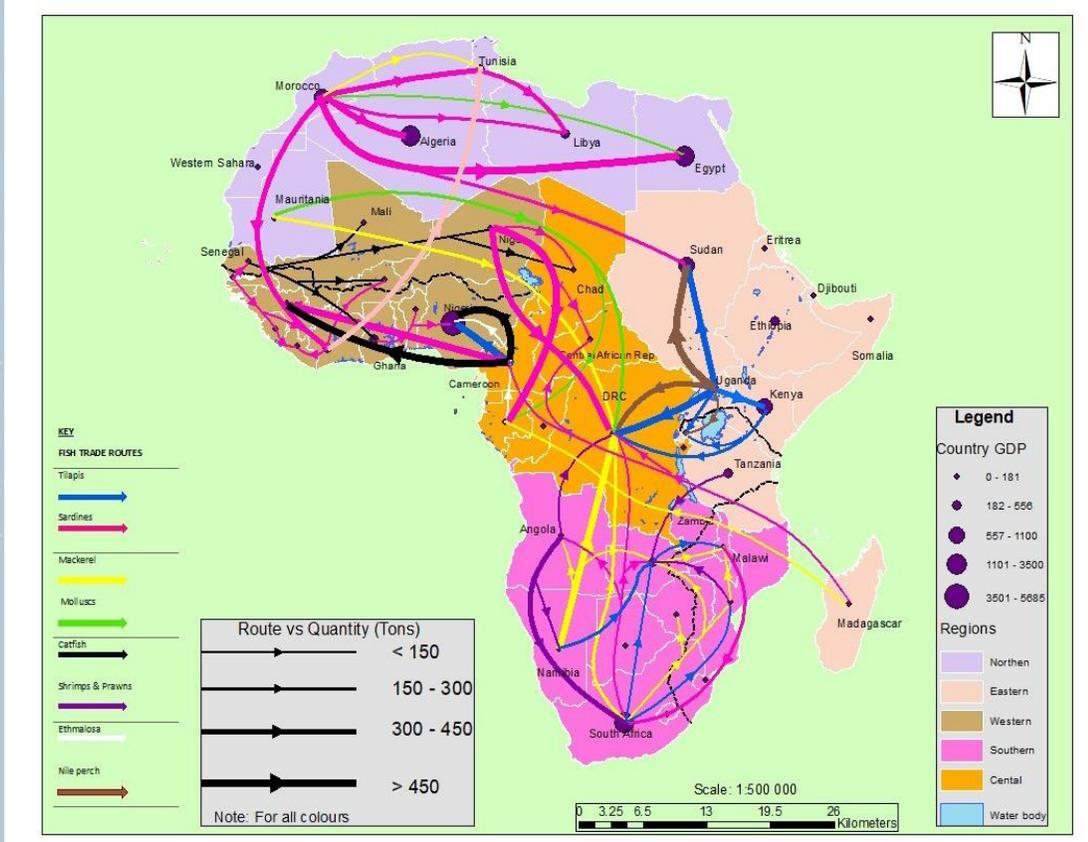


Fish and fish products trade in Africa. FAO FishStat 2017.



AU-IBAR, 2019. Linkages and Inter-connectedness between Cross-border Fish Trade Corridors in Africa

- Fish is Africa's second most traded commodity after sugar
- About 40% of the fish consumed on the continent, crosses a border
- Distribution of aquatic animal food products inland and intra-regionally is done overland by smallholders and informally.
- Aquaculture inputs (feed and seed) and products are increasingly traded regionally; some imported internationally



Common species traded formally (left) and informally (right). Adapted from AU-IBAR, 2019.

## Continental Policy (PFRS): *Opportunities vs. the risks*

### Threats for sustainability and sectoral growth

- ? Impacts of increased anthropogenic factors, environmental degradation, pollution and climate change on hydrology, water quality on health and welfare of aquatic animal populations, food-safety and quality of aquatic animal products
- ? Level of biosecurity control within production systems and water bodies
- ? Assurance of inputs, management practices and value chains, including trade (*except for international markets*)
- ? Impacts for aquatic biodiversity
- ? Transboundary nature of aquatic ecosystems  $\approx$  differences in management approaches between countries + propensity for spread of negative impacts

**Concerns for aquatic animal health and welfare, biosecurity, biosafety of production systems, food-safety, public health, environmental sustainability, ecosystem health, biodiversity conservation, access to markets**

