



Training of National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal Health (Cycle IV)

2 - 4 October 2023 Kigali, Rwanda



AU Strategic Outlook and Plans

Presented by

Nelly Isyagi

Fisheries and Aquaculture Trade and Investment Expert, AU-IBAR

Policy direction and strategic implementation approach

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

BUT



Sustainability & growth?

Natural fish stocks at their limits

Rapid population growth (2.5%)

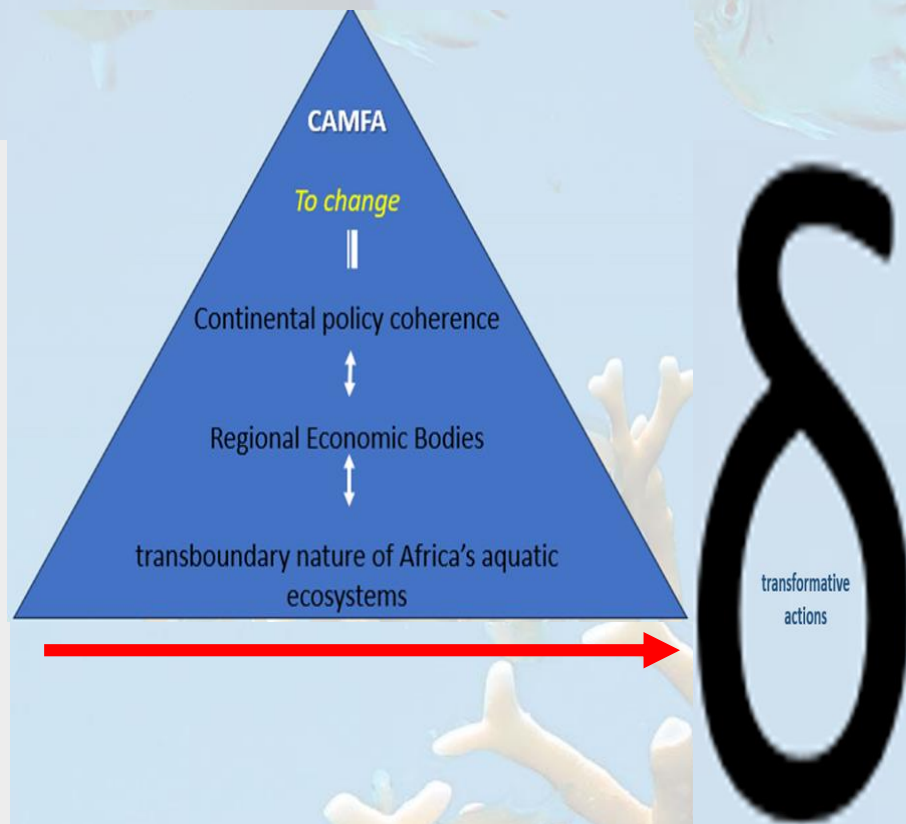
Declining fish per capita consumption trends (8kg pc)

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

The Abuja Declaration on Fisheries and Aquaculture (2005)