### Expectations from sectoral reforms

- $\Rightarrow$  Improved transboundary management, governance and participatory management
- $\Rightarrow$  Expanding economic opportunities, jobs and benefits for SSF and aquaculture SME's by reducing post-harvest losses, value addition, improved access to markets and safe intra-regional fish trade
- $\Rightarrow$  Sustainable development and growth of the sector
- $\Rightarrow$  Increased contribution from the sector towards Africa's socio-economic development goals and welfare of communities.
- $\Rightarrow$  Biodiversity conservation

# Safe-guarding the fish sector against biosecurity threats and enhancing access to markets

# The implementation of the PFRS

## AU Implementing Agencies



Technical leadership, support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of Africa's animal resources for well-being of its citizens

and



Leadership, coordinate and monitor investment to achieve CAADP goals

## Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism

A bottom-up all-inclusive participatory consultative process to generate consensus for common positions on policy and development actions



2014 - 2018

Create an enabling environment by enhancing institutional capacities, harmonisation and coherence in policy, governance and implementation approaches



2020 - 2024

Strengthening capacity of AU MS and RECs to implement the outputs of FISHGOV I so as to accelerate the adoption of the sectoral reforms outlined in the PFRS

with support from EU



## Major Implementing Partners

- AU MS, REC and RFB
- Private sector,
- Non State Actors
- Research and Academia (*include newly established AU Regional Centers of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture*)
- Technical partners: FAO, WOAHA, CGIAR's (WorldFish)
- Development partners

## Implementation of the PFRS: FISHGOV I Project

- FishGov I: => Enhance the institutional capacity of the fisheries and aquaculture sector for increased benefits to the Member States of African Union.
- Four main components:
  - (i) Strengthen the institutional of the sector for effective governance
  - (ii) Support sustainable small-scale fisheries management and development
  - (iii) Promote sustainable commercial aquaculture development
  - (iv) Improve evidence based decision making.



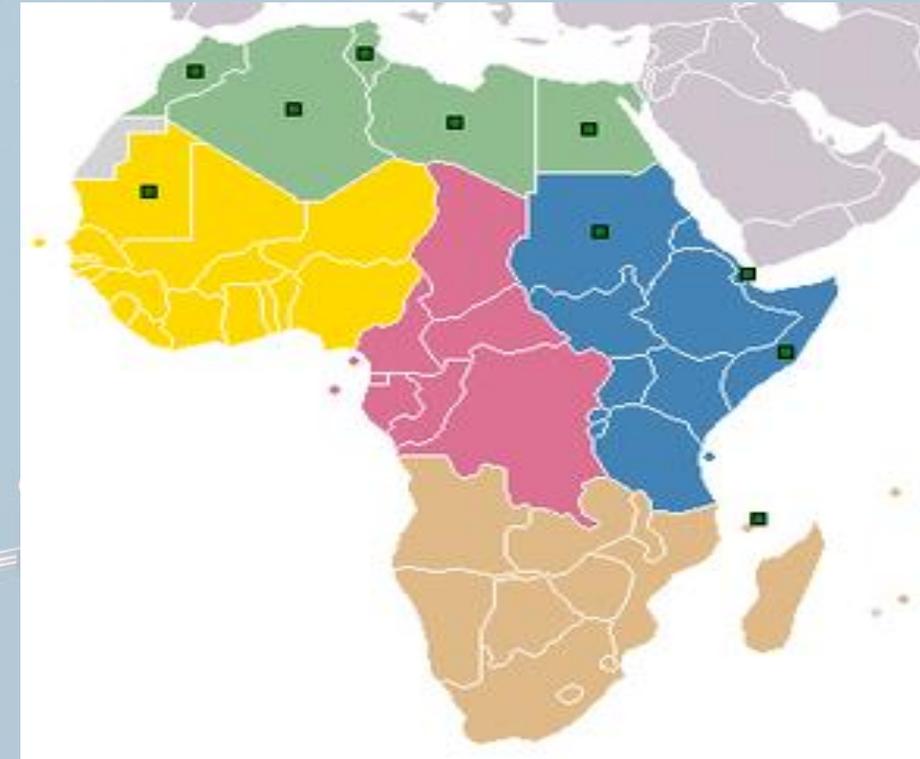
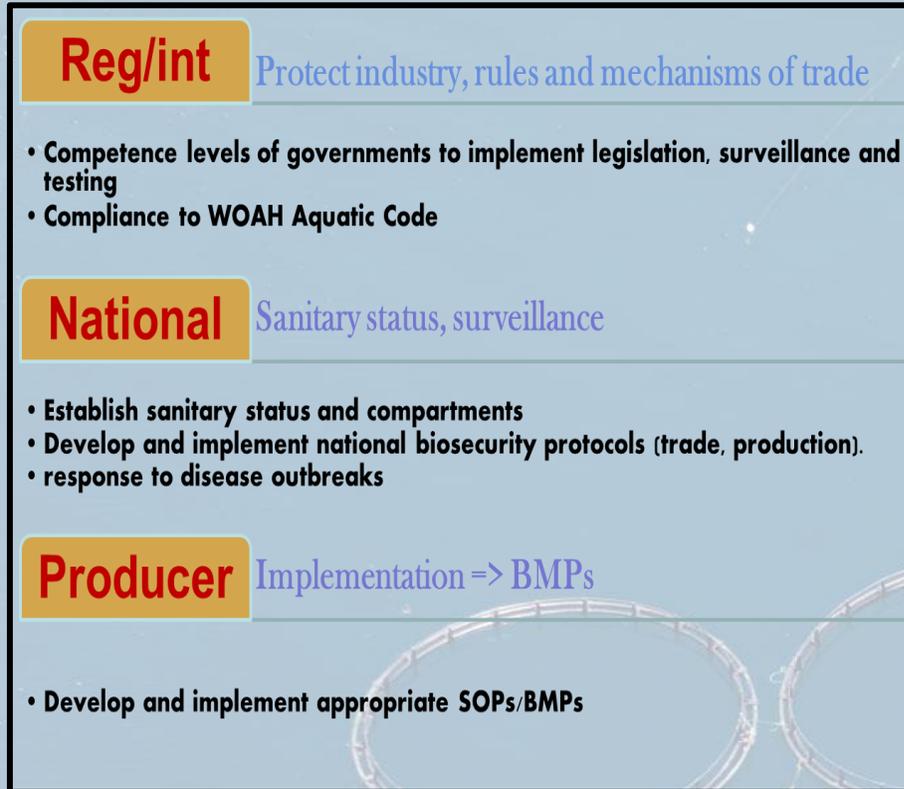
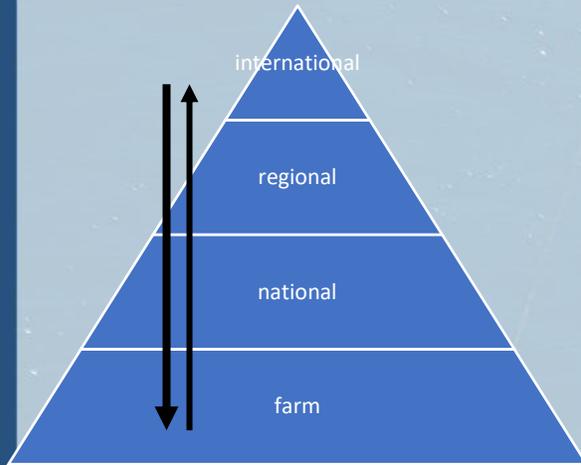
*... emerging TAADs (EUS, WSSV, TiLV, KHV, ), expansion of aquaculture, increased levels of transboundary fish trade...*

### **Result 1: frameworks for sustainable fisheries management improved**

1. Enhance capacities for fisheries diseases surveillance and control, timely collection, analysis and sharing of accurate sanitary information and biosecurity
2. Strengthen capacities for Access to Market

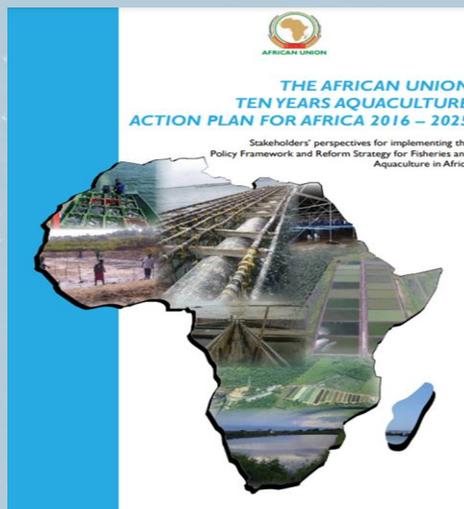
## FISHGOV I

- Emphasis: creating an enabling environment => *policy continental/regional policy frameworks and guidelines, creating awareness.*
- *Foster Harmonization and coherence in approaches*