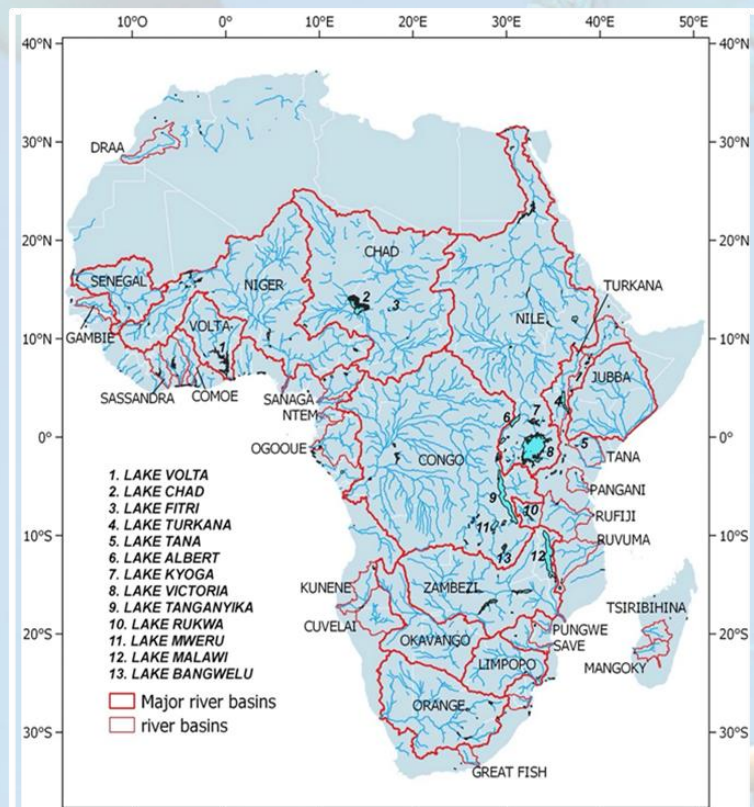
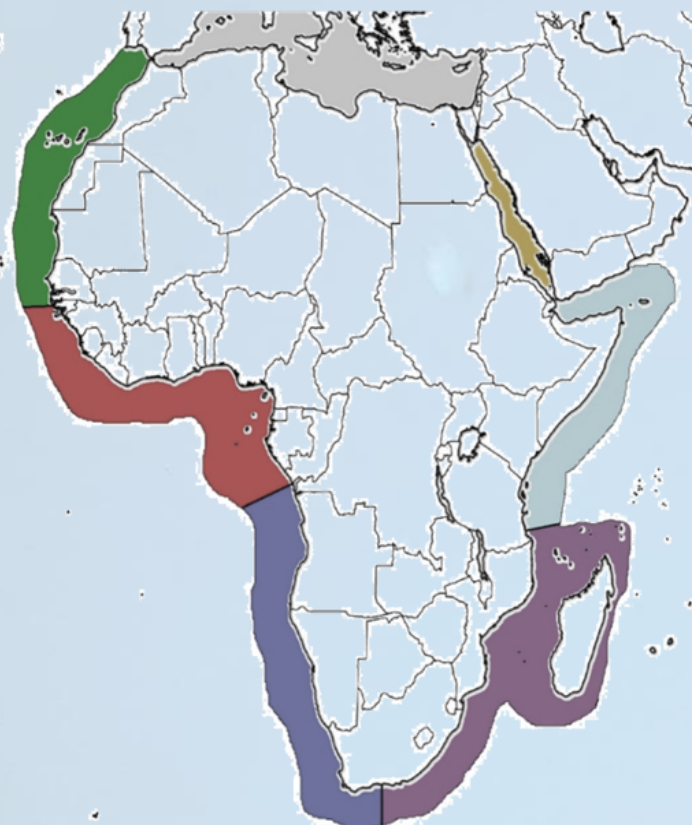
Summit recommended to safeguard the sector & benefits:

- (i) improve the management of natural fish stocks
- (ii) develop aquaculture production
- (iii) enhance fish trade in domestic, regional and global markets.



1. *A broad-based participatory continental policy dialogue and fisheries management mechanism => policy coherence AU-MS = CAADP*
2. *A coordination mechanism among Africa's REC and RFB => coherent , fisheries policies + initiatives to regional economic integration agenda.*
3. *AU-MS => adopt fisheries reforms and strengthen institutional arrangements to fisheries and aquaculture productivity*
4. *All AU-MS fisheries and aquaculture development actions => (i) productivity, (ii) profitability, (iii) sustainability, (iv) wealth generation, (v) social welfare, nutrition and food security, (vi) regional management of shared resources and (vi) strengthening south-south (bilateral and regional) cooperation.*

One Policy, One Direction, One Approach => One Voice



Papa, F., et al. *Water Resources in Africa under Global Change: Monitoring Surface Waters from Space*. *Surv Geophys* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10712-022-09700-9>