Map showing geographical regions of Africa: North Africa (green), West Africa (yellow), Central Africa (pink), Eastern Africa (blue) and Southern Africa (brown)

Africa's adopted approach to aquaculture biosecurity & biosafety control



*Coherent approach and roadmap for creating a conducive and enabling environment for private-sector driven sustainable commercial aquaculture development within the framework of the PFRS and its guidelines.*

**Five Main Activity Areas:**

1. Establish and enabling environment for sustainable aquaculture development
2. Improved service delivery to the sector
3. Capacity building
4. Trans-boundary ecosystem management for aquaculture
5. Innovation (Research and Development)

**Activity Area 5: Trans-Boundary Ecosystem Management for Aquaculture**

**AIM**

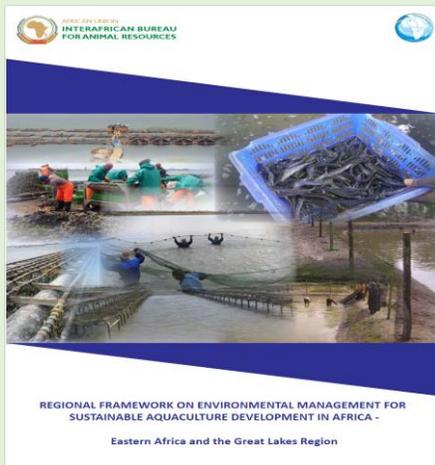
- address *Policy Arenas 1, 5 and 8* of the PFRS.
- Sustainable management of aquatic natural resources for sustainable aquaculture
- Biodiversity control, ecosystem health and biosecurity bearing in mind the trans-boundary nature of Africa's aquatic ecosystems.
- Climate change resilience building  
The quality of aquatic products produced depends a lot on the sustainable management of aquatic resources as a whole.

**KEY ACTIVITIES**

- Environmental Management and climate change challenges
- Biodiversity control
- Aquatic Animal Disease Control and Surveillance
- systematic biosecurity control from farm continental level

## .... transboundary ecosystem management

### Guidelines



### The Issue

- Sustainable management and utilization of aquatic ecosystems for aquaculture and other uses.
- Sustainability issues arising from environmental impacts, climate change and biosecurity.
- Appropriate EIAs

- A common appreciation and implementation approach of the regional aquaculture environmental frameworks among the wide-array of independent multi-sectoral aquatic resource stakeholders

### Expected Outcomes

Harmonized ecosystem approaches to aquaculture development within Africa's regional transboundary watersheds.

**Notably:**

1. Guiding principles for regional collaboration in the rational management and utilisation of aquatic resources, safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health and ensuring the supply of aquatic resources goods and services for sustainable aquaculture development.
2. Mitigate against negative environmental impacts from aquaculture, including on biodiversity
3. Foster biosecurity, food-safety and access to markets for aquaculture produce and products.
4. Safeguard the interests and rights of other aquatic resource users far as aquaculture is concerned.
5. Climate smart aquaculture
6. Regionally harmonised scientific basis for conducting EIAA

Coherence and multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable aquaculture development; including in transboundary aquatic ecosystems.

.....transboundary ecosystem management

## 2. To strengthen institutional capacity for biosecurity control => coherence and common approaches:

### FISHGOV I

Following the AFRM

#### 1. Establish the baseline

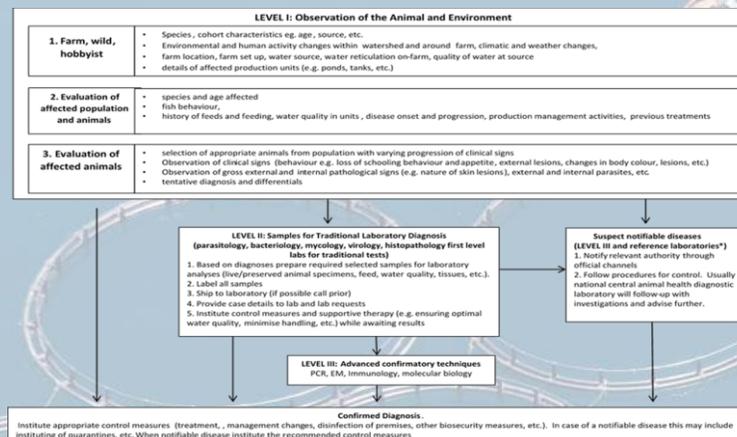
- Mapping of Aquatic Animal Diseases

#### 2. Common Understanding

- Continental joint training and consultations in Aquatic Animal Disease Control for Veterinarians + Fisheries Officers (one of whom WOAHA National Aquatic Focal Point) and representative officers from RECs, RAHN, RAH laboratory and epidemiological networks.

#### 3. Consensus in approach

- Developed draft ARIS - Aquatic Animal Health Data Collection Module
- Developed draft Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Control Frameworks
- Developed draft TORs Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks to integrate as component of RAHN



**Regional frameworks for the control of aquatic animal diseases in Africa drafted**

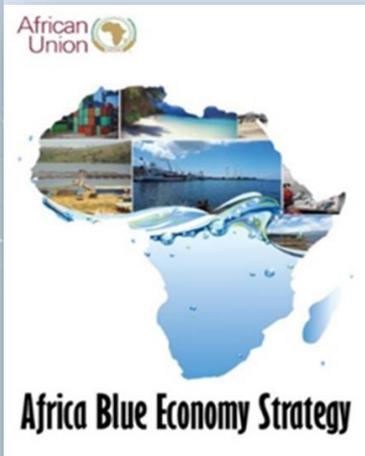
1. Region specific framework to guide regional coherence and cooperation in the detection, control and epidemio-surveillance of aquatic animal diseases
2. Enhanced and effective biosecurity controls to protect Africa's aquatic animal production systems from threats attributable to diseases, pests and invasive species.
3. Safe aquatic animal products
4. Safe trade of aquatic animals and their products and improved access to markets
5. Improved sharing of phyto-sanitary information among stakeholders

FISHGOV II => follow up of FISHGOV I.



Overall goal => strengthening the capacity of AU MS and RECs to implement the outputs of FISHGOV I so as to accelerate the adoption of the sectoral reforms outlined in the PFRS.

Integrates the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) in its AAH approaches, thus:



- Outlook for aquatic animal health, welfare and biosecurity control expands beyond principally aquaculture, equitable safe-fish trade and environmental impacts
- Building capacity to mitigated against negative impacts of Blue Economy industries and climate change on marine environments for aquatic animal health and welfare within the context of SDG14: Life below water => *added emphasis on ecosystem health; biodiversity conservation; status of AAH/welfare in MPA's, tourist areas and installed infrastructure; emerging associated public health concerns, etc.*
- Contribute towards establishment of sustainable ABES Fisheries & Aquaculture => Sustainable Blue Food Systems

# Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks

Launch of the Regional Aquatic  
Animal Health Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA)

25 – 27 April 2023 Tunis, Tunisia



Fish species traded informally were mainly from wild stock (Capture fisheries) and less to fish from aquaculture such as sea bream, sea bass and tilapia. Informal, regional

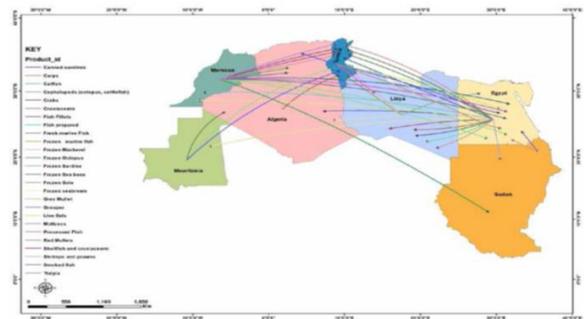


Figure 2: The map above illustrates the informal fish trade routes used in the Northern Africa region

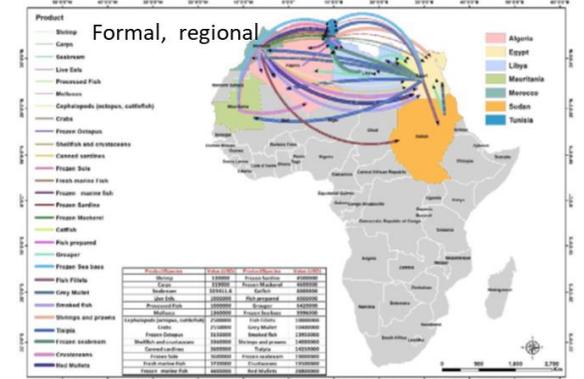


Figure 3b: The map above illustrates the formal intra-regional fish trade routes used in the Northern Africa region