Africa's blueprint

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



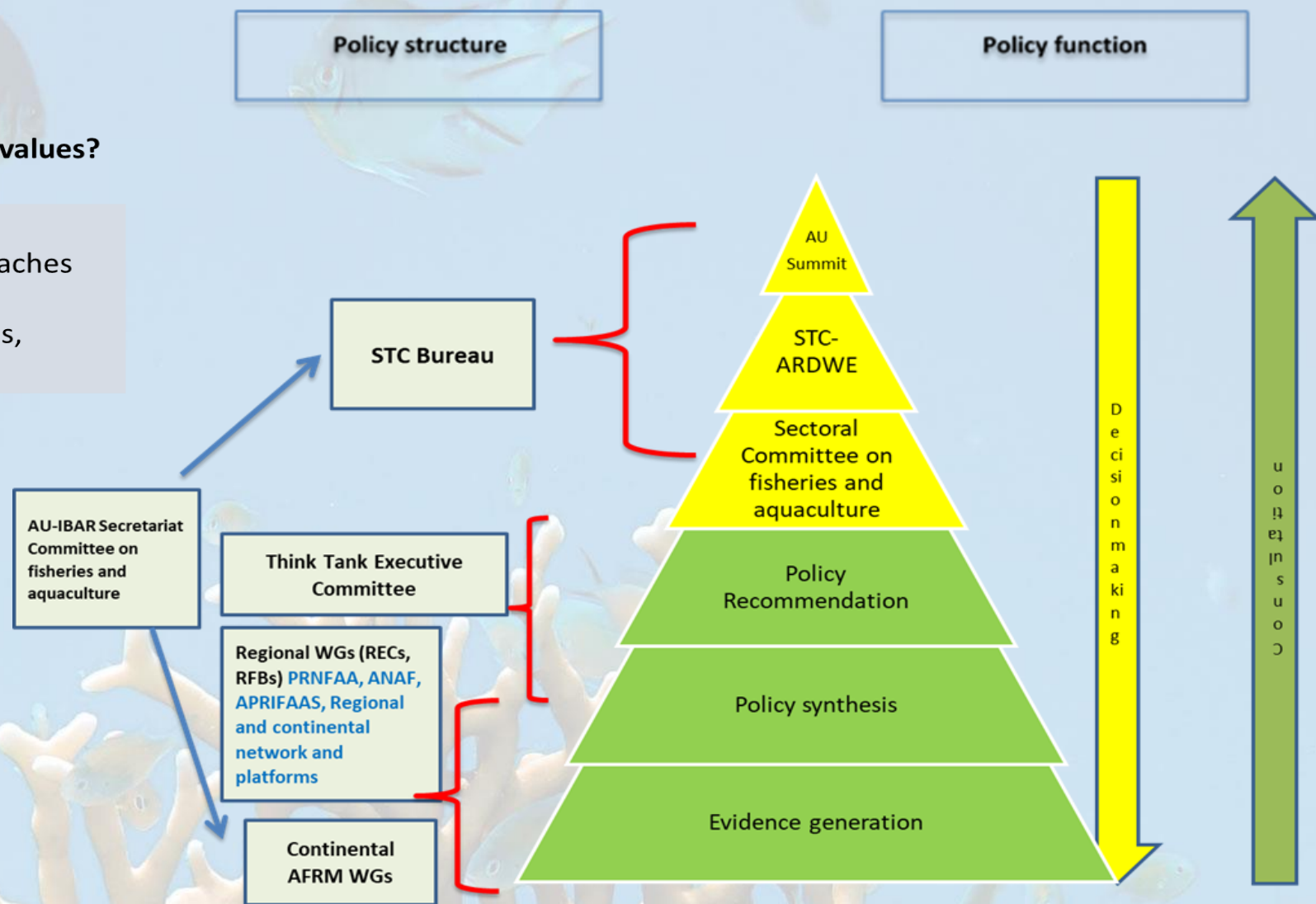
Notably (not exclusively):

- 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



Africa's aquatic ecosystems => Regional Approaches for sustainable fisheries & aquaculture development : Coherence & harmonisation for effective transboundary aquatic ecosystem management, biosecurity control, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation & resilience, safe trade, & regional integration,

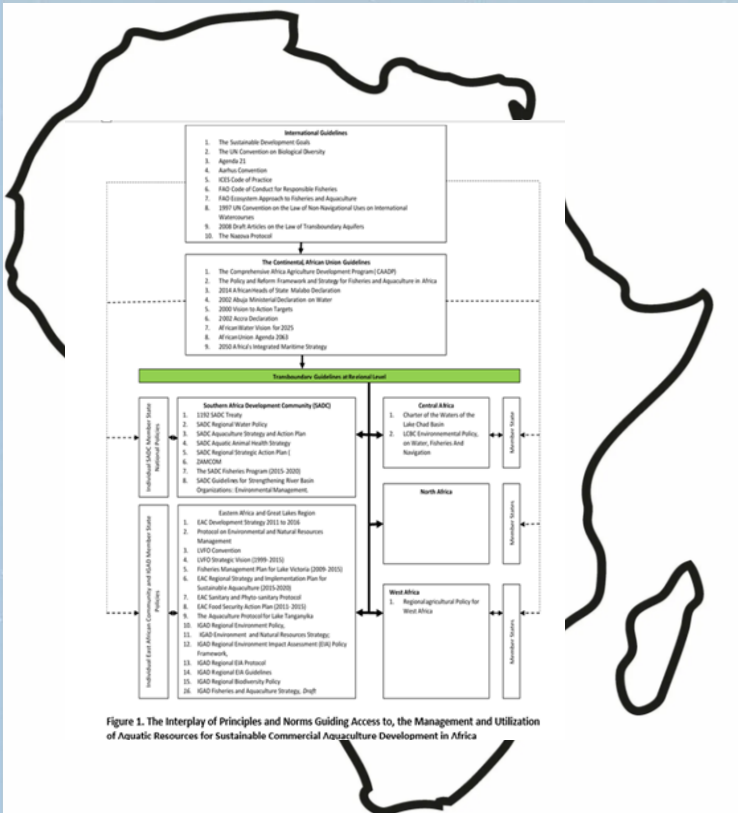
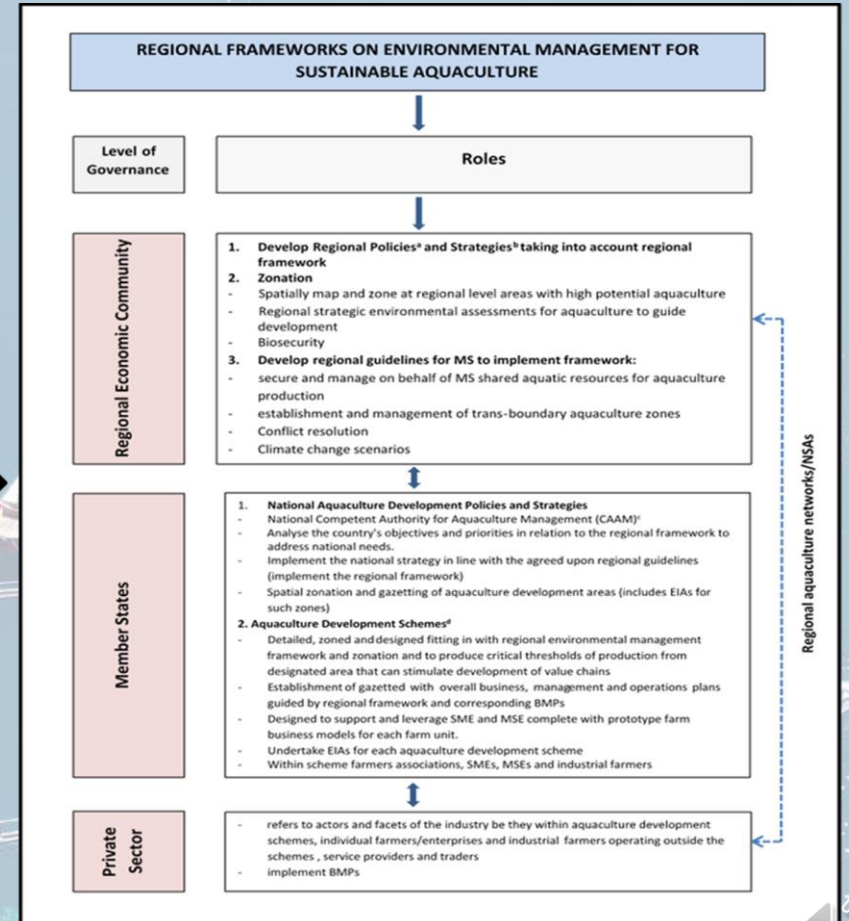
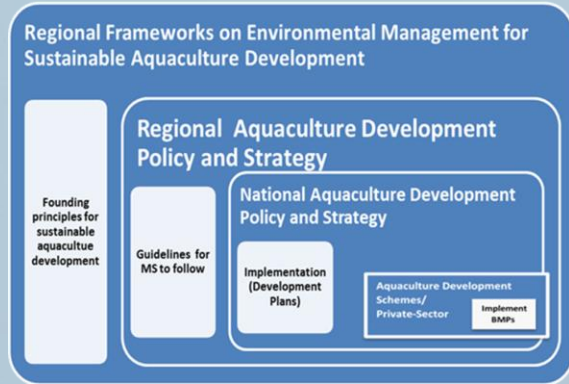


Figure 1. The Interplay of Principles and Norms Guiding Access to, the Management and Utilization of Aquatic Resources for Sustainable Commercial Aquaculture Development in Africa

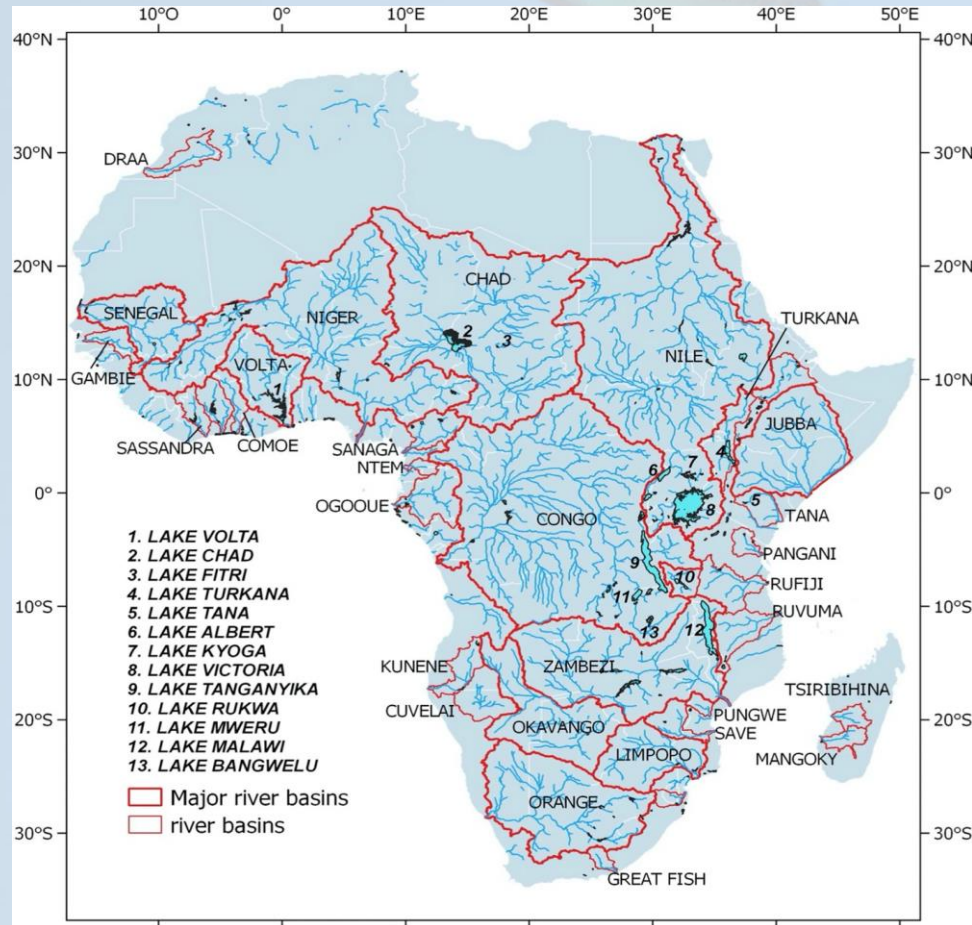
AU principle of subsidiarity @ implementation anchored in the RECs



continental policy direction + strategic approaches

Description and status of the sector from the perspective of transboundary aquatic ecosystem management for sustainable fisheries & aquaculture, including in the Blue Economy

Production Characteristics



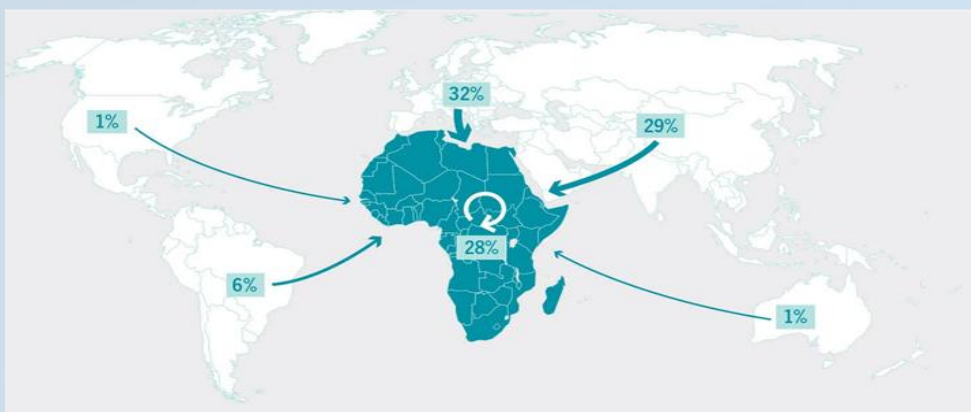
Papa, F., et al. *Water Resources in Africa under Global Change: Monitoring Surface Waters from Space*. *Surv Geophys* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10712-022-09700-9>

- Most of continent's fish production in shared aquatic ecosystems
- Artisanal fisheries major producer, distributor of fish
- The major aquaculture producing areas comprise transboundary water bodies – Mediterranean sea, Southern Indian Ocean, the great lakes (*Victoria, Tanganyika, Kariba, Malawi, Volta*), shared river systems (*Nile, Congo, Zambezi, Niger, Limpopo*)
- 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.

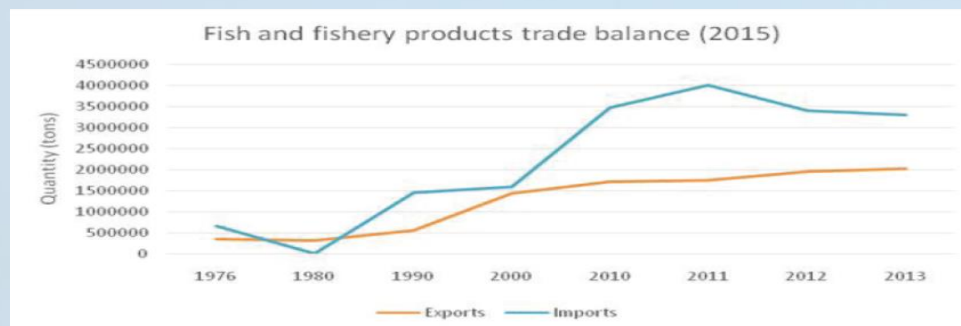
The demand-supply gap and intra-regional fish trade

- While Africa exports high value fresh and marine fish products to international markets, it is net importer of cheaper food fish for its growing local markets.
- Imports still, do not meet actual demand

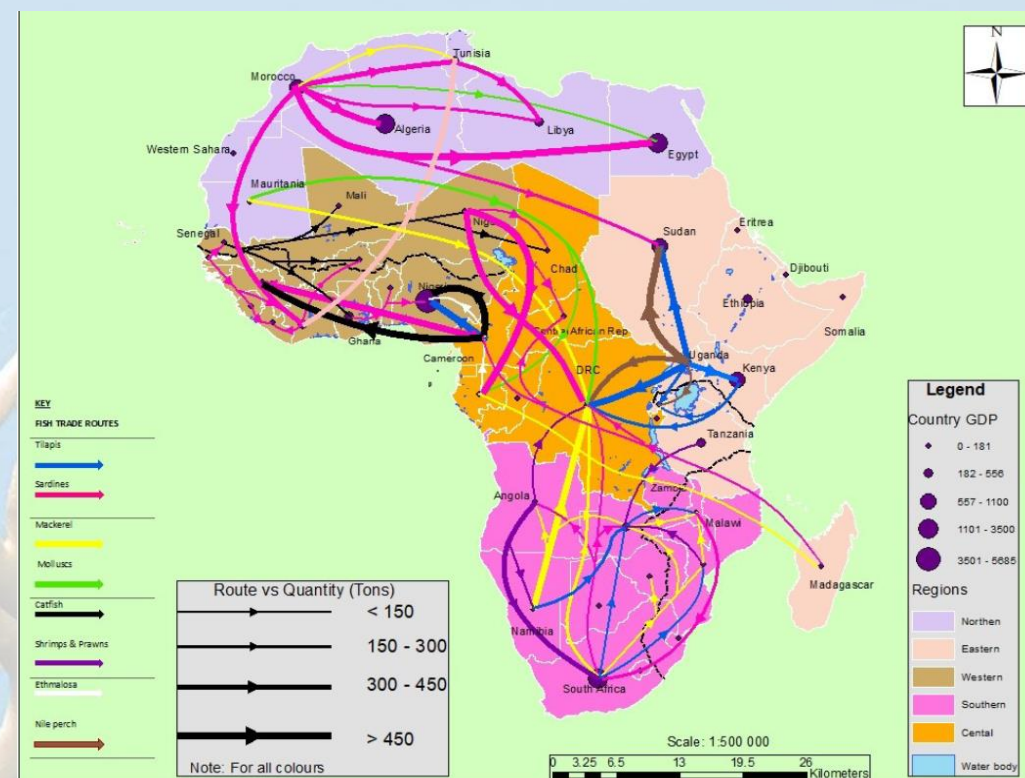
- Fish is Africa's second most traded commodity after sugar
- About 40% of the fish consumed on the continent, crosses a border
- Distribution of aquatic animal food products inland and intra-regionally is done overland by smallholders and informally.
- Aquaculture inputs (feed and seed) and products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



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.



Summary of Status

Expectations from sectoral reforms

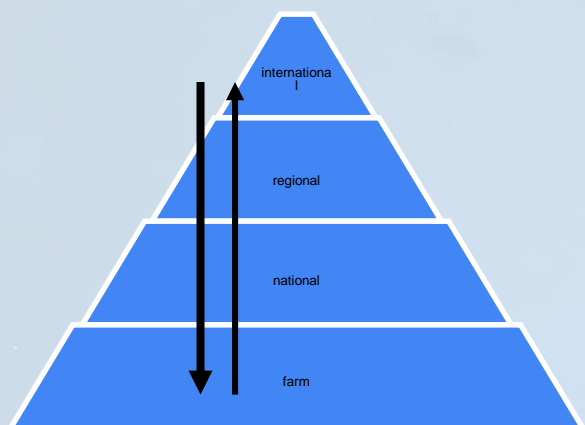
- ⇒ Improved transboundary management, governance and participatory management
- ⇒ Expanding economic opportunities and benefits for SSF and aquaculture SME's by reducing post-harvest losses, value addition, improved access to markets and safe intra-regional fish trade
- ⇒ Sustainable development and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

Threats for sustainability and sectoral growth

- ? Impacts of increased anthropogenic factors, environmental degradation, pollution and climate change on hydrology, water quality and welfare of AA populations
- ? 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 ≈ differences in management approaches between countries + propensity for spread of negative impacts

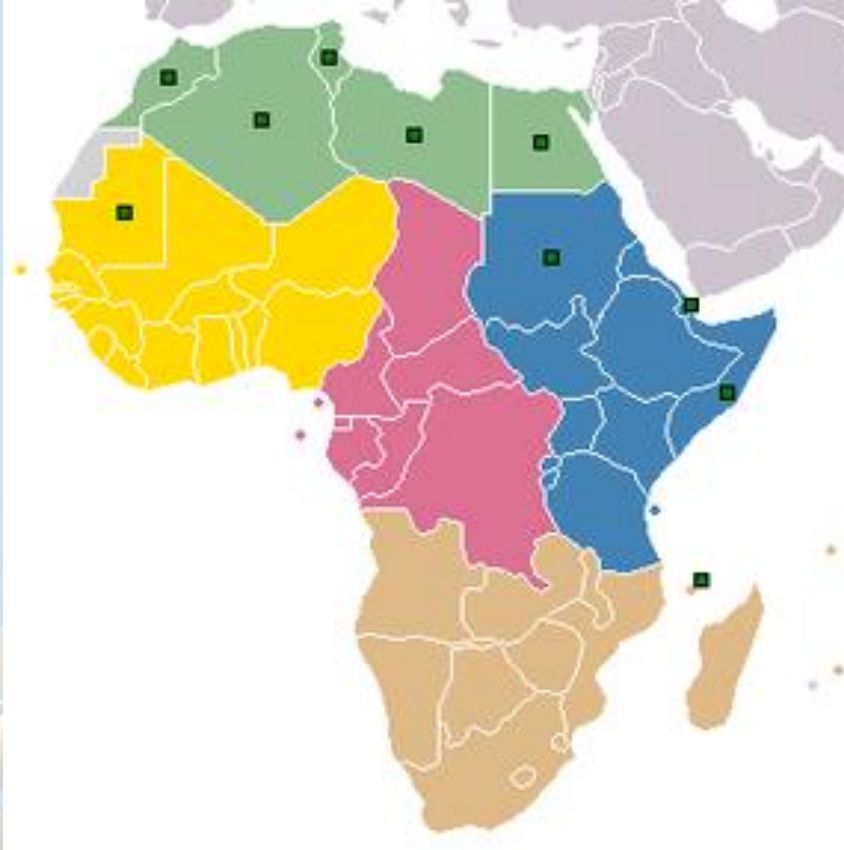
Concerns for aquatic animal health and welfare, biosecurity, biosafety of production systems, food-safety, public health, environmental sustainability, ecosystem health, biodiversity conservation, access to markets

The strategic approach



@ implementation AU principle of regional subsidiarity anchored in RECs

Reg/int	Protect industry, rules and mechanisms of trade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competence levels of governments to implement legislation, surveillance and testing • Compliance to WOA Aquatic Code 	
National	Sanitary status, surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish sanitary status and compartments • Develop and implement national biosecurity protocols (trade, production). • response to disease outbreaks 	
Producer	Implementation => BMPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement appropriate SOPs/BMPs 	





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



Continental level policy direction and strategic approaches

.... transboundary ecosystem management

Guidelines	The Issue	Expected Outcomes
 <p>REGIONAL FRAMEWORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA - Eastern Africa and the Great Lakes Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management and utilization of aquatic ecosystems for aquaculture and other uses. • Sustainability issues arising from environmental impacts, climate change and biosecurity. • Appropriate EIAs 	<p>Harmonized ecosystem approaches to aquaculture development within Africa's regional transboundary watersheds.</p> <p>Notably:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
 <p>GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A common appreciation and implementation approach of the regional aquaculture environmental frameworks among the wide-array of independent multi-sectoral aquatic resource stakeholders 	<p>Coherence and multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable aquaculture development; including in transboundary aquatic ecosystems.</p>

.....transboundary ecosystem management

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

FISHGOV I

Following the AFRM

1. Establish the baseline

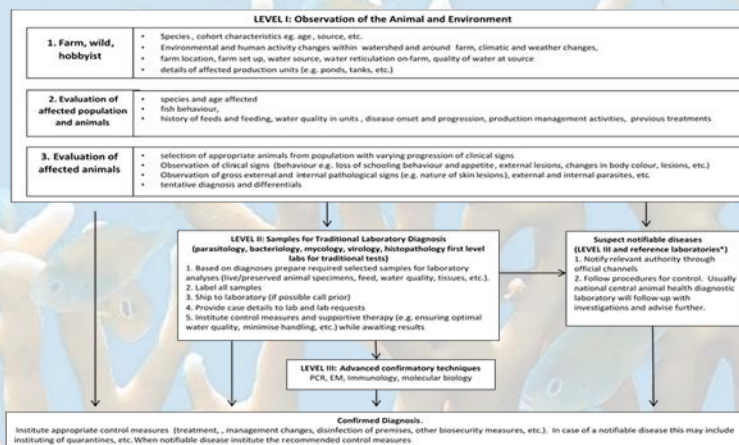
- Mapping of Aquatic Animal Diseases

2. Common Understanding

- Continental joint training and consultations in Aquatic Animal Disease Control for Veterinarians + Fisheries Officers (one of whom WOAH 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:

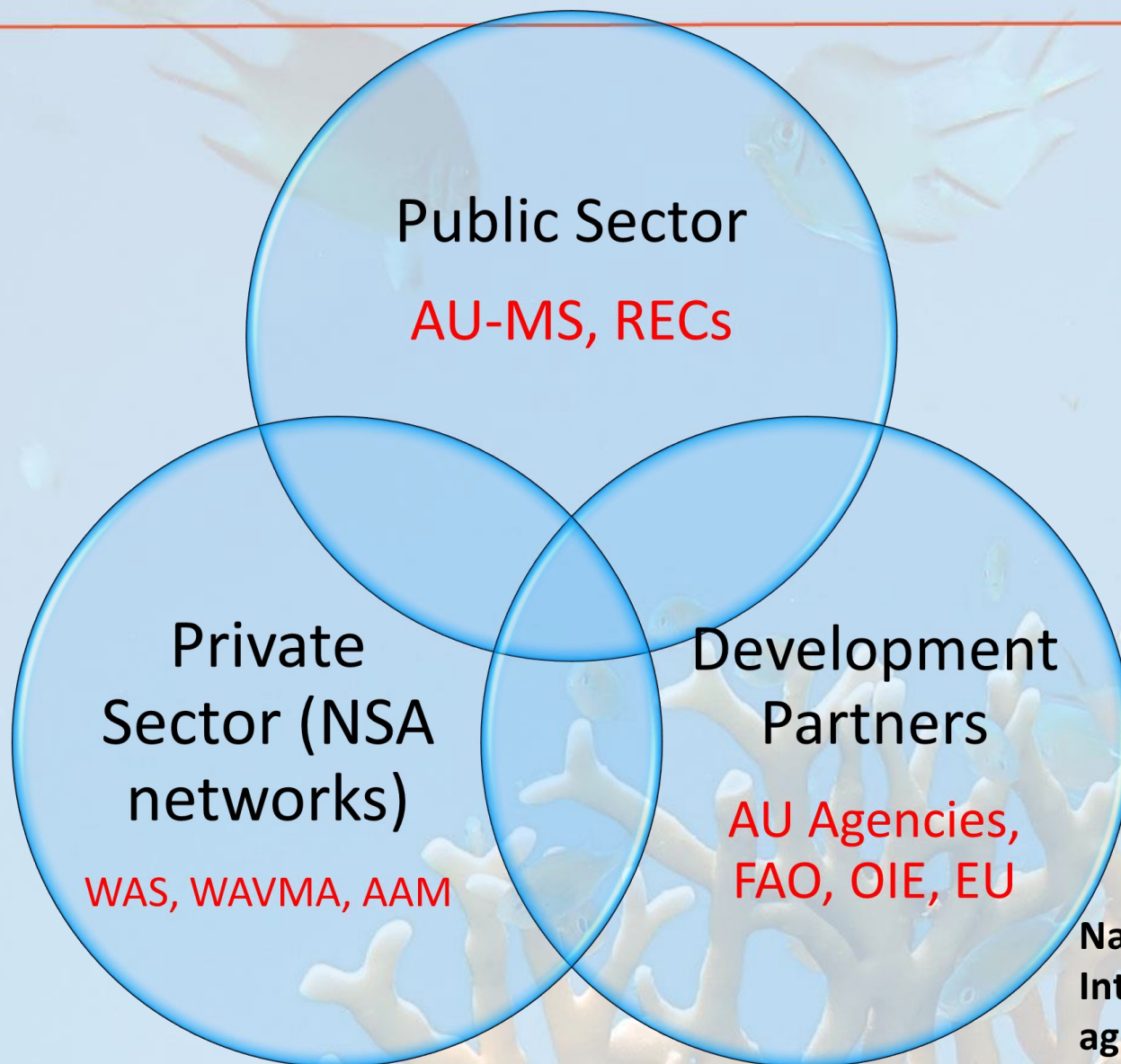


- Outlook for aquatic animal health, welfare and biosecurity control expands beyond principally aquaculture, equitable safe-fish trade and environmental impacts
- Building capacity to mitigated against negative impacts of Blue Economy industries and climate change on marine environments for aquatic animal 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

1. The Reference Point for all information and action at REC: RAAHN's

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, WOA, 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.



- Capacity dev't
- Best practices
- Technology
- Knowledge and information sharing

=> *Coherence & harmonisation in dev't approaches*

National agencies, NGO's, International development agencies, etc

Local & international private companies, farmers, academia, practitioners, etc

Thank You



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