International

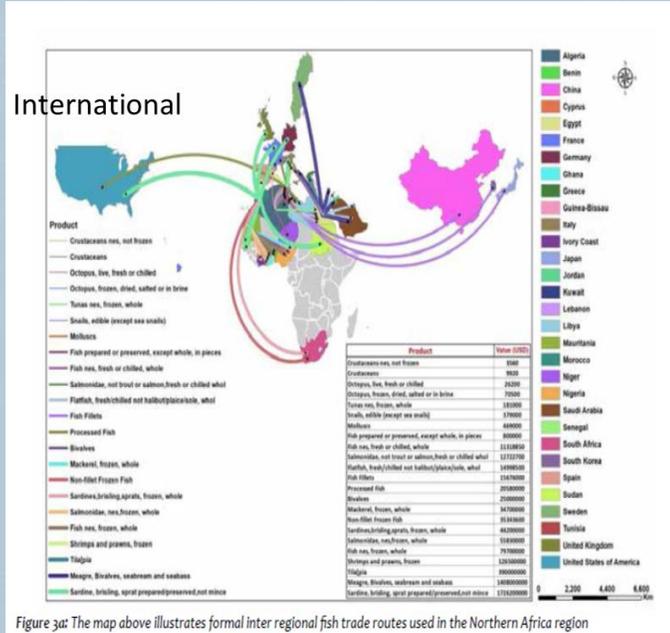
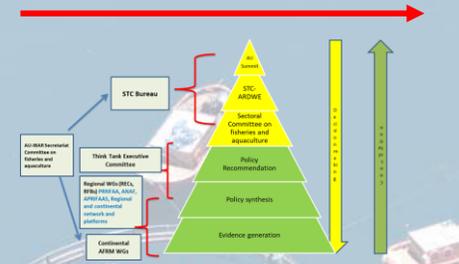


Figure 3a: The map above illustrates formal inter regional fish trade routes used in the Northern Africa region

**North Africa**  
**How?**  
influence, develop, implement, policy, norms, SOPs to safeguard the fish and related industries



Common understanding (*One Voice*), coordinate, collaborate & partner to systematically:

- Protect, sustainably manage and utilize the regions 'shared' aquatic animal resources
- Expand and improve the economic opportunities across the regions' fish value chains and AA resources => market access.
- Develop/implement SPS standards coherently across the different value-chains (*local, regional, continental, international*)
- Sustainable fish production systems
- Aquatic animal – based tourism
- Promote equitable benefits and trade,
- Promote Gender, youth, user and human rights to strengthen sustainable development in the sector
- Negotiate on issues pertaining to aquatic animal health, welfare and biosecurity for the sustainability of the sector (*local, regional, continental, international*)

Informal and formal intra-and inter-regional fish trade in North Africa

## I. Establishing RAAHN's institutionally at REC level

**In collaboration with WOAHA benchmarking on other global RAAHN's such as NACA**

### *Objectives*

1. Multi-stakeholder platform in support implementation of regional aquatic animal disease control and environmental frameworks => mechanism to harmonise approaches and rules for biosecurity control, equitable and safe trade to safeguard local industries and aquatic ecosystems among stakeholders based on OH, WOAHA, FAO, AU, REC's and MS guidelines
2. Improve the sharing of information between stakeholders on aquatic animal diseases, their surveillance and control, particularly with regard to TAADs.
3. Enhance the capacity for regional co-ordination in aquatic animal disease control, including in terms of disease risk preparedness and response to outbreaks.
4. Strengthen the capacity for development of harmonized diagnostics, epidemiological reporting and laboratory information management systems.
5. Collate information to advice industry and policy on regional aquatic animal health capabilities as well as identify regional R&D needs and strategies => evidence based decision making and feedback
6. Build Public awareness.

... hence, the objective of seeking to launch a **Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*REC, RFB, PPP sector stakeholders and all participants from across the continent and globally who participated and contributed to the consultative processes,*

*AU-IBAR/NEPAD's global Technical Partners – WOA, FAO, WorldFish,  
The European Union for their committed financial support*

# Thank You



**AU-IBAR: Providing leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa**