



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR AU-IBAR

Enhancing sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa: A programme for accelerated reform of the sector (FishGov 2)



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR AU-IBAR

Description of the Action

Enhancing sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa: A programme for accelerated reform of the sector (FishGov 2)

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ACRONYMS

ABJN	Area Beyond National Jurisdiction
AEM	African Ecolabelling Mechanism
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFRM	Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism
AIP	Aquaculture Improvement Projects
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
ANAF	Aquaculture Network for Africa
APRIFAAS	African Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems
ARSTM	Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization
AU	African Union
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency-NEPAD
AU-MS	African Union Member States
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
AWFISHNET	African Women Fish processors and Trade Network
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAMFA	Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCRF	FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
CEEAC	Communauté Economique des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale
CEN-SAD	The Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CITES	Convention on international trade in endangered species
CLAR	Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COP	Conference of parties
COREP	Commission Régionale des Pêches Du Golfe De Guinée / Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EAC	East Africa Community
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States

ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMA	Eco Mark Africa
EU	European Union
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAA	Fisheries Access Agreements
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FIP	Fisheries Improvement Projects
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICT	Information and communications technology
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development in Eastern Africa
INFOPECHE	Inter-governmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPOA	International Plan of Action
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fishing Organization
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MOSFA	Media Observatory on Sustainable Fisheries in Africa
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MTC	Minimum Terms and conditions
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NaFIRRI	National Fisheries Resources Research Institute
NAIPs	National Agriculture Investment Plans
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OSBP	One Stop Border Post
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
PRNFAA	Policy Research Network for fisheries and aquaculture Africa
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
RAIPs	Regional Agriculture Investment Plans
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFB	Regional Fishery Body

RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RSC	Regional Sea Conventions
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SIDS	Small inland developing states
SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
SSF	Small-Scales Fisheries
SSF-VG	Small-Scales Fisheries Voluntary Guidelines
STC	Special Technical Committee
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
SWIOFC	South West Indian Fisheries Commission
SWIOFISH	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TFP	Technical and Financial Partner
TURF	Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries or Territorial Use Rights in Fishing
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNCLOS	United Nation Convention of the Law of the Sea
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WARFP	The West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WBC	Water Basin Commissions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Africa provide millions of Africans with affordable nutritious food and livelihoods. Still, according to FAO prospective study, average per capita fish consumption in Africa is likely to decrease from 10 to 8.3 kg by 2030. On top of demographic trends and global competition for food, other reasons may explain this situation such as poor governance, degradation of ecosystems aggravated by climate change, lack of productivity and competitiveness etc. In 2014, African Union leaders adopted the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture that provide strategic guidance for the development of these sectors in Africa.

As a follow up of First phase of Fisheries Governance project (FishGov I), this Action's overall objective is to enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063's objectives, notably in terms of food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. Taking into account lessons learnt from FishGov I and contextual changes, this Action will address 3 strategic issues where collaboration with AU institutions will provide additional value and will complement EU Action at regional and national levels.

First, the Action will support evidence-based decision making on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through improved knowledge, effective consultation, solid reporting and the promotion of cross-sectoral approaches. Second, coherent implementation of the PFRS will be facilitated at continental, regional and national level. Third, the Action will strengthen African voice in international fora and domestication of global instruments.

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized technical office of DREA, will be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Action.

The overall objective of the Action is to improve food security, livelihoods and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, aligned with AU Agenda 2063.

The specific objectives are the following:

1. African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies are evidence based
2. Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and other AU priorities and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels
3. Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and ably domesticates relevant global instruments

I CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1. Context Description

1.1.1. Importance of the sector

Africa has vast fisheries resources (marine, inland capture and aquaculture) the exploitation of which is providing a wide variety of benefits to Africans in terms of revenue, employment, food and nutrition, as well as general contribution to socio economic growth and development. The sector has immense potential to increase contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation as well as growth of sustainable blue economy on the continent. The current total production from the sector is estimated about 11 million metric tonnes per annum. The sector therefore plays significant role in terms of fish supplies as well as foreign exchange earnings for AU member states. Countries such as Seychelles and Mauritania benefit immensely from fisheries partnership agreements with the European Union that contribute significantly to their GDP. The Sector currently employs about 12 million people and 27 % of which constitute women. About 50% women depend exclusively on post-harvest fish related activities as unique source of income and economic empowerment. The food and nutritional security of about 400 million rural and urban Africans increasingly depends on low value fish. The value added by the fisheries and aquaculture sector as a whole in 2011 was estimated at more than US\$24 billion, 1.26 % of the GDP of all African countries. The related subsector or activities contributing to this average include marine fisheries, inland fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing.

The first continent-wide intervention in the African fisheries and aquaculture sector was framed to address the following challenges: poor coordination among actors; lack of coherence in governance instruments and approaches; increasing incidences of IUU fishing due to weak capacity in the AU member states; weak evidence based information to foster reform and monitor sectoral policies; generally weak capacity and poor infrastructure; and lack of inclusive governance. The Summit of the African Heads of States and Governments recognized these challenges and endorsed the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS).

In a bid to address some of these challenges, the European Union supported African Union to implement a fisheries governance project (FishGov I) from 2014 to 2018. The Action aimed at enhancing the contribution of fisheries resources to food security and economic growth in Africa. The specific objective of this Action was to improve institutional and policy environment for sustainable management and utilization of fisheries resources in Africa and the expected results were as follows:

Result 1: Institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for sustainable fisheries management improved

Result 2: Sustainable fisheries management in small-scale fisheries including inland water bodies enhanced

Result 3: Institutional capacity and regulatory framework for aquaculture development strengthened

Result 4: Advocacy, Lessons Learning for knowledge sharing and capacity for increased investments and fostering reforms in the fisheries sector enhanced.

The EU also supported World Fish and African Union to implement a Fish trade project from 2013 to 2018 which aimed at improving food and nutritional security and reduce poverty in sub-Saharan Africa

by enhancing the capacities of regional and pan-African organizations to support their member states to better integrate intra-regional fish trade into their development and food security policy agendas. The Action had four specific results as follows:

- i. Information on the structure, products and value of intra-regional fish trade in food security in Sub Saharan Africa generated and made available to stakeholders.
- ii. A set of recommendations on policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations, well embedded in national and regional fisheries, agricultural, trade and food security policy frameworks in sub-Saharan Africa.
- iii. Increased capacities for trade amongst private sector associations, in particular of women fish processors and traders and aquaculture producers, to make better use of expanding trade opportunities through competitive small and medium scale enterprises.
- iv. Adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations by key stakeholders participating in intra-regional trade in four selected trade corridors in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The two Actions supported the implementation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. These two Actions made tangible achievements which need to be consolidated but also lessons were learnt and gaps identified at the end of their implementation

Therefore, the calls by stakeholders and high-level policy makers expressed urgent need for consolidation of these achievements, address the lessons and gaps were overwhelming during the stakeholder's closure workshop, final project's steering committee meetings and the high-level policy makers comprising of ministers in Cairo, Egypt September 2018.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was endorsed by the 3rd Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment and Water (STC-ARDWE) in October 2019 and noted by the AU Executive Council in February 2020 (EX.CL/Dec. 1074(XXXVI)). The Blue Economy Strategy has a vision for an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth and aimed at providing guidance to the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy as a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.

Whereas six institutions had been assessed for endorsement, the STC endorsed eight African institutions as Centres of Excellence on fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (COE) – See Table 8- including two (L'Agence Gabonaise d'Etudes et d'Observation spatiale (AGEOS) and Institut des Arts et métiers nautique de limbe, Cameroon) that are yet to be assessed. The COEs would provide strategic pathway to sustainably and adequately address the enduring issue of inadequate capacity on the continent for improved management and development of its fisheries and aquaculture resources.

In this Action, the COEs will:

- I. Strengthen the capacity of African institutions to produce high quality research in relevant disciplines of fisheries and aquaculture;
- II. Develop human capacities to enhance knowledge and skills for effective fisheries management and aquaculture development in African Union Member States;
- III. Provide evidence for policy support and decision making at regional and continental levels;
- IV. Increase professionalism in the sector at all levels;
- V. Generate information for advocacy in the interest of the sector's development as well as building evidence-based coherent African positions;
- VI. Improve networking and complementarity among universities and research institutions;
- VII. Improve mechanisms for sharing information, best practices and lessons learnt.

The establishment of the COEs aligns and contributes directly to the mission of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS) of providing leadership and support in generating and disseminating knowledge in the area of fisheries and aquaculture in order to enhance the sustainable contribution of the sector to AU Agenda 2063, blue economy growth, food security and nutrition, livelihoods and wealth creation targets. It also supports PFRS's goal of creating an enabling environment for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to contribute towards Africa's inclusive social and economic development. The companion documents to the PFRS include the recently endorsed 10-year action plan for Small-scale fisheries development in Africa as well as the African Union Aquaculture 10-years action plan for Africa.

1.1.2. Sub-sectoral Analysis and opportunities

Fish production on the African continent has been stagnating at about 11 million metric tons per annum, providing readily cheap and affordable animal protein and income for the majority of the citizens. A significant proportion of the exploited fish resources are destined for overseas markets, contributing about 10 Billion US\$ in international trade from fish export and import. The sector provides employment to about 12 million people, with 27 % being women, who are mainly active in small-scale processing and marketing. The average per capita fish consumption in Africa in 2016 was about 10 kg which is estimated to be half the global average of about 20 kg per capita but this is expected to decrease to 9.6 kg in 2030 due to insufficient supply to meet the demands of a growing population (Tables 1 and 2). The most significant decline will be in sub-Saharan Africa where fish consumption could decrease to 8.3 kg per capita by 2030 (FAO, 2018).

Table 1: Economic and social contribution of the fisheries, aquaculture sector in 2018 and projected 2030 for Africa.

Parameters	2018	2030
Population	1.3 billion	1.7 billion
Fish consumption per capita per year	10 kg	5 – 8.5 kg
Capture fisheries production	8.85 million tonnes	9 million tonnes
Aquaculture production	2.11 million tonnes	2.44 million tonnes
Fish trade	2.78 million tonnes	2.3 million tonnes

Sources: Africa Blue economy strategy Report (2019)

Table 2: Africa fish production by subsector

Africa fisheries production by subsector (metric tonnes)				
Year	Marine capture fisheries	Inland capture fisheries	Aquaculture	Total Africa fish production
2003	5083460	2221812	624398	7929670
2004	5171897	2344016	638330	8156247
2005	5156303	2440307	727340	8325955
2006	4662271	2390729	842930	7895930
2007	4689902	2527483	916710	8134095
2008	4826728	2508739	1062420	8397887
2009	4933158	2555735	1104349	8593242
2010	5100150	2635870	1424880	9160900
2011	4939995	2727445	1538722	9206162
2012	5536745	2705519	1646395	9888659
2013	5567061	2813807	1616033	9996901
2014	5790011	2843563	1712481	10346055
2015	5961878	2804629	1771661	10538168
2016	6414589	2863916	1981897	11260402

Source: FAO (2018)

1.1.3. Fish consumption

The average per capita fish consumption in Africa is estimated at about 9.7 kg which is significantly less than the global average (19 kg). The per capita fish consumption is highest mostly in countries that are adjacent to large marine ecosystems, in excess of 20 kg (e.g. Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome, Comoros etc.) whilst lower in land-locked countries, arid or semi-arid regions (e.g. Ethiopia, Lesotho, Niger) generally below 5 kg (Figure 1).

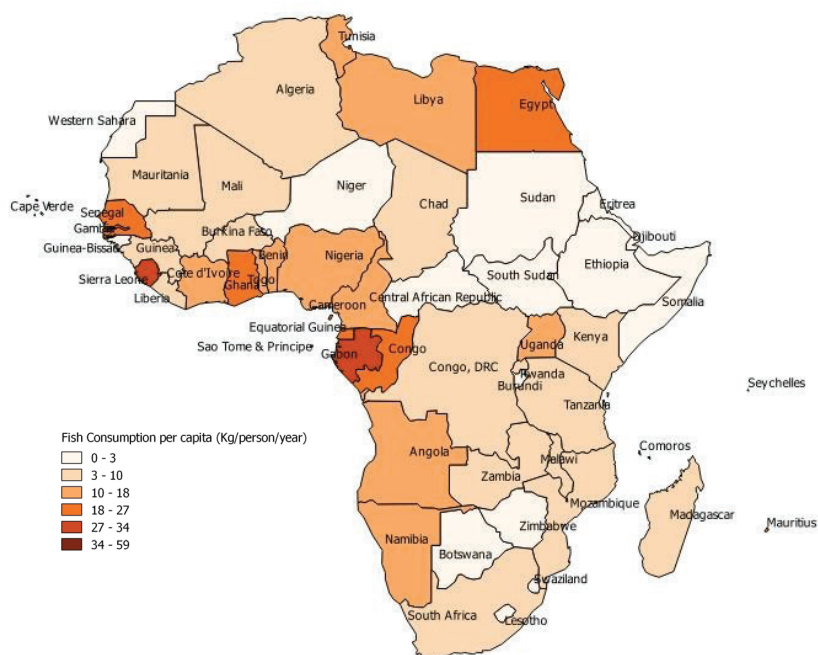


Figure 1: Fish consumption pattern (data from FAO, 2011)

Three sub-sectors contribute to fish production in Africa: marine capture fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture.

1.1.4. Marine fisheries

Africa has a coastline of over 30,000 km and is adjacent to vast expanses of oceans and seas. Maritime zones under Africa's jurisdiction total about 13 million square kilometres including territorial seas and approximately 6.5 million square kilometres of the continental shelf. The marine fisheries production is estimated at 6.4 million metric tons, contributing to 60 % of Africa's total fish production, with a significant portion destined to overseas export markets.

Marine fishing is conducted mainly in Africa's large marine ecosystems (Figure 2), namely: Canary Current large marine ecosystem (CCLME), Guinea current large marine ecosystem (GCLME), Somali Current large marine ecosystem (SLME), Agulhas current large marine ecosystem (ALME), Benguela Current large marine ecosystem (BCLME) and the Mediterranean Sea large marine ecosystems (MSLME). In view of the highly priced fish species in these ecosystems, e.g. Tunas, shrimps, cephalopods (e.g. octopus, cuttlefish and squid), some demersal finfish species, this subsector contributes to revenue generation and hence economic growth on the continent, and also supports Africa's active role in international fish trade (about 5 US\$ billion per year in terms of fish export).

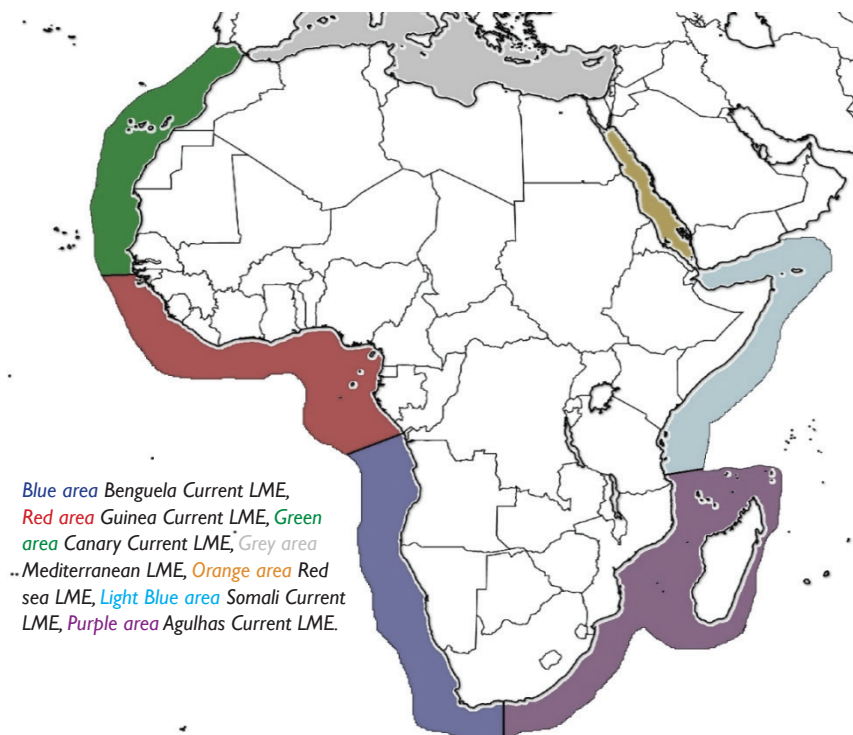


Figure 2: Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) surrounding the continent of Africa

This subsector has enormous challenges that include overfishing and overcapacity, increasing incidences of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, loss of biodiversity, habitat degradation as well as a lack of data and scientific knowledge on the state of the resources. However, there is still a huge potential for improving governance and increased contribution by the sub-sector, premised on coherent policies and sustainable management actions. Hence the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa underscored the conservation and sustainable uses of fish resources as a prime policy objective for sustainable blue economy development in Africa.

1.1.5. Inland fisheries:

The continent is also endowed with huge networks of rivers, lakes, floodplains, waterways (Figure 3), and wetlands with massive potential for socio-economic and environmental advancement of the continent. The inland fisheries, conducted in Africa's great lakes such as Victoria, Tanganyika, Nyassa, Volta, Kivu, Kainji, and rivers such as the Nile, Congo, Zambezi, are massive sources of fresh water fish for the continent, with an estimated annual production of 2.9 million metric tons, constituting about 25 % of global inland fishery production. Inland fisheries are a vital source of protein and livelihoods for a vast majority of riparian communities, as most of the production is landed for local consumption. These natural aquatic endowments represent significant opportunities for blue economic growth in AU member states including for social, economic and environmental development much of which remains underutilized. Some of these opportunities include transport, food security, tourism, rural development and increased environmental sustainability.

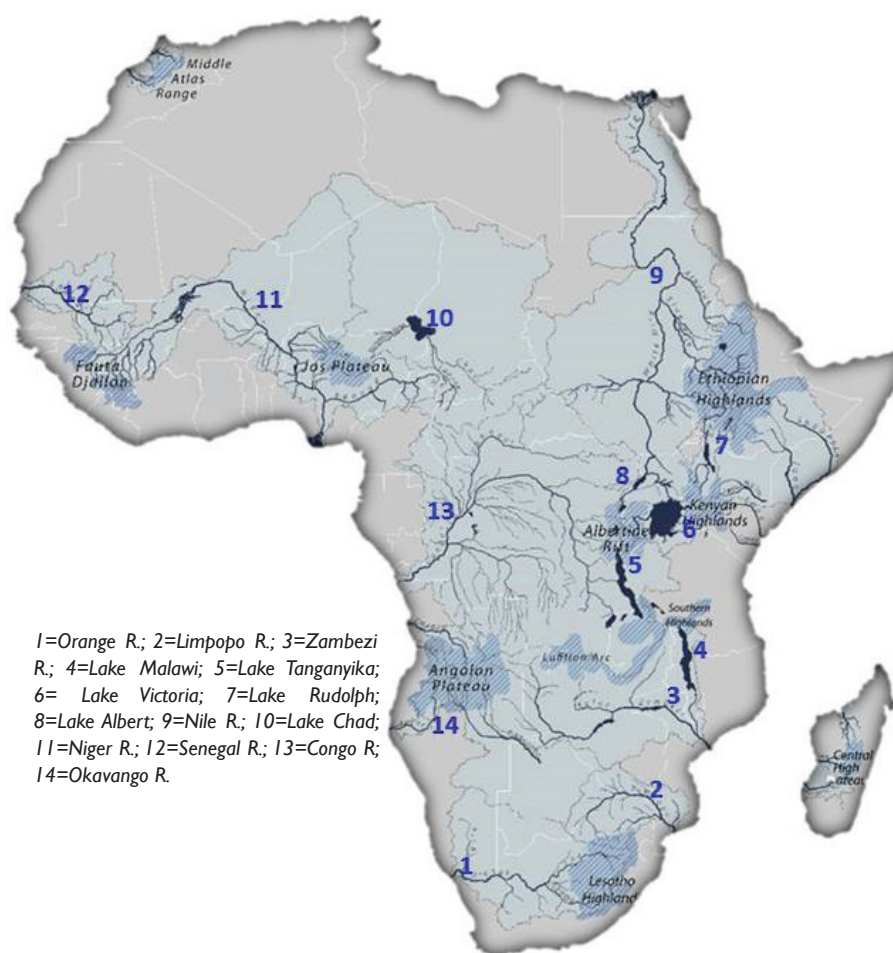


Figure 3: Map illustration the major lakes and rivers on the continent of Africa

Inland water bodies are natural capital assets which must be managed in a manner to both maintain existing benefits (food security, livelihoods and income), and also to significantly increase the sustainable contribution of the sub-sector to the blue economy growth of member states. The current benefits are however under threat from a variety of sources, key amongst which include poor governance frameworks, incoherent policies and legislative frameworks. The underlying challenges are the open access nature of many inland water bodies, weak capacity, threats of climate change, receding water levels and siltation, mining activities with resulting effluents, hydroelectric development, weed invasion, reduced species diversity and the associated taxonomic and life history challenges of the aquatic species. There is need for

improved fisheries management practices to ensure sustainability of the fish sector for long-term benefits of the member states, particularly the riparian communities.

Within the framework of the PFRS, and funding from FishGov I, an African Union inland fisheries strategy as well as action plan for small-scale fisheries development, tailored to the African context, have been developed.

1.1.6. Aquaculture

Of the three sub-sectors, Aquaculture has the most potential for socio-economic growth and food security, despite being untapped in many African countries. However, a few countries notably, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda have made some improvement in management practices contributing to enhanced fish production. Egypt is the largest producer of Tilapia from fish farming whilst Nigeria is the largest producer of Catfish from farming. The overall contribution of aquaculture to the total global production is about 2.3% as compared to Asian countries with about 90%. The main challenge is that the majority of aquaculture farms are based on subsistence operations with limited commercial enterprises on the continent. Aquaculture is mainly practiced in earthen ponds, tanks, raceways and cage cultures on lakes or rivers.

The major challenges hindering the expansion and realization of Africa's full aquaculture potential arise from:

- a. The sub-optimal utilisation and management of the available natural resources for Aquaculture;
- b. Limited supply and access to key inputs notably, feed, seed, human resources, appropriate technology and finance;
- c. Access to markets;
- d. Inadequate physical and sectoral infrastructure such as weak policies within both the public and private sector;
- e. Climate change and other environmental issues;
- f. Unregulated trans-boundary movement of genetic materials;
- g. Unsafe aquatic animal feeds and seeds; and
- h. Water scarcity and quality.

An Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) sets out useful planning and management tools/resources that can help address some of these key issues. It draws upon tools and resources that have been successfully used in freshwater and marine aquaculture operations as well as environmental management across the globe. The African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) has developed an African Eco Label (Eco Mark Africa) for a number of different sectors. ARSO has developed aquaculture standards for selected African species and certification of aquaculture producers is now underway in a few pilot countries including Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia.

There is a need to develop capacity and put in place necessary institutional arrangements for commercial aquaculture development, which is consistent and coherent with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

Within the framework of the PFRS, and funding from FishGov I, African Union Aquaculture 10-years action plan for Africa, tailored to the African context, was developed and endorsed by the 3rd Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment and Water (STC-ARDWE) in October 2019. The aquaculture business and extensions models were also developed that suit the development of market led aquaculture development in Africa. These documents were based on stakeholders' perspectives with regards to sustainable market-led aquaculture development in Africa.

1.1.7. International Trade in fish and fish products (Exports and Imports)

The global consumption of fish, currently at 140 million metric tons, is projected to reach 200 million metric tons by 2030. According to the World Bank, due to the growing population and per capita income, demand for fish products in developed countries where households have strong purchasing power will increase by 30% by 2030, resulting in the poorest countries to suffer the most, if there are no policy interventions.

The increasing demand for fish offers an opportunity to optimize fish production from aquaculture and capture fisheries. The global demand for fish and fishery products and seafood on the wider scale is a key driver for the production and exploitation of these resources especially in developing countries including the majority of the African Union Member States (AU-MS). Consequently, this demand for seafood also has huge impacts on the national and regional programs geared towards sustainable exploitation and rational utilization of the aquatic resources.

The study conducted under the FishGov I identified the socio-economic consequences of fish inflow and outflows from the African continent. Over the last decades, there has been a significant increase in the share of fishery and aquaculture production from Africa entering international trade. This is a clear indication of the sector's growing level of market-openness and integration into the international trade. Domestic and intra-regional trade in fish and fisheries products from both marine and inland waters is an important and well-developed pillar of many national and regional economies of the African Union Member States, although trade networks at both national and regional levels remain quite informal. The import of the cheaper "low quality" fish and fishery products interferes with the demand and supply dynamics in the AU-MS, and may thus deter any efforts to develop quality fish and fishery products through both the local capture fisheries and aquaculture enterprises.

The potential for aquaculture development has not been fully utilized on the continent as compared to exploitation of fish resources in the capture fisheries as the demand from international markets has led to an increase in the export of fish derived from capture fisheries with the following unintended consequences. These include i) a reduction in the domestic fish supplies; ii) a reduction in per capita fish consumption; iii) a rise in prices due to the scarcity of products; and iv) increased food insecurity in a number of countries that depend on animal protein from seafood.

Due to the highly diverse and valuable fish resources in its coastal waters and the adjacent high seas, Africa plays a crucial role in international fish trade in terms of export and import. The continent contributes about 2 % (2.7 billion US\$) to the total value of global fish imports (135 billion US\$). Africa is also a major

player in export market contributing about 6.3 % (9.0 billion US\$) to the global fish export trade (142 Billion US\$) 2016 Table 4).

Nigeria and Egypt are the largest importers of fish whilst Morocco and Namibia are the major fish exporting countries.

Table 3: Value of Africa fish import and export versus the World (in US\$)

Year	Value of Global and Africa fish imports			Value of Global and Africa fish Exports		
	World	Africa	% value by Africa	World	Africa	% value by Africa
	USDx1000	USDx1000		USDx1000	USDx1000	
2006	90834090	2247956	2.5	86017822	6915775	8.0
2007	98902777	2689093	2.7	93499925	7142107	7.1
2008	108033540	2939532	2.7	101896995	7578815	6.9
2009	99694453	3259460	3.2	99962739	7527856	7.0
2010	111313770	3239076	2.8	109274148	8544236	7.3
2011	129805068	5160304	4.0	129594931	10529693	8.1
2012	129466675	4796867	3.7	129298794	11036031	8.5
2013	133434686	3230179	2.4	139391482	7872684	5.6
2014	141245950	3382027	2.4	148570767	9188880	6.2
2015	127599640	3222266	2.5	133265823	8166476	6.1
2016	135036741	2709961	2.0	142529795	8982008	6.3

Source: FAO (2018)

1.2. Policy Framework, Strategies (Global, EU)

An important milestone achieved in 2015 within the UN framework was the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG). The EU response to the implementation of the 2030 **Agenda for Sustainable Development** is articulated in the **New European Consensus for Development**, a coherent and common development policy framework of action to ensure a stronger and effective implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals so that no one is left behind.

In particular, **SDG 14** of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development aims at conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. SDG 14 strives to inter alia: effectively regulate harvesting; end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices; implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to the levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield; prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing; increase the economic benefits to SIDS and least developed countries from fisheries, and aquaculture and also, provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

The European Union considers that well managed oceans are crucial to achieve sustainable development. The **EU joint communication on International ocean governance**¹ sets out 50 actions to ensure

¹ JOIN (2016)49 final, "International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans"

safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans. As part of its reformed **Common Fisheries Policy**, the EU conducts an external policy to “ensure the sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of biological resources of the sea and the marine environment” in the world and makes the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing one of its priorities².

In addition, the EU has 20 **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)** with a number of African countries with 13 protocols in force or provisional application. These agreements have as an objective to provide a governance framework based on sustainability, transparency and solidarity through partnership. They constitute an important knowledge base and support best practices’ transfer to third countries on managing fisheries resources.

The 2007 **Joint Africa-EU Strategy** sets the framework for EU-AU partnership. It recognized that “African fisheries resources, both coastal and inland, represent vital natural capital and a potential source of wealth able to contribute substantially and sustainably to economic growth and poverty reduction”. In the political declaration adopted in Abidjan in 2017, the EU and AU committed to support the AU Business Plan for Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Malabo Declaration, both including fisheries and aquaculture. They also committed to improve maritime knowledge and the development of sustainable blue economy, in line with the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy.

Furthermore, in “**Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa**” the EU is willing to encourage better ocean governance, including the development of a sustainable fisheries and blue economy. The EU is ready to scale up the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to address the environmental threat it poses to the sustainability of fish stocks, the profits of fishermen and coastal communities who follow the rules³.

The **Pan-African Programme** is the main instrument to support the Africa - EU strategy. Among various priorities, the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2018-2020 aims to contribute to the implementation of the AU-EU priority areas agreed at the Abidjan 5th AU-EU summit in November 2017. Areas of common interest for Africa and Europe include notably the CAADP and AU policies on climate change, natural resources management and environment.

Building on the External Investment Plan and its European Fund for Sustainable Development, the EU launched in 2018 the **Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs**⁴ as part of the European Union – African Union Partnership that seeks to promote substantial increase of private investment from both Africans and Europeans, boost trade, enhance job creation and contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, promoting standards of modern and sustainable technology, environmental and labour protection, and responsible business conduct. Unlocking the potential of the blue economy is one of the objectives to achieve this.

² Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation)

³ Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL, JOIN(2020) 4 final, Brussels, 9.3.2020

⁴ COM(2018) 643 final

1.3. Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region

The vision of the African continent is enshrined in the Agenda 2063 as ‘A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development’. Agenda 2063 identifies amongst others the following as priority actions to achieve this vision: (i) transforming Africa’s economies through benefits from Africa’s natural resources including Blue Growth development, (ii) raising productivity and competitiveness; (iii) promoting policies that will ensure access to affordable and quality food for all, and transforming African agriculture to enable the continent to feed itself and be a major player as a net food exporter; (iv) exploiting the vast potential of Africa’s blue/ocean economy; (v) putting in place measures to help avoid the over exploitation and plundering of fishing habitats, and sustainably manage the continent’s rich biodiversity and using mainly adaptive measures to address climate change risks; and finally (vi) developing/implementing policies and programmes to increase research and development for the monitoring of the High Seas, particularly where ecosystem components straddle between areas of national jurisdiction and the High Seas. These priorities are detailed in the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 (2014-2023) for implementation by AU Member States, RECs and relevant AU offices including the AU Commission (AU-IBAR) and AUDA-NEPAD. These priorities are also encapsulated and cascaded in relevant AU instruments including the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy which AU-IBAR is spearheading the implementation on the continent. AUDA-NEPAD has now established Regional Offices to strengthen the Agency’s coordination of programme implementation across the five African Regions (East, South, North, West and Central Africa).

Agenda 2063 also refers specifically to the Blue and Ocean Economy as the Goal 6 for accelerated economic growth especially for the priority areas of Marine Resources and Energy; and Ports Operations and Marine Transport. The Goal 7 also addresses Blue Economy (BE) by having priority areas such as Sustainable natural resource management and Biodiversity conservation; Sustainable consumption and production patterns; Water security; Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness and prevention; Renewable energy that are integral to BE Development in Africa.

The first continental-level report on the implementation of Agenda 2063 (Source: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38060-doc-agenda_2063_implementation_report_en_web_version.pdf), in February 2020, consolidated progress reports from 31 out of 55 AU Member States, covering 56% of the continent, and six Regional Economic Communities. The report presents an analysis of progress made on the implementation of Agenda 2063 against the 2019 targets. At aspiration level, the continent registered a good performance on Aspiration 4 “A peaceful and secure Africa” (48%), with most Member States reporting the existence of functional national peace mechanisms, in addition to the continental-level Africa Peace and Security Architecture. Similarly, relatively good progress was made on Aspiration 2 towards achieving “An integrated continent, politically united that is based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of an African Renaissance”, with a score of 44%. This was achieved through the collective and concerted efforts of Member States on operationalizing the African Continental Free Trade Area, amongst others. Aspiration 6 “An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of the African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children” recorded a relatively strong performance of 38%. This was attributed, amongst others, to the implementation of the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights of

the Youth which realised 77% of the 2019 target. The continent saw a weak performance under Aspiration I “A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development”, with an aggregate score of 29%. Furthermore, low scores were recorded on matters pertaining to good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law – related to Aspiration 3 with an aggregate score of 16%.

The overall performance of African Member States on advancing the AfCFTA stands at 92% of the target set for 2019. To-date, 54 countries have signed and 29 have ratified the AfCFTA.

At the regional level, East Africa recorded the highest performance in five out of the seven aspirations in Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan with an aggregate score of 40% against the 2019 targets. The aggregate performance of West Africa stood at 34%, while the aggregate performance of North Africa stood at 27%. Southern and Central Africa both recorded an aggregate score of 25% against the 2019 targets.

The Second Session of the Summit of the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union (2003) resulted in the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa that proposed the launching of a coordinated effort towards increased food security and economic development and growth in the form of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). In the context of CAADP and in a bid to effectively reverse the spectre of declining fisheries and reap the benefits of the exploitation of fisheries and aquaculture resources in Africa, the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in 2010 charged the African Union to establish a mechanism for coordination in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and formulate a continental policy framework to promote coherence in the governance of the sectors amongst African Union member states.

Accordingly, the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture (PFRS) in Africa was developed and endorsed by African Heads of State and Governments as a blue print for the development of the sector in 2014⁵. This Pan African Policy document is the continent’s main guiding policy document for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. Its overall goal is to create an enabling environment for the sustainable contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to food, livelihoods and wealth creation in Africa. The document provides structured guidance to Africa’s fisheries management agencies, development partners, technical institutions, fish producers and traders and all other stakeholders involved in the sector.

In view of the challenges and opportunities in Africa’s fisheries and aquaculture sector, the following policy arenas in the PFRS are prioritized as needing reforms for enhancing the contribution of Africa’s fisheries and aquaculture sector to socio-economic development of the continent.

⁵ EX.CL/Dec.831 (XXV)

Table 4: Policy Arenas of the PFRS:

Policy Arenas	Objectives	Summary of strategic actions
Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use	To establish national and sub-national governance and institutional arrangements that ensure that the societal contribution generated by Africa's sectors have the greatest impacts at the most appropriate level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an enabling environment for sustainable management and for generating the potential of the resources • Design and apply appropriate users rights-based systems • Conduct fisheries within enforceable regulatory frameworks • Strengthen the scientific and socio-economic basis for fisheries management and aquaculture development • Scale up the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to address the serious environmental threat it poses to the sustainability of fish stocks and the profits of fishermen and coastal communities who follow the rules.
Small-scale Fisheries Development	To improve and strengthen the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance effective bilateral and regional cooperation in the management of shared resources • Promote, support and coordinate sustainable pro-poor development • Improve fisheries governance through participatory management • Build on traditional fisheries management systems, promotion of selective and location-specific fishing gear
Sustainable Aquaculture Development	To jumpstart market-led sustainable aquaculture through a variety of strategies and, where appropriate, support interventionist development approaches in aquaculture by strong strategic and implementation plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an enabling environment • Create an African Centre of Excellence for Aquaculture • Mainstream aquaculture strategies and plans into national development plans especially CAADP
Responsible and Equitable Fish Trade and Marketing	To harness significantly the benefits of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture endowments through accelerated trade and marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and align trade systems between Member States in the same REC • Improve quality and safety of products to better access regional and international markets • Enhance the capacity of fisheries and aquaculture traders • Put in place efficient fish trade information systems • Improve the capacity of countries to implement traceability mechanisms to ensure fishery products originating from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities do not enter the markets.
Strengthened Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation	To strengthen South-South (bilateral and regional) cooperation, and develop coordinated mechanisms among RECs and RFBs to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and aquaculture development and their adoption and adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase strategic cooperation in capture fisheries and aquaculture development needs • Increase strategic cooperation in capture fisheries and aquaculture development needs • Create synergies and complementarities in programmes at regional level • Establish and reinforce the role of RECs and RFBs in regional economic integration

Policy Arenas	Objectives	Summary of strategic actions
Awareness Enhancing and Human-capacity Development	To increase awareness of the potential and importance of sector and enhance the capacity of people and institutions in the African fishery sector to ensure the sustainable development of capture fisheries and aquaculture, based on current and emerging trends, challenges and needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance awareness and capacity development to improve fisheries and aquaculture governance: Capacity development in Fisheries Management Planning, Fisheries Management, Regional cooperation, Strengthening the scientific and economic basis for competitive, equitable and sustainable sectors, Strengthening the knowledge base systems
High Seas Fisheries	Increase and consolidate the African Voice in the governance and management of high seas fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage African countries to become members or cooperating parties of appropriate RFMOs Encourage African countries to ratify and implement United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the FAO Port States Measures Agreement Consult among member states and harmonize positions on key issues before meetings of RFMOs Support Member States to fulfil their RFMOs and RFBs' obligations Participate in the Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) programme to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ Participate in the newly established Global Partnership for Oceans; build relationships and political, financial and scientific support in the region for high seas fisheries Promote appropriate implementation of those international instruments States sign up for.
Cross-Cutting PFRS Policy Arenas		
Strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change in African fisheries and aquaculture	To address the sector's climate change and disaster risks in an integrated and holistic manner at the political level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing information, knowledge and communication systems Building adaptive capacity at the local level Improving policy coherence and coordination at the national and regional levels Identifying funding opportunities
Gender and youth development	To include knowledge-based gender and youth considerations in policies, laws and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender and youth considerations should be included in policy, laws and plans and be knowledge based Long-term commitment of funding for transformative change processes should be made, including for institutional capacity development for gender mainstreaming at the local, national and regional levels Inter-sectoral approaches and partnerships should be promoted for empowering women and youth Gender based violence prevention should be addressed at all levels, including within households and child labour eliminated

Policy Arenas	Objectives	Summary of strategic actions
Private Sector Investments & Financing Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa	To improve the financial services offered to SMEs in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies be developed to improve the financial services that are offered to SMEs in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains Specific actions, aimed at improving the enabling environment for financial services be included in the CAADP Country Compact Investment Plans To establish an investment fund for SMEs in fisheries and aquaculture

African Fisheries Reform mechanism (AFRM)

The AFRM was developed to create a new, coherent, AU-based regional partnership platform - with the objective of facilitating the development, adoption and implementation of reforms in fishery governance and management that would contribute towards transforming Africa's fisheries from current levels of overexploitation and overcapitalization towards environmental, economic and social sustainability. The AFRM was developed through consultative process as an African Union platform that was concurrently endorsed with the PFRS by the 2014 Summit of Heads of States and Government in Equatorial Guinea. The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) constitutes an integral component of the PFRS. The AFRM serves as a platform for:

1. Coordination and coherence
2. Information sharing
3. Knowledge generation
4. Advocacy
5. Policy development, monitoring, implementation and consultative platform
6. Monitoring progress of implementations of AU Policy Organs' decisions
7. Resources mobilization for fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa

Within the framework of the AFRM, through think tank events, the following were formulated:

1. The PFRS
2. Methodology for fish trade corridor analysis by Fish Trade Working Group
3. The 10-year continental plans of actions for small-scale fisheries
4. The 10-year continental plans of actions for aquaculture development
5. The continental Inland fisheries strategy
6. The mechanism for exploitation of and monitoring trade in ornamental fisheries
7. APRIFAAS, AWFISHNET, PRNFSA, Regional NSAs established within the framework of the AFRM
8. Disseminating knowledge products- policy briefs, advocacy notes, technical documents websites
9. Facilitated coherent African voice (Common) in global forums such as FAO-COFI

African Fisheries Reform Mechanism

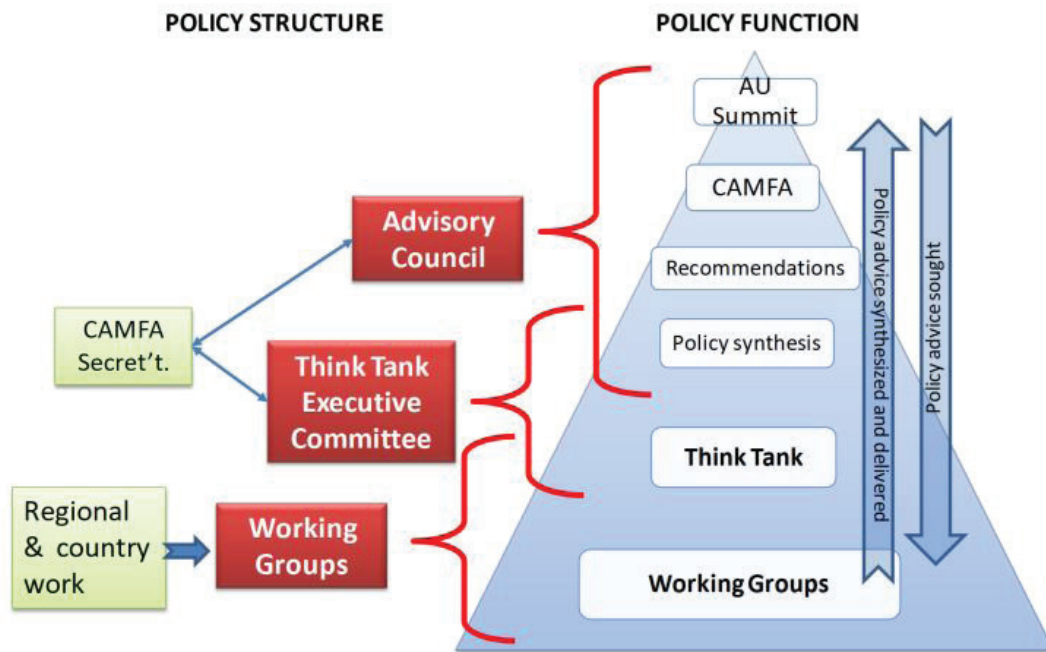
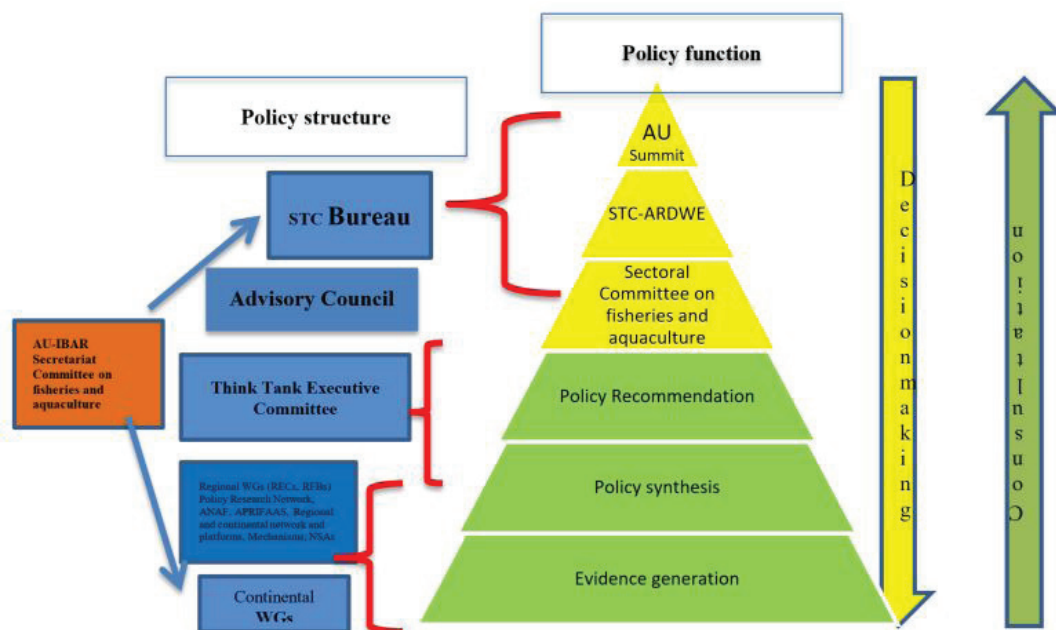


Figure 4: African fisheries reform mechanism

Figure 5 below details the revised AFRM structure. As shown in the figure, the policy functions of CAMFA are now being done through the specialized technical committee on agriculture, rural development, water and environment (STC-ARDWE). STCs were foreseen in the AU Constitutive Act and only operationalized recently. In this regard, the revised AFRM structure was endorsed by the 3rd session of STC-ARDWE in 2019.



Lomé Charter in 2016 additionally provided a framework for harnessing the inherent potential of Africa's large marine ecosystems by strengthening capacity for combating sea piracy and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, improved monitoring and control systems for sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources, forging institutional and regional collaboration, development of intra-regional trade and modernising small-scale fisheries for increased contribution to the attainment of food security goals

of the continent. The Annexure of the Lomé Charter closely interlocks with the provisions of the PFRS especially with regards to high seas fisheries, promoting regional collaboration on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS), coordination in the sector, small scale-fisheries development as well as fish trade and market development.

Table 5: List of countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African charter on maritime security and safety and development in Africa (Lomé Charter)

No	COUNTRY/PAYS	DATE OF/DE SIGNATURE	DATE OF/DE RATIFICATION/ ACCESSION	DATE DEPOSITED/ DATE DE DEPOT	
1	Algeria	–	-	–	-
2	Angola	–	15/10/2016	–	-
3	Benin	–	15/10/2016	–	-
4	Botswana	–	-	–	-
5	Burkina Faso	–	15/10/2016	–	-
6	Burundi	–	15/10/2016	–	-
7	Cameroon	–	24/01/2017	–	-
8	Central African Rep.	–	15/10/2016	–	-
9	Cape Verde	–	15/10/2016	–	-
10	Chad	–	15/10/2016	–	-
11	Côte d'Ivoire	–	15/10/2016	–	-
12	Comoros	–	29/01/2018	–	-
13	Congo	–	15/10/2016	–	-
14	Djibouti	–	15/10/2016	–	-
15	Democratic Rep. of Congo	–	15/10/2016	–	-
16	Egypt	–	-	–	-
17	Equatorial Guinea	–	-	–	-
18	Eritrea	–	-	–	-
19	Ethiopia	–	-	–	-
20	Gabon	–	15/10/2016	–	-
21	Gambia	–	-	–	-
22	Ghana	–	15/10/2016	–	-
23	Guinea-Bissau	–	-	–	-
24	Guinea	–	15/10/2016	–	-
25	Kenya	–	15/10/2016	–	-
26	Libya	–	15/10/2016	–	-
27	Lesotho	–	-	–	-
28	Liberia	–	15/10/2016	–	-
29	Madagascar	–	15/10/2016	–	-
30	Mali	–	15/10/2016	–	-
31	Malawi	–	-	–	-
32	Morocco	–	-	–	-
33	Mozambique	–	-	–	-
34	Mauritania	–	15/10/2016	–	-
35	Mauritius	–	-	–	-
36	Namibia	–	-	–	-
37	Nigeria	–	15/10/2016	–	-
38	Niger	–	15/10/2016	–	-
39	Rwanda	–	15/10/2016	–	-
40	South Africa	–	-	–	-

41	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	–	15/10/2016	–	-
42	Senegal	–	30/01/2017	–	-
43	Seychelles	–	15/10/2016	–	-
44	Sierra Leone	–	15/10/2016	–	-
45	Somalia	–	15/10/2016	–	-
46	South Sudan	–	-	–	-
47	Sao Tome & Principe	–	15/10/2016	–	-
48	Sudan	–	15/10/2016	–	-
49	Swaziland	–	-	–	-
50	Tanzania	–	15/10/2016	–	-
51	Togo	–	15/10/2016	16/01/2017	25/01/2017
52	Tunisia	–	15/10/2016	–	-
53	Uganda	–	-	–	-
54	Zambia	–	-	–	-
55	Zimbabwe	–	-	–	-
	Total countries : 55	–	of signature : 35	of ratification : 1	of deposit : 1

Source: <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-maritime-security-and-safety-and-development-africa-lome-charter>

The above table illustrates the need for this Action to support AU MS to fast track the ratification and domestication of the Lomé Charter among others.

Besides, the **2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy** of the AU commits to incorporating and implementing the PFRS for the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks on the continent. The AIM Strategy has been conceived as a tool to address Africa's maritime challenges for sustainable development and competitiveness. It aims to foster more wealth creation from Africa's oceans, seas and inland water bodies by developing a thriving maritime economy and realizing the full potential of sea-based activities in an environmentally sustainable manner. Some blue economy sectors and components (conservation, research, education and governance) are outlined in the strategy but they are largely limited to the maritime and marine areas while the Africa Blue Economy Strategy will also adequately deal, in a comprehensive manner, with inland water bodies. Extractive mineral, oil and gas, innovative financing mechanisms have not been taken into account in the AIMS 2050 as well as the issue of ecosystem services such as blue carbon and their uses for climate change mitigation and adaptation that is currently a top priority of the African Union.

UNEP has since 2015 been engaged in facilitating consultations at national and regional levels in an effort to formulate an **oceans governance strategy** for the continent. The genesis of the process was a decision made by African Ministers for the Environment at the Fifteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in 2015 to develop a governance strategy, in accordance with (1) the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; (2) the objectives and mandates of the Regional Seas Conventions on oceans and seas in Africa so as to ensure effective management of the region's shared ocean resources. To give effect to these Ministerial decisions and as the secretariat for AMCEN, UNEP has recently carried out background studies to support the development of an African Ocean Governance Strategy. Meetings (Zanzibar, July 2018; Nairobi, November 2018) have also been held under UNEP leadership to further advance the process.

At the **International Conference on Blue Economy** held in Nairobi on 26-28 November 2018, the African Union and global partners, noted that a sustainable blue economy should build on unlocking the full economic possibilities of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and other water resources through investments that involve effective participation of all relevant stakeholders including communities, non-state actors organizations and institutions while protecting the resources for present and future generation and ecosystem resilience. African leaders at the Nairobi Sustainable Blue Economy Conference directed the African Union to work with relevant stakeholders to develop a blue print of Africa's Blue Economy Strategy that will guide sustainable development and utilization of Oceanic, fisheries and aquaculture resources in Africa.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was endorsed by the 3rd Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment and noted by the Executive Council in February 2020. The STC recommended that implementation of Africa Blue Economy Strategy activities will be coordinated by AU-IBAR until formal Blue Economy structures are established within the AUC-DREA, which has the mandate of leading efforts to promote policy development and implementation on sustainable environmental management and agricultural development. However, the fisheries and aquaculture component of the blue economy will remain the overall responsibility of AU-IBAR.

The Objective of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy is to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources. The areas of intervention include the followings:

Table 6: Areas of interventions for Africa's Blue Economy Development

Areas of Interventions	Strategic objective
Blue Governance and Institutional change	To Strengthen Institutions for Policy Environment and Governance to coordinate African BE
	To have the African BE accelerate the Economic Transformation
	Africa assumes leadership for financing BE development
Shipping	Carrying cargoes of African countries at reasonable rates
Port	Modernisation of African ports
Fishery and aquaculture	Optimising conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes Achieving full wealth-generating potential for fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment
Energy	Unlocking the sustainable blue energy potential (Technical Aspect) Creating conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy

Areas of Interventions	Strategic objective
Mineral and Oil and Gas	Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources and oil and gas for economic prosperity
Innovative Industries	Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through R&D
Coastal tourism	Developing an Integrated and Sustainable Tourism
Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services and Resilience	Promoting the integration of blue carbon and ecosystem services into CC policies and Coastal and Aquatic policies Ensuring Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities

On 30 May 2019, the **Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement** entered into force. It aims to create a single continental market for goods and services. It contains an annex on sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues that will have an impact on the intra-African trade of aquatic resources.

The AU-IBAR 2018-2023 Strategic Plan that was endorsed by the 3rd Session of ARDWE details how AU-IBAR would support AU MS and RECs and other regional institutions and Mechanisms to implement the PFRS through evidence-based fisheries management and aquaculture development, institutional coordination and policy coherence and enhancing African Voice on regional and global issues related to fisheries and aquaculture. Also, the mandate of the AUDA-NEPAD is to coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063.

1.4. Stakeholder analysis

The African fisheries and aquaculture sector is driven by the interests, needs and policies of a complex mosaic of public and non-public sector stakeholders. Stakeholders are distributed continentally, regionally, nationally and locally.

At the continental level:

Fisheries and aquaculture issues are dealt with and coordinated by AU-IBAR, the specialized technical office of African Union Commission, under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), mandated to develop and coordinate the utilization of animal resources in Africa. Within the AUC, the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, provides overall political leadership and initiate the development and promotion of continental policies, frameworks and programs that will contribute to agricultural transformation, rural development, and sustainable environment. AUC-DREA promotes intra-departmental coordination and provides support to implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives for Africa agriculture development. AU-IBAR provide overall leadership of the sector, steering it in a common direction within the framework of the PFRS and the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM). The AFRM is an integral part of the PFRS that was endorsed by the Africa Heads of States and Governments in 2014. AUDA-NEPAD's mandate includes coordination and execution of priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063; to strengthen capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies and to advance knowledge based advisory services.

The AFRM provides input into the AU Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. The STCs are policy organs of the AU reporting to Executive Council, mandated with the task of:

- Preparing AU projects and programs and submitting them to the Executive Council for approval;
- Ensuring supervision, follow up and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by AU organs;
- Ensuring coordination and harmonization of AU projects and programs;
- Submitting to the Executive Council reports and recommendations on the implementation of the provisions of the Constitutive Act.

At the regional level:

At regional level, a large number of actors have competences in fisheries (freshwater and marine) and aquaculture issues, requiring considerable co-ordination at both regional and continental scales. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) support regional integration through regional policy coherence, trade and cooperation (including on regional fisheries and aquaculture issues). Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFB) are, on the other hand, more technical in character, having the objectives of promoting cooperation among Members in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement, so as to achieve conservation, management and optimum utilization of the living marine resources. While the measures adopted by RFMOs are binding for their Members, RFBs produce non-binding recommendations. Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) aim to protect the marine environment and bring together countries that share marine waters. A number of inland water bodies are also responsible for water management. Regional cooperation is undermined by limited capacities and overlap in scope and mandates.

Regional Economic Communities and other Regional Institutions and Mechanisms:

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have the political mandate for regional integration agenda, enhancing regional cooperation and regional policy coherence. The Regional Fisheries Management Organizations are specialized regional bodies with the mandate to promote regional cooperation on fisheries management and aquaculture development. The large marine ecosystem-based organizations such as the BCC support AU MS for integrated ecosystems fisheries management. Each of these organizations has a role to play towards implementation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

Regional Fisheries Bodies: have the mandate to facilitate regional cooperation in fisheries management and aquaculture. They include: SWIOFC, SRFC, FCWC, LVFO, LTA, ATLAFCO and COREP.

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs): includes ICCAT, IOTC, SEAFO, CCAMLR, GFCM with mandates for governance of specific species of fish in the regions of the high seas.

Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) include the Abidjan Convention and the Nairobi Convention and their associated protocols, which have been ratified as follows:

Nairobi Convention:

The Nairobi Convention, which was first signed in 1985 and entered into force in 1996, is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. The programme aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. It does this by engaging countries that share the western Indian Ocean in actions to protect their shared marine environment. The Contracting Parties are: Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and the Republic of South Africa

Since the implementation of the Convention, there have been eight Conferences of the Parties with the eighth COP held in Seychelles in 2015.

Abidjan Convention:

Ratified in 1984, the Abidjan Convention (The Convention on Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region) covers a geographic area comprising the African Atlantic seaboard. As detailed in Article I of the Convention, the geographical scope covers the marine environment, coastal zones and related inland waters that fall within the jurisdiction of the States of the West and Central Africa Region from Mauritania to Namibia (inclusive). This was expanded in 2005 to include South Africa. It constitutes a unique institutional referential framework for all initiatives linked to the protection and conservation of the marine and coastal environment along Africa's Atlantic seaboard, and to the sustainable development of the area's resources.

Other stakeholders:

Centres of Excellence on Fisheries and Aquaculture – meant to strengthen the institutional and human resources capacities for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture governance in Africa as well as foster integration consistent with the goals of PFRS and AU Agenda 2063. The 3rd STC-ARDWE endorsed the following training and research institutions as African Union Centres of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture, among others:

- i. African Union Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture
 1. Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Cape Coast (Ghana) for Academic training in Marine Fishery and Coastal Zones management; with additional options in related policy and governance issues.
 2. National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), Uganda, Research in Aquaculture (Fish feeds, nutrition, genetics etc.) and Research in Inland Capture Fishery; with additional options in Climate Change.
 3. Rhodes University, South Africa for Academic training in Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture; with emphasis on Biodiversity, Oceanography and Ecosystems studies.
 4. University of Ibadan, Nigeria, for Academic training in Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries.

5. Faculty of Fisheries Resources, University of Suez, Egypt, Academic training in Aquaculture, Marine Fishery Sciences and Technology; Research in Aquaculture; Fish Feeds, diseases, genetics (incorporating and in partnership with the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR), Egypt)).
6. Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM), Cote D'Ivoire, for training in Marine Engineering, Seafaring and Safety, Navigation, Fishing Gear and Fish Technologies

ii. Non-State Actors

Non-State Actors (NSA) are also numerous across continental, regional and national scales. NSAs in African fisheries and aquaculture include the following categories: (i) associations representing small-scale to medium-scale producers and processors of fish (marine, inland and aquaculture); (ii) peak associations representing large scale fishing companies and processors; (iii) groups and research/policy organisations advocating for and protecting conservation and environmental values. African fisheries and aquaculture NSAs have not reached their full potential, both for themselves, but also as partners with Governments, RECS, RFBs and donor/partner organisations. The FishGov I Action facilitated the establishment of regional fora NSAs in the West, Central, Eastern and Southern African regions aimed at enhancing coordination amongst NSAs and their capacity for effective participation in fisheries and aquaculture governance. In support of PFRS objectives, FishGov I also created a network of researchers and policy-makers, the Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa network (PRNFAA), the African platform for regional institutions in fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic systems (APRIFAAS), the Africa women fish processors and traders network (AWFISHNET), further joins up NSAs with all RECs, RFBS, WBCS & LME-based organisations in a general assembly format which meets at least once a year.

Problems and challenges include: increased and ongoing proliferation of NSAs working at the interface between Governments and the fisheries and aquaculture sector; non-recognition or non-formalization of NSA roles and the extent of their contribution to sector development; lack of finance and other critical resources; inadequate institutional capacity and poor coordination, weak linkages and synergies between the various NSAs at national and regional levels, weak working relationships with State actors. Still, certain networks like the African women fish processors and traders network (AWFISHNET) and regional NSA platforms proved to be active and useful interlocutors.

The private sector in each African country is organized differently. Private sector entities can be informal or formal, usually depending on the status of their registration according to government regulations. Each country therefore has a broad array of entities that range from fishing associations, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises to the largest international corporations. Private sector stakeholders also include private financial institutions, industry and trade associations, and consortia that represent private sector interests. Private sector entities may be members of chambers of commerce, industry federations, associations of producers or exporters, or other consortia which play a coordination role. It is in this context that it is usually appropriate to deal with peak associations representing different parts of the sector. Though the FishGov I formulated a guide for enhancing PPP in fisheries and aquaculture, Aquaculture Business and extension models, the Action did not comprehensively engage with the private sector and its peak associations in each country. The Action will in its next phase more comprehensively engage with

the sector especially around issues of trade, standard-setting, eco-certification and investment; following the achievement by FishGov I on strengthening the capacity in eco-labelling certification and fisheries improvement projects.

The Public Sector:

Public sector actors at national level are primarily Ministries and agencies of AU Member States with mandates for management and development of fisheries and aquaculture programmes. Of equal importance are the research institutions (universities, research centres) tasked with building long-term in-country capacities to manage fish resources and provide scientific and socio-economic data to guide fisheries management. There is a great diversity of situations at national level in terms of available human capital as well as financial resources and technical/physical infrastructure. However, across the continent, Ministries and departments are often weak and the sector is accorded low visibility / priority in public funding. Poor governance mechanisms, weak and incomplete legislation and an absence of effective licensing, operational and MCS capacities considerably worsen sectoral difficulties.

1.5. Problem analysis/priority areas for support

While the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa continues to provide livelihoods to millions of Africans, these sectors suffer from lack of political consideration. Contribution of the sector to food security, economic growth or employment is often neglected as it is not properly and well documented. While some expect that Blue economy development in Africa will benefit the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, others fear that proposed initiatives under the Blue economy banner may exclude small-scale fisheries, further impact marine ecosystems, affecting livelihoods and food security and accelerating loss of marine biodiversity. In many African countries, fisheries is the main maritime sector in terms of employment and transition towards more diversified coastal economies and should take due consideration of human rights, gender and social equity issues. It should also integrate challenges such as climate change and degradation of marine ecosystems. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies along with better management of the marine and coastal space should be at the heart of African long-term Blue economy strategies. This calls for more cross-sectoral approaches and strategic thinking based on improved knowledge and solid evidence.

Some of the serious challenges that continue to undermine the effort at sustainably increasing the contribution of the sector to food security, increased livelihood and wealth creation can be enumerated as follows:

- a. Weak institutional collaboration
- b. Open access in capture fisheries and ineffective foreign access agreements
- c. Poverty of fishers and fish farmers and the need for food security
- d. Inadequate governance at national and regional levels for management of trans-boundary stocks
- e. Inadequate data for evidence-based decision making
- f. Inadequate sectoral policy monitoring and evaluation
- g. Climate change and climate variability
- h. Weak value addition
- i. Institutional weaknesses and IUU fishing

- j. Dearth of financial investment opportunities
- k. Limited resources for fisheries management and aquaculture development
- l. Generally ineffective participation in global fora on fisheries and aquaculture
- m. Lack of proper political consideration of the fisheries sector and conflicting economic interests
- n. Limited enforcement of and reporting on regional, continental and international obligations (Protocols, Agreements, Conventions)
- o. Inadequate implementation of national and regional regulatory frameworks.

Lack of political consideration has translated into a lack of investments. When investments (both public and private) are available, they have been limited in scope and poorly targeted. This has created capacity weaknesses in fisheries administrations and research impacting the governance of fisheries, both at national and regional levels. The limited availability of investments has generated poor infrastructure that exacerbates illegal activities, undermining fish quality, market access and aggravating post-harvest loss and food safety standards. Additionally, this has created a situation where Africa's access to key foreign markets remains very limited owing to a combination of factors including lack of market confidence and low capacities to meet national and international standards. While fisheries and aquaculture are part of CAADP, these sectors are rarely included in National or Regional Agriculture Investment plans and the biennial review of Malabo doesn't include indicators on fisheries and aquaculture. Both national and regional authorities lack capacity to develop solid sectoral strategies to attract investment.

Fisheries policy and management are conventionally led by governments, with inadequate attention to stakeholder consultation, to generation and analysis of data and recent knowledge. They adopt traditional management processes where African fisheries policies focuses on increasing fish production and revenues generation whilst ignoring the sustainable management, livelihoods and social welfare of fishing communities, the need of safeguarding healthy marine ecosystems and rational utilisation of the natural resource base that could ensure optimal productive capacity for sustained economic benefits. Instead, overexploitation of almost all commercially important fish stocks around Africa and marine pollution are on the rise leading to environmental degradation and a decline in marine biodiversity. Aquatic resources could continue to serve as a sustainable source of economic development, social and cultural values for coastal African countries if they are managed and governed effectively with regards to the environment.

Most of the challenges that continue to afflict the sector are either trans-boundary in nature or require strong collaboration to mitigate them effectively. Single state solutions have not been effective in addressing the problems of unsustainable fishing practices, habitat destruction and environment degradation including the impacts of climate variability and change. The existence of RECs, RFBs, RFMOs and RSC working in the same space and implementing similar activities at times without consultation, creates issues of fragmentations and reduced positive impacts in a context where capacities are limited. There is a need for better regional collaboration and integration.

Fish trade within and between regions of Africa is substantially greater than the export of fish to countries outside the African continent. The social and economic benefits of this inter- and intra-regional trade are underestimated due to the prevalent nature of informal cross-border trade that remains largely invisible

to decision makers. Barriers to trade are a major constraint to the growth of trade throughout all RECs in Africa. By imposing unnecessary costs on fish imports and exporters, these barriers unnecessarily raise prices for consumers, deter exporters from taking advantage of the trade opportunities, undermine the predictability of the fish trade regime and reduce development potential of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. The establishment of the AfCFTA may offer a major opportunity for the expansion of trade in fishery commodities across African countries but may also pose challenges linked to biodiversity losses, fish diseases and food safety standards.

Lastly, African countries fail to take an active role in international negotiations on ocean related issues. Many countries have not adopted or fail to implement international instruments (e.g. PMSA, RFMO resolutions, Biodiversity Convention, CITES etc.). African voice needs to be strengthened as well the capacity of countries to implement key international agreements. AU-EU sectoral dialogue remains weak including on issues of common interest such as the Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs.

Based on the final review of the FishGov I it was found that much work is still needed in the areas of:

- i. consolidation of mechanisms for collaboration, coordination and institutional linkages;
- ii. continuation on promoting coherence in fisheries and aquaculture governance instruments, underpinned by provisions of PFRS and adherence to global instruments;
- iii. undertaking programmes for rebuilding of depleted fish stocks and restoration of degraded ecosystems to enhance production and productivity in fish stocks; This should ideally be undertaken by national governments but may also include some regional efforts for trans-boundary management and threat mitigation.;
- iv. strengthened institutions for knowledge generation and dissemination for evidence based reform measures, policy formulation and monitoring;
- v. consolidating effective participation and articulating a common African voice in global fora for e.g. climate change and ocean governance;
- vi. strengthened market competitiveness of Africa fish and fish products and increased intra-regional trade on the continent; and
- vii. promoting empowerment of women and youth.

It is important to state that some of these gaps should be addressed at national, regional or continental political levels.

1.6. Achievements and Lessons learnt

FishGov I

The first phase of the EU funded fisheries governance project (FishGov I) has achieved some very impressive results, particularly in regard to raising awareness on the importance of the sector, enhancing institutional collaboration and coordination and promoting the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa, which is the AU flagship policy guidance document in the sector for supporting coherence in the management of the sector.

Similarly, within the framework of the AFRM, the establishment of APRIFAAS has made impact in enhancing coordination between regional fisheries institutions by way of information sharing and mutual participation in activities by the regional institutions. Significantly also the establishment of Non-State Actors Regional Platforms has increased the prospects of coordination among non-states actors for effective role in advocacy and enhanced role in fisheries management and aquaculture development. The establishment of Africa fisheries traders and processors network (AfishNet) has underscored the importance of women in fish food security. Not surprisingly, the network has officially been endorsed by the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE). Through awareness creation, identification of challenges and opportunities in the implementation of relevant global instruments, the prospect for increased implementation of global instruments (FAO CCRF, SSF Guidelines etc.) by AU member states has been enhanced.

Considerable effort was made to address the issue of capacity for evidence-based fisheries management and aquaculture development. These investments in human resources capacities will, in the immediate future, have a lasting positive impact on the sustainable development of the sector. These strategies employed for holistic development of capacities, involving not only fisheries and aquaculture department, but other agencies, departments, and services such as the justice, trade departments, navy, veterinarians, animal health, RECs, RFBs. This achievement is particularly underscored with regards to supporting the implementation of priority policy objective of the PFRS, enhancing awareness and human capacity development. FishGov I has produced a significant number of reports on frameworks to support AU member states and regional institutions in enhancing sustainable fisheries management and responsible aquaculture development. These reports have been packaged into actionable policy messages and best practices in fisheries and aquaculture development that provide additional resource materials designed to effect policy reform in the governance of the sector in AU member states. However, the uptake of innovations has been very slow.

At continental level, FishGov I created synergies with few AU initiatives, e.g. Fisheries and Aquaculture annex to the Lomé Charter; supporting planning and organization of Ocean day; synergizing with Environmental division of DREA on combating illegal exploitation of natural resources, including fisheries and aquaculture. However, there is still much to be done. At global level FishGov I played an important role in supporting African Voice at FAO COFI, African Tuna Conference, ACP Fisheries and aquaculture meetings but has been absent from some other important events. There is still much outstanding work to be done with regards to, for examples, events such as ABJN, UNGA, CITES etc. One of the key lessons learnt was the important leadership role of African Union Commission in supporting Africa Voice and Partnerships in regional and Global fora and the opportunities for partnerships for sustainable governance of the sector.

In terms of food security, the project has established the necessary impetus for increased recognition of the contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Based on the perspectives of the stakeholders, the project developed continental action plans for sustainable development of small-scale fisheries as well as aquaculture aimed at accelerated transformation of the fisheries and aquaculture in line with Malabo goals. These plans of actions have officially been endorsed by the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) in October 2019. Other documents endorsed include: (i) the report on selection of six institutions as African Union centres of

excellence in fisheries and aquaculture with two additional institutions yet to be technically assessed for qualification and fitness. (ii) the Africa's Blue Economy Strategy; (iii) the African Fisheries and Aquaculture policy research network as well as AWfishNet and the (iv) the revised AFRM.

The project indicated that long time frames are required for effective policy reforms and that legislative and institutional reforms are necessary to ensure their implementation. The project learnt that enhancing knowledge management through effective communication to drive implementation of policy reforms can be very effective. There is a need for strengthened capacity to generate information on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and to efficiently communicate this information to AU policy organs. There is need for improved capacity to generate appropriate information and agree on appropriate approaches for economic valuation in aquatic goods and services to inform decision making processes.

Some of the other key achievements of FishGov I can be enumerated as follows:

- Improving and strengthening Market Access: Supported African Positions in OIE meetings as well Codex Alimentarius meetings and built capacity and created awareness on fisheries improvements for eco-labelling and sustainability;
- Established an enabling environment for market led sustainable aquaculture industry; built capacity in aquatic animal disease control and surveillance; strengthened regional and continental aquaculture networks;
- Strengthened the policies and strategies for small scale fisheries for increased contribution towards food and nutrition security and economic development;
- Enhanced the capacity and coordination of non-state actors for increased participation in fisheries and aquaculture management decision making;
- Strengthened regional coordination in combating IUU fishing and capacity for fair negotiation of FAA; built capacity of relevant personnel in MCS systems; established the ecological and socioeconomic of IUU fishing on the continent

Admittedly, the scope of FishGov I was too large, addressing several thematic issues some of which could be addressed at regional or national level. Given the principle of subsidiarity AU institutions should not substitute RECs and Member States but play a catalytic role and help in domesticating continental policy frameworks into regional / national strategies and attract additional funding. Accordingly, the proposed new Action will focus on a limited number of priority areas.

Fish Trade

Furthermore, the EU funded companion Fish-Trade project has deepened the understanding of the extent, challenges and opportunities of cross border informal fish trade and its contribution to food and nutrition security, livelihoods and employment especially for women and youth. In addition, the project identified and tested policy options and strategies for facilitating cross border fish trade within the framework of existing free trade area instruments (e.g. infrastructure for women cross border trade), as well as, enhanced capacities for increased market access- fisheries improvements for eco-labelling and sustainability.

The FishTrade project collected a lot of information about fish trade in Africa. In beneficiary regions / countries, the project generated evidence to enhance the understanding of the inter- and intra-regional fish trade and the extent of informal cross-border trade. The socio-economic benefits of intra- and inter-regional fish trade within Africa have been assessed and proved to be highly significant to the economies of African countries. Strategies for catalysing and facilitating fish trade were developed and tested in some RECs. A number of findings and lessons learnt could be used by the proposed action in support to the implementation of the AfCFTA. FishTrade built strong partnerships with African universities. The proposed new Action should continue collaboration with the Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa that was constituted with support from FishGov I.

African Union member states support to fisheries and aquaculture sector

The achievements of the FishGov I and Fish Trade projects were, and still are, complemented by support of the AU member states to the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The AU member states funded the 8th Session of the Aquaculture Network of Africa (ANAF), the Secretariat of which has been transferred to AU-IBAR from FAO. ANAF comprises of AU member states and was established by FAO as a subsidiary body of the Committee of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (CIFAA). ANAF supports aquaculture development in AU member states and the network meets annually to develop programme for aquaculture development. The 8th ANAF session identified priority actions for integrating women and youth in aquaculture development. The 7th session was funded by FishGov I before the end of the project. The AU member states also funded the 2nd Bureau Meeting of the African women fish processors and traders network (AWfishNet). The AWfishNet was established with support from the FishGov I and Fish Trade projects with the objective of enhancing women role in fish processing and trading, small-medium enterprise development as well as for recognition of their role and contribution in the sector. The AU member states also supported an expert meeting that formulated policy briefs along the aquaculture and fisheries value chain for effective engagement of women and youth. The AU member states jointly with the EU supported the formulation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. A training programme for women and youth in aquaculture value and business development was funded by the AU member states.

1.7. Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The Action will complement and identify synergies with the following regional programmes funded under the 11th EDF:

- **PESCAO** (“Improved regional fisheries governance in Western Africa” 2018-2023) supports the collaboration between ECOWAS and the two fishing regional bodies (SRFC and FCWC) in addressing regional issues such as the management of shared stocks and IUU fishing;

The Output 1.3 of FishGov 2 on the implementation of the PFRS would complement the PESCAO activity on improved regional fisheries governance through promoting policy coherence and institutional collaboration. Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 of FishGov 2 on capacities and systems for regional collaboration and integration regarding shared fisheries and aquaculture resources management would generate synergies and complementarity with the PESCAO project through facilitating coordination and institutional linkages among regional organisations (RECs, RFB and RSC) and policy coherence in AU member states.

- **ECOFISH** programme (“Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries to the Blue Economy of the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region” 2019-2024) supports regional and local initiatives in support to sustainable inland and marine fisheries development;

Output 2.3 of FishGov 2 on strengthening capacities to facilitate intra and inter regional fish trade would complement ECOFISH’s activity on enhancing contribution of sustainable fisheries to Blue Economy in EA, SA and IO. The Output 1.1 of FishGov 2 for AU to promote access to quality knowledge products on African fisheries and aquaculture through policy-oriented research studies as well as foresight studies align very well with this regional project. Also Output 2.2 on enhancing capacities of Member States, RECs and RFBs to align their policies and strategies with international best practices as well as mainstreaming climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture in NAIPs and RAIPs. Similarly, under FishGov 2, the activity on promoting innovative best practices that came out of FishGov 1 and Fish Trade projects would complement the ECOFISH (these include continental strategy for inland fisheries development, continental plans of actions for aquaculture as well as small-scale fisheries).

- **TRUEFISH** (“EU-EAC True Fish Farming Story in Lake Victoria Basin”) supports LVFO and EAC in developing sustainable aquaculture in Lake Victoria Basin.

Output 2 of FishGov 2 would complement this project. Some of the relevant outcomes from FishGov 1 included (i) Continental plan of action for aquaculture development; (ii) Framework for environmental management for sustainable aquaculture development in East Africa; (iii) Models for aquaculture business planning as well as for aquaculture extension practices; and (iv) Guidelines for enhancing PPP in fisheries and aquaculture

The Action could also build on the selected African value chains that will benefit from the new “Intra-ACP Blue growth programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture value chains” (**ACP4FISH 2020-2025**). Synergies should also be developed with the EU funded project on “Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries” (**ACP MEAs 3**) and its component on supporting the implementation of African Regional Seas Conventions (i.e. Abidjan and Nairobi) and with the “Support Program for ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Countries”. In the area of scientific data and information, the action could benefit from the EU-AU agreement facilitating AU access to Earth observation data from the Sentinel satellites of the Copernicus Program. The **GMES-Africa** program includes cooperation on marine observation data.

Other relevant programmes are: i) the West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme (WARFP) and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme (SWIOFish) funded by the World Bank; ii) the “Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth” funded by SIDA that will support FAO-SWIOFC.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

2.1. Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

The overall objective of the Action is to **improve food security, livelihoods and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, aligned with AU Agenda 2063.**

The **specific objectives** are the following:

1. African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies are evidence based
2. Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and other AU priorities and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels
3. Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and ably domesticates and effectively implements relevant global instruments

Inception and Closure of the Action:

Before the commencement of the implementation of this Action, an inception workshop would be organized to inform stakeholders of the objectives and planned activities of the Action, implementation mechanism and their roles. The inception workshop would be held jointly with a think tank forum, within the framework of the revised Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM). The selection of policy makers will take into account regional dimensions of the continent, the subsectors (coastal, inland fisheries and aquaculture) as well as countries whose leaders have demonstrated interest in the growth of the sector.

An experts' consultative workshop would also be convened to formulate an Exit Strategy for the Action. At the end of the implementation of the Action, a closure workshop, comprising of stakeholders, would be organized to brief stakeholders on achievements from implementation of the Action, lessons learnt, and sustainability mechanisms. The final steering committee meeting would be organized during the closure workshop.

To give political dimensions and ownership to the Action, high level meeting of policy makers (e.g. Ministers) from selected AU member states, using the same selection criteria applied for the identification of participants to the inception workshop, would be organized at both the inception and closure workshops.

SO1: African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies are evidence based

AU Member states and Regional Bodies have strengthened capacity to identify and track their commitments on fisheries and aquaculture. A narrative for policy development and support to African voice is established on evidence-based information generated through foresight studies and analysis of existing research products. The profile of fisheries and aquaculture as a key sector in the sustainable Blue Economy is raised and awareness is increased among decision-makers on the importance of improved governance of the sector through the development and implementation of a targeted communication and visibility strategy

The Assembly, composed of AU Heads of States and Governments, adopts high level decisions that guide interventions in the fisheries and aquaculture sector on the continent. It is critical that these decisions are evidence-based to ensure rational interventions for sustainable development and management of the sector. It is also critically important that governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector is given due consideration to socio-economic and environmental factors to ensure trade-offs between these important dimensions. Thus, attention should also be paid to a new area of action, ensuring linkage between the fisheries and aquaculture sector and organisations and institutions more concerned with Climate Change, environmental protection and ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation.

The expertise of the newly STC endorsed African Centres of Excellence (COEs) in fisheries and aquaculture would be heavily utilized to build African capacity in statistical and research data collation and analysis for informed decisions making. Emphasis would be placed on policy oriented research, foresight and forecasting studies. The role of the NSAs, platforms, and networks would be enhanced for their effective participation in fisheries management and aquaculture development. Under FishGov I, a technical guide to harmonized data collection, management and analysis was developed and member states trained on the application of the Guide. This Action would continue to strengthen the capacity of the AU member states and regional institutions on the application of this Guide. This support would also be underpinned by reference to the 'AU Strategy for statistical data collection, interpretation and dissemination'

A mechanism would be established to channel the outcomes of the Action through the AU policy organs (STC) as well as create linkages between fisheries, aquaculture and related initiatives or programmes within the AU.

Output 1.1 AU stakeholders have access to quality knowledge products on African fisheries and aquaculture

The focus here would be on establishing a central repository for storage, retrieval and dissemination of relevant statistical and research data on fisheries, aquaculture and environment among others. To effect policy changes in AU member states and regions, some succinct information would be packaged into policy briefs, advocacy, position papers and information notes.

1.1.1. Collect, collate and centralize information and research relating to fisheries and aquaculture in Africa as a repository within AU institutions and establish a mechanism for regular updating;

The Action would contract appropriate Centres of Excellence (COE) or other specialized institutions to develop and update database on fisheries and aquaculture and develop mechanism for data entry, retrieval & updating, taking into consideration and establishing linkage with existing information systems such as AU-IBAR Animal Resources Information Systems (ARIS). The Action would liaise with regional institutions (e.g. RECs, RFBs) for identification of sources of fisheries, aquaculture, socio-economics and climate/environmental related data (research and statistics) from relevant institutions in AU MS. The capacity of AU member states would be strengthened on the harmonization and use of database for data storage, retrieval, interpretation and online submission to the Central Data Repository. AU member states, currently identified as fragile (Somali, South Sudan, DR Congo, Libya, Chad, Sudan, Central Africa Republic

and Sahrawi) with special needs and with limited data collection, storage, processing and dissemination capacities, will be supplied with computers, other hardware and provided with relevant trainings.

1.1.2. Commission and disseminate policy-oriented studies to address social, economic and environmental challenges on fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (e.g. on the state of the stocks, economic valuation of aquatic and coastal goods and services, impact of climate change etc.);

The Action would enlist the expertise of appropriate Centres of Excellence or other specialized institutions to collect existing information in AU MS and institutions and identify capacity and gaps in fisheries research, data collection and fisheries management.

Because fisheries management requires interdisciplinary approach: biology, ecology, technology, legal, economics and social sciences, the Action will commission policy oriented studies to advance in these different fields, with the purpose to help improving fisheries strategy and programmatic investments.

On social and economic challenges, studies will look into issues such as human and labour rights in the seafood industry, social security systems, safety at sea, employment, gender equity, societal and cultural dimension of the fisheries, entrepreneurial capacity, economic valuation of aquatic and coastal goods and services, circular economy, market access opportunity, eco-labelling, etc.

On environmental challenges, studies will look into issues such as fish stock assessments, habitat degradation, methodology for data collection in fisheries, ecosystem based management as well as aquaculture, impact of climate change etc.

On the legal and governance challenges, studies will look into issues including inter-sectoral participation, decision making process, responsible behaviour, regulatory framework, compliance and monitoring systems, etc. The Action would facilitate the production of advocacy and position papers including the Africa Fisheries and Aquaculture report as well as facilitating their dissemination. The COEs or specialized knowledge-based institutions will be contracted to carry out policy-oriented studies and the services of the RECs would be utilized to facilitate the conduct of these studies.

The Action will organize study tours for appropriate stakeholders to AU Centres of Excellence or appropriate institutions for lesson learning and best practices on key aspects of fisheries and aquaculture including modern practices in aquaculture development; conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity; environmental governance in aquatic production systems; climate change, inland water bodies and ocean governance issues; shared fisheries resource management; sustainable fisheries exploitation, MCS for combat or deterrence of IUU fishing; fish technology and value addition.

1.1.3. Update the AU-FAO study on the Value of African fisheries (2014);

The 2014 Value of African fisheries report by African Union and FAO contained estimates on the contribution of the whole fisheries and aquaculture (including inland and marine capture fisheries, post-harvest, licensing of local fleets, and aquaculture) to national and agriculture Gross Domestic Products (GDPs) and the employment generated by this sector.

Appropriate COEs or other specialized institution(s) would be contracted by the Action to update the 2014 FAO-AU report on the value of African fisheries to be followed by an experts' consultative workshop to validate the results of the studies.

The Action would also strengthen the capacity of AU MS on methodology and approach for the collection of relevant data for estimating, on a periodic basis, the contribution of their fisheries and aquaculture to GDP, employment by gender and subsector, etc.

1.1.4. Produce foresight studies and relevant fisheries and aquaculture contributions to ongoing thematic processes and initiatives (i.e. on food and nutrition security, gender, marine biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change, blue economy etc.) (in synergies with output 1.4);

To inform rational and evidence-based policy reforms, COEs or other specialized institutions would be contracted to conduct and prepare materials for foresight studies on relevant fisheries and aquaculture thematic issues such as food security and nutrition, gender issues and mainstreaming, trade, environment etc. It is anticipated that the outcomes of these foresight studies would stimulate much needed investments in the sector.

In addition, training and awareness enhancing workshops would be organized on ongoing thematic processes and initiatives and relevant fisheries and aquaculture contribution to ongoing thematic processes and initiatives (i.e. on food and nutrition security, gender, marine biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change, blue economy etc. Blue economy, including ocean governance are emerging concepts in Africa and there is an imperative need to enhance capacity and awareness on blue economy concept, including ocean governance, acquisition of knowledge by AU Member States on the requisite modules for assessing large marine ecosystems and on watershed modules for inland water ecosystems for sustainable fisheries. The impact of climate on ocean and ocean economy concept would be elaborated to the stakeholders. The awareness enhancing would contribute to the formulation of appropriate national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies and plans in the context of blue economy.

1.1.5. Document lessons learnt and best practices for informed and rational interventions;

The Action would contract Centres of Excellence or other specialized institutions to document lessons learnt and best practices on current and emerging fisheries and aquaculture related issues for informed and rational interventions in fisheries and aquaculture. The studies would focus on the issues relevant to sustainable fisheries management and responsible aquaculture development. Attention would focus, though not limited to, on measures or tools such as MPAs, Co-management and inclusive arrangements, User-Rights, EAF, Wealth-Based Approach, Blue economy concept and development, LME and Water-shed modules, trade and market development, fisheries improvement programmes for stock conservation and eco-labelling certification, etc.

1.1.6. Prepare and present position papers and/or policy briefs on fisheries and aquaculture related issues:

The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) was established to advance reforms in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. The AFRM is an AU led platform geared to enhancing

coherence and coordination in the sector. One of the main constituent organs of the AFRM is think tank executive committee which provides space for stakeholder's consultations on pertinent issues in the sector and comprise of all AU MS, RECs, RFBS, NGOs, CSOs, women and youth groups etc.

The Action would organize a forum within the AFRM to identify issues and prepare position papers, advocacy notes and policy briefs. The participants to the forum would include primary stakeholders from AU MS, RECs, RFBs, RSCs, RFMOs etc.

Output 1.2 Existing platforms and networks are reviewed, rationalised and operationalized for effective participation of stakeholders in policy development and implementation

Under the provisions of FishGov I, several stakeholders' platforms and networks were established. They are generally aimed at supporting harmonization and coordination in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector within the framework of AFRM. These platforms and networks could also be utilized in the acquisition of data (performing role within the PFRS) from the sector and other extension activities. However, to ensure efficiency in the performance of these platforms and networks, the rationalization, institutional anchorage, accountability and capacity building is imperative. The proliferation of these platforms and networks, diversity of organisations and the tasks undertaken by them at continental, regional and national level requires an extremely high degree of coordination to ensure policy coherence, avoid duplication and also ensure achievement of a common purpose.

The revised African Fisheries Reform Mechanism would be extensively utilized in consultative processes. In this regard, the composition and number of the AFRM working groups would be revised and rationalized and the advisory council would be constituted. The Secretariat for sectoral committee on fisheries and aquaculture to be established at AU-IBAR and the other associated organs of the AFRM would be strengthened and fully operationalized.

The African platform for regional institutions in fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic systems (APRIFAAS) was established within the framework of FishGov I. The Platform comprised of RECs, RFBs and other regional institutions and aimed at enhancing coordination in activities between these regional institutions. Also, with support of FishGov I, PRNFAA (Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa) was established. The Network comprises of academia, public sector, practitioner, students etc and aimed at strengthening evidence-based policy development in the governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

1.2.1 Conduct a functional review of existing platforms and networks in relation to PFRS and AFRM (e.g. APRIFAAS, AWFISHNET, Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA etc.):

The Centres of Excellence or other specialized institution will be contracted to conduct a review and propose mechanisms for the rationalization of existing fisheries and aquaculture platforms and networks and develop mechanisms for institutional anchorage to RECs and AU institutions or highlight their roles in AFRM and in the implementation of PFRS. The study would also identify options for strengthening mechanisms for

effective participation of these platforms, networks in policy development and implementation. The views of the stakeholders would be solicited on the proposed mechanisms for rationalization and institutional anchorage for sustainability

1.2.2 Support rationalization of existing platforms and networks, ensure institutional anchorage and accountability at relevant level, enhance their capacities and use them to implement identified activities / pilot projects;

COEs and other specialized institutions would be extensively utilized to provide technical consultancy services for the Action. In close consultation with anchor institutions, capacity building workshops would be organized to train rationalized platforms/networks, to formalize institutional anchorage and enhance capacities on implementation of approved work plans, policies issues relevant to this Action.

Though COEs were technically assessed and found to be capable for providing support to the implementation of the Action, however in anticipation of capacity gaps and needs for effective delivery of specific services commissioned by Action, AU-IBAR liaised with the AU Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture to prepare a preliminary list of relevant equipment that might be necessary to effectively accomplish their functions in the implementation of the identified activities in the Action. The identified equipment (Table 7) have been classified into three broad categories which are central to capacity development of stakeholders on the continent for enhanced evidence-based, sustainable governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The classifications are:

- Fish culture/Aquaculture development

The equipment will be utilized for training and practical demonstrations on aquaculture systems including mainly on innovative systems such as aquaponics systems, modern techniques and advanced technology for sustainable fish culture systems, intensive cage culture techniques and developing and managing integrated aquaculture basin systems. Some of the equipment will be utilized to conduct proximate analyses towards establishing cost-effective feed formulation in aquaculture systems; detection of contaminants or impurities in feed systems, culture environments.

- Capture fisheries, climate change, ocean studies and biodiversity

Key items include for training in inland (freshwater) fisheries management and development; climate and environmental assessments; pollution abatement, collecting sediments for habitat, biodiversity; physical, biological, chemical oceanographic studies; equipment for coastal zone studies and marine productivity; age and size distributions in fish populations; tagging for studies of fish migration studies and patterns, also equipment for collecting egg and plankton surveys; fish preservation and value addition equipment.

- Laboratory equipment and instruments

The laboratory equipment and other instruments will be utilized for technical training and enhancing research capabilities in fish culture systems, fisheries sciences, climate and environmental science studies; stock identity; proximate analyses;

Table 7: Equipment for the Centres of Excellence

Fish culture & aquaculture		Capture fisheries, oceanography & biodiversity		Laboratory equipment		
	Description	N.	Description	N.	Description	N.
1	Fish Feed Extruder Floating & Fish Feed Extruding Machine	1	PIT Tag reader	1	Multi-parameter Water Quality Meter pH 80000LE	1
2	Multi-parameter Water Quality Meter pH	1	Fish Otolith Polishing Tool	1	Oxygen generator	1
3	UV sterilizer unit for fish hatchery	1	Digital microscope	1	High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)	1
4	Digital potable ammonia meter	1	Electronic fish Measuring Board	1	Equipment for lipid and carbon analysis	1
5	ELISA (Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) detector	1	Fibreglass boat with outboard engine	3	Lamina flow - Microbiology	1
6	Portable oxygen meter	1	Fish gears for experimental field survey	1	Conductivity meter	1
7	Protein skimmer	1	Grab samplers	20	Multi-parameter water test kits	4
8	Practical Aquaponics - Pilot-scale aquaponics system (modularized)	2	Water samplers	5	Colorimeter	1
9	Demonstration commercial small-scale aquaponics	1	Turbidimeter	2	Atomic absorption and emission spectrophotometer	1
10	Freshwater – life-support hatchery	1	Tagging guns	9	pH Meter	2
11	Gel image view system	1	Collector bag filter	1	Oxygen meter	1
12	Low speed precision cutter	1	Juvenile fish measuring board	68	Vacuum/pressure pump	2
13	Refrigerated container for preservation	1	Egg counter	19	Water steam bath	2
14	Bassin aquacole intégré	1	Zooplankton sampling gear (mesh size: 50 -300 µm)	1	Immunoassay Analyser and accessories Tosoh Bioscience AIA-900	1
15		1	Petite Ponar Grabs - Stainless-steel construction and cast scoops. Screen: 18-8 stainless steel Weight & volume: 6.8 kg & 2.4 L Sample area: (6 x 6"). With braided ½" nylon rope each 200ft long	1	Parallel-optics type stereo microscope (trinocular, mounted with camera and connected to a PC)	2
16	Cage flottante pour pisciculture intensif	2	Filet pour la pêche au chalut	2	Inverted Microscope = Nikon Eclipse Ti2-U with computer screen accessories (complete)	2
18			Filet maillant hauteur 2,00m longueur 25m en 23/100éme	10	IsoMet 5000 Linear Precision Saw - Automatic specimen positioning to 2µm via facia panel and Automatic Linear Feed Advance and Retract; Automatic serial sectioning for multiple cuts to desired thickness	1
19			Ice making unit for chilling	2	Flow Tracking System (DPTV Digital Particle Tracking Velocimetry)	1
20			Purse seine nets	2		
21			Materials to repairs seine nets	1		

The above list of equipment and materials will be supplied to selected Centres of Excellence to perform specific tasks, such as training and research related activities

Assessment and review would further be undertaken for selection of more Centres of Excellence in relevant additional disciplines in fisheries and aquaculture such as policy and governance systems; fisheries economics; in line with 2019 STC-ARDWE recommendations.

1.2.3 Develop cost effective mechanisms for stakeholder consultation, including piloting novel modalities to engage and document stakeholder contributions at national and RECs' levels;

COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to identify cost effective modalities for stakeholders' consultation and effective participation and generate specific recommendations based on best practices including piloting in identified options. An experts' validation workshop would be convened to review the draft recommendations from the study and propose a roadmap for cost-effective implementation. Guidelines and check lists will be developed to guide relevant stakeholders' consultations in situ and in accurately documenting and reporting stakeholders' contributions. The approved methodology would be piloted for effective communication in selected AU MS through training. The guidelines should also address the selection mechanism to target the "legitimate and accountable" stakeholders' contribution.

1.2.4 Simplify and operationalize the AFRM.

The STC-ARDWE in October 2019 endorsed revised structure of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM). The STC further recommended to put mechanism in place for operationalization of the new AFRM. A stakeholders' consultation would be organised to revise the terms of reference of the AFRM, and its associated organs (the working groups, the think tank executive committee, the advisory council). The consultation would also contribute to the formulation of the terms of reference of the sectoral committee, the establishment which was also recommended by the STC-ARDWE.

Seven AFRM working groups were established under FishGov I (i. Policy, Governance and development ii. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance; iii. Small-Scale Fisheries Development iv. Aquaculture; v. Fish Trade and Marketing, vi. Human Capacity Development and vii. Private Sector Investment. These working groups are comprised of relevant experts to generate evidence for informed policy formulation. This action will facilitate the rationalization and functions of these working groups.

The approach would leverage on the progress made in reforming the AFRM noting particularly the changes in the AU policy organs with specific regards to STCs, enhanced roles of stakeholders in policy formulation and strengthening the secretariat for sectoral committee on fisheries and aquaculture which has been recommended for establishment by the STC-ARDWE.

Output 1.3 A solid reporting system to STC on the implementation of the PFRS is put in place and integrated to CAADP process

The major focus under this output is to use information and data generated at national and regional levels under Output 1.1 to compile indexes for biennial reports on the implementation of AU development

agenda, such as Agenda 2063 (performance on Goal 6: Blue/Ocean economy for accelerated economic growth), sectoral continental programs such as CAADP and other global commitments, including the SDG 14

The policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture (PFRS) was developed primarily to enhance the governance and management measures of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. It is however important to establish a credible monitoring and evaluation system that would allow for reporting progress of implementation of the PFRS by AU member states and Regional institutions. The CAADP has a well-functioning reporting and review process; it is envisaged that the PFRS monitoring and evaluation system would contribute towards the CAADP process, with generated data contributing to the compilation of indexes as well as to the preparation of separate analysis focusing on fisheries and aquaculture. The same information would contribute to report on other global development agenda, such as the Agenda 2030 and specifically it's SDG 14.

1.3.1. Develop indicators to monitor the implementation of PFRS in line with the Malabo goals;

The Action would commission COEs or other specialized institutions to develop and propose a mechanism for operationalizing a robust M&E system (with indicators and methodology) based on PFRS guidelines, for monitoring PFRS implementation in line with Malabo goals and AU ministerial decisions. An experts' consultative workshop would be organized to validate the proposed M&E system and performance indicators.

1.3.2. Produce annual fisheries and aquaculture performance reports based on agreed indicators;

During the course of implementation of the Action, COEs or other specialized institutions would be contracted to prepare and compile biennial status report that would contribute to the Africa fisheries and aquaculture report. This report would also be placed for endorsement by the STC-ARDWE biennially.

1.3.3. Contribute to the compilation of biennial review of Malabo goals for monitoring progress of implementation of AU decisions;

The Action would support the participation of selected national and regional focal points in fisheries and aquaculture to participate in CAADP or Malabo Goals biennial review process.

This activity would also facilitate the participation of AFRM experts in CAADP biennial review processes to integrate fisheries and aquaculture in the biennial CAADP report on Malabo Goals and Targets. 13 experts and focal points would be sponsored to participate in two biennial review meetings. This would be continuation of the activity under FishGov I where selected experts were sponsored.

1.3.4. Actively contribute to the elaboration of documents for the meetings of STC and its Bureau, based on strategic planning and support the organization of biennial African ministerial dialogue on fisheries and aquaculture.

Internal planning/coordination meetings for preparation of STC meetings and for generating synergies among AU, AUDA-NEPAD, and DREA would be organized. Meeting documents would be developed as inputs for consideration by STC members and other relevant AU policy organs for endorsement as

recommendations. The Action would also facilitate the participation of relevant technical officials to STC-ARDWE from AU MS to develop recommendations. The Action would also facilitate the participation of relevant policy officials to STC-ARDWE to review and adopt recommendations from the technical sessions.

Output 1.4 Mechanisms are developed to ensure that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are mainstreamed in the development of AU policies / initiatives affecting the sector

AU has several ongoing initiatives which complement and support activities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. These include issues of trade, ocean governance, maritime safety, environmental protection, climate change and blue economy initiatives. To ensure sustainable fisheries and responsible aquaculture development, this Action would promote synergies and complementarities between activities in fisheries and aquaculture with these closely related initiatives. The elaboration of the concept of Blue economy to enhance understanding and awareness would facilitate its application by AU Member States.

At AU member states level it is important to ensure that the ministries of finance, climate change, environment, economic development and planning, labour, trade etc are regularly and well informed of the activities of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Mainstreaming fisheries and aquaculture in national, regional and continental development agendas would promote a common understanding on the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and leverage much needed support and financing to the sectors' activities.

1.4.1. Mapping on-going and planned initiatives

Virtual internal consultative meeting would be organized among AUC departments to discuss, identify and map initiatives that are relevant and complementary to fisheries and aquaculture activities, for synergistic implementation of initiatives for which collaboration would be established. There are initiatives that are underway or planned at the AU level which are relevant to fisheries and aquaculture and contribute to their development / implementation by providing relevant input (cf. discussions on blue economy, trade, maritime security, labour, environmental protection, climate change, research, science and technology, and ocean governance etc). The mapping exercise would aim at building synergies and support alignment among these different aspects/initiatives.

Initially a virtual meeting would be organized between all relevant AUC departments to develop a framework or modalities for relevant information acquisition. The DREA Project staff would then follow up to collate the relevant information from the AUC departments AUC. Since the DREA project staff will be located within the AUC at Addis Ababa, no cost is foreseen in the mapping exercise by the staff.

1.4.2. Engage with non-fisheries and aquaculture actors (e.g. ministers in charge of finance, trade, public health, planning, financial institutions etc);

The Action would create awareness among relevant non-fisheries and aquaculture decision makers to stimulate in-country investments in fisheries and aquaculture. The Action would also promote the culture of consultation between fisheries and aquaculture MDAs and non-fisheries and aquaculture MDAs at national

and regional levels and will raise awareness about the importance of the sector among key government institutions such as finance, foreign or international affairs, planning, trade etc. as well as actors in other blue economy sectors.

1.4.3. Associate relevant AU services to activities developed under this Action.

Internal meetings to develop and operationalize a framework for internal coordination of fisheries and aquaculture among relevant AUC actors would be organized twice during the lifespan of the Action. The first meeting will be organized virtually to develop the framework and the second meeting will be held physically to operationalize the framework.

The Action would develop and operationalize a framework for internal coordination of fisheries and aquaculture among relevant AU Actors. The framework would ensure that fishery and aquaculture is mainstreamed in continental policy frameworks dealing with, among others, trade, infrastructures, statistics, research, education, vocational training, public health, communication and information.

This activity would also ensure the outcomes of the Action are mainstreamed into relevant AU fora and policy processes and liaising with DREA, other relevant AUC departments and partners for animal resources including fisheries and aquaculture.

Output 1.5 Advocacy is improved and awareness created about the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

A key outstanding challenge in fisheries and aquaculture governance is the transformation of research findings into actions for policy reforms and for effective utilization by AU member states and regional institutions. The frequently cited underlying causes include weak advocacy strategy and inadequate awareness on the needs for policy reforms that would positively impact on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in AU Member States and within RECs. It is without gainsaying that there are in existence vitally important instruments, publication and projects outcomes which, if implemented by AU Member States and RECs, would support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development. A strong advocacy campaign to create awareness on the importance and benefits of establishing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture needs to be developed.

The first phase of Fisheries Governance project as well as the Fish Trade project generated numerous frameworks, strategies, policy briefs, advocacy notes etc. These knowledge-based products contained valuable information and key policy messages on sustainable fisheries management and responsible aquaculture development. However the uptake so far for policy reforms in AU MS and RECs has been slow.

Though some AU Member States and Regional institutions have incorporated some initiatives into their plans for implementations (e.g. Lake Tanganyika revised fisheries management plans; SADC's environmental framework for aquaculture management; EAC regional fisheries policy aligned with PFRS etc), the rate of uptake has been slow. Thus, effective communication plans, development of an accountability and monitoring system, and advocacy strategies need to be established towards addressing this challenge. Appropriate

mechanisms for effective dissemination of project results to stakeholders should be developed.

As a result of intervention of FishGov I, several stakeholders' platforms and networks were created. These platforms and networks are having problems in adequately communicating with their wider memberships. The Action would liaise closely with AUC Communication Division to support the strengthening the websites of relevant AU institutions (e.g. AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD) to provide communication support to these platforms or networks. The Action would also support the work of these platforms and networks by supporting some of their activities that support the implementation of this Action.

1.5.1. Develop and operationalize an effective communication and advocacy strategy, in collaboration with competent AU services;

The Action would contract appropriate COE or other specialized institution to develop an effective communication plan and advocacy strategy on the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and to propose framework for operationalization, and develop collaborative modalities with the Information and Communication Directorate of the AUC. The Communication Unit at AU-IBAR will be linked with the AUC Directorate of Information and Communication. The communication function would also be aligned with the AUC Communication Strategy and AU-IBAR/EU Communication and Visibility Strategy, within the framework of the EU Knowledge Management, Communication and Visibility Guidelines.

1.5.2. Develop and disseminate materials, internally and externally, in different languages;

A meeting, involving relevant AU institutions, RECs, RFBs and COEs would be organized to establish a mechanism for implementation of the communication plan and advocacy strategy within relevant AU offices and implementing institutions.

1.5.3. Draft and disseminate materials, internally and externally, in different languages;

The Action would contract COE or other specialized institution to develop and produce knowledge products on fisheries and aquaculture related issues, including development of documentary (electronic, video) and will be undertaken in collaboration with the AUC Directorate of Information and Communication.

To ensure wider dissemination among stakeholders and uptake, the Action would facilitate the translation, printing and dissemination of knowledge products in all official AU languages.

1.5.4. Develop and operationalize dedicated fisheries and aquaculture portals in support to the Action's activities;

The Action would contract COEs or other specialized institutions to review and/or establish mechanisms for updating existing websites and visibility within regional institutions (RECs, RFBs, RSCs), AUC and NEPAD. The review would identify strengths and weaknesses and provide support for their effective operationalization and sustainable functions.

SO2 Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels in order to maintain healthy, productive and resilient marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems in the context of climate change

The endorsement of the PFRS as the blue print for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa provided abundant opportunities to promote coordination and coherence in the governance of the sector by the AU Member States and Regional institutions. The FishGov I supported few AU MS (Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Tunisia) to align their national policies with the PFRS. There is still a lot more to be done in order to foster coherence in sector governance. Likewise, some regional institutions (e.g. EAC, IGAD, ECOWAS) were supported technically and financially to align their regional policies with the PFRS. It is critical this process is continued to ensure good governance of the sector, especially for shared stocks and ecosystems.

The diversity of organisations and the tasks undertaken by them at continental, regional and national level requires an extremely high degree of coordination and the application of the subsidiarity principle to ensure policy coherence, effective coordination and avoid duplication and also ensure achievement of a common purpose. FishGov I made considerable advances in that respect, particularly with regards to providing a platform for regionalisation of policy action through regional levels such as PESCAO. Even so, a very large range of tasks remain at continental level, reaching down to the national level. While contributing to building a common understanding of fisheries and aquaculture issues in Africa at technical level, FishGov I did not go far enough to: i) reach political traction; and ii) mainstream fisheries and aquaculture in other AU policies and initiatives partly due to lack of interactions with other departments of the AU Commission and anchorage to the AU governance system.

Output 2.1 Capacities and systems for regional collaboration and integration regarding shared fisheries and aquaculture resources management are improved and linkages with environmental governance frameworks are enhanced

The issue of coordination and institutions collaboration at regional levels poses serious challenges for regional management of fisheries and aquaculture resources, especially for shared resources. Under FishGov I, considerable effort was made to foster collaboration between RECs and RFBs. Other institutions that are key for sustainable management of shared fisheries and aquaculture resources are Regional Seas Conventions (RSC). It is thus vital that these institutions are brought on board at regional levels for comprehensive regional management of particularly shared aquatic resources in inland water bodies. Coastal and Inland AU Member states are members of RFMOs (e.g. ICCAT and IOTC) but there is lack of (or weak) collaboration between RFMOs and the RECS, RFBs and RSC that would ensure synergies between these institutions. In addition to that, while the measures adopted by RFMOs are binding for their Members, RFBs produce non-binding recommendations. The effective implementation of RFMOs rules is a key element to ensure the fulfilment of their objectives.

Hence, in response to those shortcomings, and taking into account the limited nature of the resources available, this Result Area addresses coordination and coherence requirements in a targeted way. Particular

attention is paid to a new area of action, ensuring linkage between the fisheries and aquaculture sector and those organisations and institutions more concerned with climate change, environmental protection and ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation in a strict sense as well as Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

The adoption of the revised AFRM structure and the recommendation to establish a sectoral committee on fisheries and aquaculture has provided the opportunities to enhance coordination and institutional collaboration or linkages.

2.1.1 Facilitate coordination among regional organisations (RECs, RFB and RSC) through regular exchange of information between the APRIFAAS members

The Action would facilitate bi-annual consultative meetings among regional organisations to exchange information, take stock of achievements and challenges in the implementation of agreed plans and commitments, review and align workplans within the framework of AFRM for synergistic implementation and enhanced coordination. In addition, knowledge products generated from activities under SOI will be shared among regional institutions utilizing the AFRM platform.

2.1.2. Ensure cross-regional/trans-regional coherence of RECs and RFBs strategies and facilitate their institutional anchorage, in line with the PFRS

Under FishGov I, the Action facilitated formal anchorage between ECCAS and COREP in the Central African region. Under this Action, the approach would be to identify and collate best practices and lessons on existing institutional anchorage involving RECs and RFBs/RSC and propose framework for institutional anchorage. The outputs would be utilized in building cross-regional or trans-regional coherence in RECs and RFBs. An important aspect that needs to be given adequate attention is the capacity of the regional institutions to perform optimally in the discharge of their mandates. The RECs are becoming major players in regional fisheries and aquaculture development in their regional integration agenda. The challenge continues to be inadequate capacities of these policy related institutions as well as linkages with specialized bodies. This Action would therefore build on the effort undertaken by FishGov I to strengthen institutional linkages and accountability mechanisms between these institutions.

A COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to collect best practices and lessons learnt on existing institutional anchorage between RECs and RFBs/RSC and propose framework for effective anchorage. A follow-up meeting will be organized for validation and operationalization of the framework for effective anchorage between RECs, RFBs and RSCs.

2.1.3. Identify mechanisms for establishing/strengthening linkages between regional organisations in charge of fisheries management (e.g. RFMOs/RFBs) and regional organisations in charge of environmental issues (e.g. RSC and inland water bodies);

The Action would contract COE or other specialized institution to identify and develop mechanisms for establishing/strengthening linkages between specialized regional fisheries institutions (RFMOs, RFBs) and RSCs (environmental agencies). A consultative workshop will therefore be organized to validate and operationalize the mechanism for establishing/strengthening linkages between specialized regional fisheries

institutions (RFMOs, RFBs) and RSC (environmental agencies)

Output 2.2 Capacities of Member States, RECs and RFBs to develop realistic sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies in coherence with the PFRS are strengthened

The Action will provide strategic technical advice to a number of RECs and Member States on established need basis;

This Action would build upon the achievement of FishGov I by providing technical support to AU Member States and regional institutions through alignment of their national fisheries and aquaculture policies, strategies with the PFRS, and other relevant global fisheries and aquaculture related instruments. The challenges confronting member states for the implementation of global instruments have been identified and priority actions developed. The next phase is to provide technical support to AU Member States to facilitate implementations of the global best practices, including the CCRF, United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA), FAO PSMA, VG-SSF etc

The implementation of FishGov I and Fish Trade resulted in huge number of initiatives which, when implemented by AU member states, would transform fisheries and aquaculture through policy reforms. This Action would support adoption or implementation of best practices and innovative solutions by AU member states and regional institutions.

2.2.1. Develop capacities and provide technical support to Member States and RECs to develop sectoral strategies and investment plans

COEs or other specialized institutions would be contracted to conduct five regional studies to establish which AU MS have sectoral strategies and investment plans and develop a mechanism for twinning between those with and those without. The studies would be undertaken through the RECs. A stakeholders' consultative workshop would be organized to validate and operationalize the mechanism.

2.2.2. Support Member States in reviewing their policies and legislations and aligning them with best international practices (i.e. the FAO code of conduct for responsible Fisheries, etc) and existing continental / regional instruments (e.g. PFRS, RFB/RSC recommendations etc)

Appropriate COEs or specialized institutions would be contracted to review and align national fisheries and aquaculture policies and laws with the PFRS, regional instruments and global best practices. In this regard, the studies would require a multi-disciplinary team of experts that are adept in global processes and initiatives.

Given the complexity of the tasks involved in aligning national fisheries and aquaculture policies, regulations and laws with regional instruments and global initiatives, the costs for facilitating national consultative workshops and providing technical backstopping would be significant in order to produce sound policies, strategies, regulations or laws. Therefore, due to the variable degree of complexity of the assignments, the COEs or other specialized institutions would be contracted to carry out the consultancies.

Also, the activity would entail drawing lessons and best practices from the implementation of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

2.2.3. Mainstream sustainable and climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture in NAIPS, RAIPs and other Investment programmes

An appropriate COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to review national and regional fisheries-aquaculture plans for mainstreaming sustainable and climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, in NAIPS, RAIPs and other investment programmes. Here member states (institutions in charge of fisheries and aquaculture) will be supported to conduct their respective national meetings. Similarly the RECs would be supported to conduct the regional meetings.

Countries and RECs that have undertaken similar exercises will be encouraged to share experience with other countries or RECs and to promote the implementation of the applicable RFMOs/RFB's provisions.

2.2.4. Facilitate stakeholders' consultation on the design and implementation of national and regional strategies;

A COE or specialized institution would be contracted to develop training materials and facilitate training workshops on the design of fisheries and aquaculture strategies for implementation at AU MS, RFBs and REC levels. Based on the training materials, capacity on the design and implementation of national and regional strategies would be developed among AU MS, RECs and specialized regional institutions. The private sector, NGOs would be invited to participate in the workshops.

2.2.5. Promote uptake and implementation of knowledge, innovations and best practices (including those generated by FishGov I and FishTrade) to inform policy change at national and regional levels

COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to conduct reviews of outcomes generated by FishGov I and FishTrade and identify best practices, in fisheries management and aquaculture development practices, for implementation by AU MS and RECs, on needs basis.

Regional validation workshops would be conducted in the five regions of the continent for review and validation of the reports of the consultants.

Output 2.3 Capacities are strengthened to facilitate intra and inter regional fish trade in line with the regional integration trade agenda and the Protocol on Trade in Goods of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area

FishTrade, in collaboration with the FishGovI brought out the evidence for promoting intra-regional trade on the continent. Regional trade would need to be strengthened through harmonized trade policies, capacity development along value chains as well as promote effective participation of women and youth in SME development in fisheries and aquaculture within the framework of AWFISHNET (African women fish processor and traders network). Of critical importance is to also strengthen the competitiveness of African fish and fish products by strengthening/establishing regional competent authorities and reference

laboratories. Within the provisions of FishGov I capacities of AU member states (OIC focal points, aquaculture officers) were developed in fish diseases diagnosis, control and surveillance. Since diseases in aquatic production systems are usually trans-boundary issues, there is need to establish/strengthen aquatic animal health networks for rapid response mechanism.

The Action would continue the harmonization of fish trade policies initiated under FishGov I and FishTrade.

Activities at regional level, involving regional economic communities mainly, to conduct studies on regional value chains especially with regards to highly commercially exploited stocks such as Bonga (*Ethmalosa* spp), *Sardinella* spp, shrimps, catfish, daga, as well as export species like ornamental fish species.

An institutional assessment of laboratories and diagnostics networks would be conducted, and mechanisms for establishing regional reference laboratories and diagnostic networks for fish and fish products will be recommended. An experts' consultative workshop will be convened to validate the mechanisms for establishing regional reference laboratories and diagnostics networks

The Action would strengthen the capacity of women and youth fish traders and fish farmers for their effective participation in policy dialogues, for effective networking, communication and in leadership skills. The focus would be on members of the AwfishNet.

The Action would underscore capacity development, aquatic animal health networks, and put in place rapid response systems.

2.3.1. Identify strategic regional value chains for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;

COEs or other specialized institutions would be contracted to conduct studies in various regions of the continent to (i) identify strategic regional value chains for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (ii) scope the issues and opportunities raised for these chains by the African Free Trade Area agenda; (iii) develop response strategies and options to be adopted at country and regional level to take advantage of these opportunities.

2.3.2. Support RECs and their Member States in reviewing their trade and SPS policies to facilitate fish trade along those strategic regional value chains

The Action would convene a consultation process to validate the identified strategic regional value chains for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for implementation. Trade Agreements and the SPS continental policy framework will be applied to the regional fish value chain.

The expert consultation will be informed, among others, by a review of EU Audit reports on fisheries conducted in the last 10-15 years in AU MS. The review of the EU Audit reports will summarize main findings, recommendations and identify issues to be addressed at country, regional and continental levels.

2.3.3. Support regional approaches for the establishment of regional reference laboratories and diagnostic networks;

COEs or other specialized institutions would be contracted to conduct institutional assessments of laboratories and diagnostics networks in various regions of the continent and mechanisms for establishing regional reference laboratories and diagnostic networks for fish and fish products will be recommended. An experts' consultative workshop will be convened to validate the recommended regional mechanisms for establishing regional reference laboratories and diagnostic networks. In the event the specific capacity to undertake these assessment is lacking in the COEs, the OIE and Codex Alimentarius (as specialized institutions) would be commissioned to conduct the assessments and develop recommendations on mechanisms for establishing regional reference laboratories.

2.3.4. Enhance the capacity of fisheries and aquaculture traders with due consideration for small scale traders youth and women engaged in fish trade and processing;

To enhance the effective participation of women and youth fish traders' policy dialogue at national level, an advocacy strategy and mechanism for effective participation of women and youth fish traders in fisheries and aquaculture policy dialogue and networking would be developed.

Within the provision of FishGov I, the African women fish processors and traders network (AwwfishNet) was established. Awareness enhancing and capacity building workshops involving the members of the AwwfishNet would be facilitated focussing on policy dialogue, governance, leadership, advocacy, effective networking, communication and organizational skills. The overall objective of AwwfishNet is to contribute to improving the welfare, working conditions and income of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector (and especially women in the post-harvest sector) within the member states of the African Union.

The Action would also facilitate the establishment of national chapters for AwwfishNet in selected AU member states on need basis.

2.3.5. Improve aquatic disease outbreak detection, notification and support coordinated response;

The Action would contract COE or other specialized institution to develop guidelines for strengthening diagnostic capacities of competent national authorities and networks on aquatic animal disease detection, surveillance and coordinated responses, based on OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (including participation in a virtual expert's consultative workshop to validate guidelines)

Training would be conducted to build/strengthen capacities of regional aquatic animal health networks on the use of the OIE Guidelines on aquatic animal disease detection, surveillance and coordinated responses.

SO3. Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and ably domesticates relevant global instruments

After decades of marginalisation from the international development discourse, Africa has gradually gained greater voice and strengthened its ability to shape global discussions. Consequently, the African Heads of

State and Government have agreed that the African Union (President Kagame's report) should focus on a fewer number of priority areas, including the Africa's global representation and voice. One of the functions of the African Union Commission, as stated in its Statute, is to work out draft common positions of the Union and coordinate the actions of Member States in international negotiations. On the fisheries and aquaculture side, this has translated into the strengthening of the 'African Voice' in international fisheries and aquaculture fora by setting out a number of activities within both near- and long-term timeframes that aim to support African governments in formulating and promoting common positions in these negotiations.

Such pan-African collaboration is important in order to ensure that international agreements take into account African needs and contexts which in turn would provide greater incentives for African nations to ratify and implement the agreements and thereby contribute to sustainable and profitable fisheries in Africa.

Building on earlier successes, AUDA-NEPAD and AU-IBAR have supported a common African position to recent development debates taking place at the international level such as the FAO Committee on fisheries (COFI) meetings, FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture meetings, RFMO meetings. In combination with a better defined African development and transformation strategy (Africa Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture), this has notably facilitated a better understanding among Africa's partners of the continent's development vision and also fostered greater alignment with its own policies. With an increasing number of partners seeking to strengthen their ties and activities on the continent, the AU has been successfully working towards ensuring a stronger regional dimension in its partnership frameworks.

Output 3.1 Capacities of AU Member States – including SIDS - in terms of international negotiations are increased and a mechanism is put in place to coordinate African common positions

AU member states need to have the requisite capacities to effectively participate in deliberations of international fora to be able to secure adequate benefits from being members of international organizations. In this regard this Action would build upon the achievements of FishGov I with regards to supporting AU member states in COFI sessions, FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, African Tuna Conferences, ACP Ministerial meetings and expand and establish a structured approach to include fora such as UNGA, COP sessions, CITES, RFMOs, WTO dialogue, FAO governing council, etc. Therefore, the mechanism, established under FishGov I, for strengthening African Voice in global fisheries and aquaculture related fora would be operationalized and made functional, including institutional legitimacy by AU policy organs. A high priority would be given to strengthening participation of AU member states in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and in negotiation measure relating to ABNJ. The continent has five Small Island developing states (SIDS - Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome & Principe) and Madagascar. Effort would be made to articulate the special needs of the SIDS noting their vulnerability to Climate Changes effects as well as the need to effectively participate in ocean economy issues.

3.1.1. Identify specific issues / events on which it is relevant to draft an African voice and plan

adequately preparatory work;

The Action would convene annual expert's meetings to identify specific issues and draft common positions for deliberation and adoption at relevant fora. The stakeholders would then validate the identified issues and draft common positions

Utilizing the existing successful proven processes, relevant issues and events will be identified to draft common position for events (e.g. using current AU-IBAR approach to OIE, Codex meetings) that include UNGA, Climate change fora. CITEs, ACP ministerial meetings, COFI, RFMOs, WTO and FAO governing council.

3.1.2. Identify specific needs of African SIDS and Madagascar and take them into account in strategic positions in international fora;

COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to conduct studies for identification of specific needs of SIDS and develop appropriate draft strategic positions and make specific recommendations for establishment/strengthening of a platform of SIDS. A virtual consultative workshop would then be convened to validate draft strategic position and the recommendations for the establishment of a platform of SIDS. The Platform of SIDS would be operationalized to address specific issues and needs of SIDS and develop subsequent strategic positions.

3.1.3. Prepare a roster of fishery and aquaculture experts in the different Member States and set up a consultation mechanism to draft positions and mobilize technical expertise

COEs or specialized institutions would be contracted to prepare rosters of fisheries and aquaculture experts in AU member states for drafting common positions on pertinent issues on fisheries and aquaculture on annual basis over a period of four years. Virtual consultative workshops would be conducted involving AU member states on identification of issues and formulation of common positions.

3.1.4. Increase capacities on international issues and organise specific trainings for pre-identified negotiators;

COEs or other specialized institutions will be contracted to identify global issues and agendas which impact on national, regional and continental fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa.

The Action would build capacity through an experts' consultative training workshop on negotiation skills. It is intended that these experts would be mobilized to assist in the negotiation of African common positions at relevant fora.

3.1.5. Prepare African common positions using AU processes;

Side events would be convened during relevant regional or international fora, with the African Group of ambassadors and negotiators to agree on African common positions to be presented at the relevant fora.

3.1.6. Assist AU policy organs in the identification and participation of African champions (HSG

and Ministers) in relevant High level events, enhancing visibility of the African Voice;

The Action would identify and facilitate participation of representatives of AU Policy Organs in relevant high level events (ocean governance and climate change, blue economy, fisheries, and aquaculture) thereby enhancing visibility of African Voice.

Output 3.2 Mechanisms are put in place to encourage and facilitate the domestication of global instruments and initiatives at continental, regional and national levels

Though some progress has been evident in the ratification and/or implementation of global instruments e.g. PSMA, CCRF, and African instruments (charters, conventions, protocols) there is still much work to be done. The Action will continue to encourage and support member states for the ratification and/or implementation of relevant instruments. The capacities of AU member states would be developed in support of facilitation of this action and a monitoring mechanism established to follow the progress of implementation. Support to the AU member states would be on demand driven approach. The support would be underlined by studies to collate opportunities and identify changes with respect to global instruments thereby deepening the awareness created under FishGov I. The project would endeavour to work or synergize with relevant organizations to develop/strengthen mechanisms for compliance by AU member states.

To ensure rational decisions are taken by AU Ministers with regards to the sustainable governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, a structured approach would be developed jointly with stakeholders for formulation of inputs to STC and its Bureau and AU policy organs for appropriate decisions to minimize overlap or repetitions.

3.2.1. Identify a list of priority instruments and initiatives (e.g. PSMA, CCRF, SSF-VG, CITES, CBD etc)

COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to conduct a study for identification and analysis of priority instruments and initiatives (e.g. PSMA, UNFSA, ABNJ, CITES, CBD, FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture reports, upcoming publication by FAO on Voluntary Guidelines for Aquaculture etc) and outline strategies for effective participation in the individual regimes by AU Member States. A continental stakeholders' consultation would be convened to validate the list of priority instruments and initiatives and the proposed strategies for effective participation and implementation.

3.2.2. Establish and regularly update their state of ratification and domestication;

COE or other specialized institution would be contracted to develop a mechanism for follow-up on implementation and ratification of relevant instruments by AU MS for biennial reporting progress of domestication, including instruments relating to combating IUU (e.g. PSMA, EU-IUU Regulations) and related instruments (Compliance Agreement for highly migratory and straddling stocks; UNFSA).

An experts' consultative workshop would be organized to review the framework for monitoring progress

of implementation of global instruments. This would be followed by a virtual conference, involving mainly AU MS and RECs, for validation. Based on need basis, COEs or specialized institutions would be contracted to undertake a review of selected national policies in AU MS to make specific recommendations for alignment and domestication of global instruments. Within the framework of AFRM, specific recommendations for regular reporting on status of domestication will be developed.

3.2.3. Develop inputs for the STCs, STCs Bureau and high level AU policy organs;

Documents for STC and other AU Policy Organ meetings would be drafted for presentation to STC-ARDWE. In this respect regular internal planning meetings involving AU-IBAR, DREA. OLC (AU Office of Legal Counsel) and other relevant AUC departments and STC-ARDWE Bureau, will be organized.

3.2.4. Support dialogue and sensitisation at RECs level

The Action would facilitate high level engagement for regular dialogue and sensitization with RECs on emerging issues, to sensitize about the project outcomes and expected roles in the project implementation. This engagement would be at the very high level of RECs. This ensures ownership and increased prospects for sustainability.

3.2.5. Identify mechanisms supporting developing countries' involvement and compliance and promote their use by AU member States;

The Action would establish and operationalize a biennial forum for regular consultations on monitoring compliance on domestications of global and continental instruments within the framework of AFRM; AUMS, RECs etc; biennial forum (within four years).

Output 3.3 – Capacities of AU Member States are strengthened to effectively articulate African positions on fisheries and aquaculture in the AU-EU dialogue

It is critically important to create awareness among AU Member States on EU initiatives on fisheries and aquaculture. Therefore a consultative forum would be established between AU and the relevant EU agencies for discussions of EU initiatives. The fora would be preceded by studies to collate information on relevant EU initiatives to identify options for AU Member States to articulate common positions.

AU member states need to be well informed about the EU Common Fisheries Policy, including information on facts and the external dimensions for sustainable fisheries partnership agreements. They also need to be kept abreast on the EU international ocean governance agenda, including its blue economy pillar.

3.3.1. Collect information on relevant EU initiatives (Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, EIP etc);

COE or specialized institution would be contracted to collect data and prepare materials on relevant EU initiatives and make appropriate recommendations to AU MSs for articulation of coherent African positions during AU-EU dialogue.

3.3.2. Engage in a regular sectoral dialogue with European Commission services and identify issues

of common interest;

The Action would organize regular virtual dialogue meetings between AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and EU to identify issues of common interest in fisheries and aquaculture. Sets of translated documents would be prepared and printed for each meeting.

3.3.3. Draft technical inputs to relevant AU bodies in view of AU-EU Summits, Ministerial, College to College and technical meetings

The Action would organize internal virtual AU meetings to agree on relevant technical inputs and prepare materials for inputs into relevant AU bodies in advance of discussions between AU-EU ministerial meetings, College to college and other technical meetings.

3.3.4. Consider the organisation of joint technical events or the development of AU-EU Common Positions at global level;

The Action would organize virtual joint technical events to develop common positions on global issues annually and prepare sets of translated documents.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. Intervention Logic

While contributing to building a common understanding of fisheries and aquaculture issues in Africa at technical level, the action is expected to generate political traction and increases coherence between AU policies / initiatives thanks to better anchorage to the AU governance systems and increased interactions with other departments of the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD. The narrative for policy development is guided by evidence based information generated through foresight studies, sectoral statistics and review of existing research. The profile of fisheries and aquaculture as a key sector in the sustainable Blue Economy is raised and awareness increased among decision-makers on the importance of improved governance of the sector through the development and implementation of a targeted communication and visibility strategy.

Regional organisations in charge of economic cooperation, fisheries management and environmental protection join forces to ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa with due consideration to human and labour rights, gender, environment protection, trade, public health, research and climate change. Both at regional and national levels, realistic fisheries and aquaculture policies are designed to attract both public and private investments thank to quality and strategic technical advice. Intra- and inter-regional trade develops thanks to the adoption of simplified rules and harmonised regulations piloted on strategic regional value chains.

After decades of marginalisation, Africa gains greater voice and strengthens its ability to advance African priorities in global discussions in international fisheries and aquaculture fora. African expertise on international negotiations is pooled and strengthened in order to be able to formulate and defend African Common Positions in relevant international fora. International agreements take better into account African needs and contexts which in turn provide greater incentives for African nations to ratify and implement

agreements and thereby contribute to sustainable and profitable fisheries in Africa.

In combination with a better defined African development and transformation strategy (PFRS), efforts made in defining an “African voice” would facilitate a better understanding among Africa’s partners of the continent’s development vision and foster greater alignment with AU policies. As Africa profile on the world stage raises so does the legitimacy of the AU through AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD as the principle interlocutors on African fisheries and aquaculture affairs.

The project will utilize the revised AFRM architecture as the framework for consultation especially in the formulation of regional and continental initiatives.

3.2 *African Union Agenda 2063*

The Agenda 2063 is Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. The Agenda identified seven aspirations to achieve the vision for ‘An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena’. The aspirations for the Africa we want are:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth
7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner.

The goal for blue economy growth is embedded in Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. This Action is relevant across the seven Aspirations.

The PFRS fully integrate human rights, youth, gender, environmental issues and climate change.

According to a recent FAO study, Africa will be one of the regions most affected by climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture. Climate change impacts fish reproduction, migration and species distribution with unforeseen consequences for resource availability. It increases risks of diseases outbreaks, contamination and other disasters linked to changes in global weather patterns and sea level rise. Consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation should be fully integrated in the AU strategy for the sector. To successfully address climate change and disaster risks, coherent policy frameworks and inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary links are required.

The project will work closely with regional sea and inland water bodies to strengthen resilience to climate change and improve environmental best practices in the governance of fisheries and aquaculture. The action will enhance institutional frameworks and capacity building for integration and coordination across

sectors at local, national, regional and continental levels, through training and collaboration. Domestication of international environmental conventions and best practices will be facilitated. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be promoted as a tool to integrate environmental and climate change concerns in policy making and strategic planning processes.

The first phase of fisheries governance project facilitated the establishment of African women fish processors and Traders network (AWFISHNET). The Action will enhance the capacity of this network for their effective functioning, advocacy, and recognition. The Action will facilitate inclusion of Gender and youth considerations in policy, laws and plans and be knowledge based. Effective participation of women and youth in decision-making processes will be promoted at local, national and regional levels.

3.3. Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG(s) SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” while also contributing to SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” notably through alignment with the AU CAADP process. It will also contribute to SDG 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems”, SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, SDG 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns” and SDG 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

3.4. Geographical Coverage

The project will have a continental coverage and will be implemented in the 55 AU MS and the 8 RECs.

3.5. Roles and responsibilities of AU-IBAR

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will be responsible for overall management and coordination of the Action. This Action will be implemented in indirect management with AU-IBAR. This implementation entails the overall management and coordination of the Action. AU-IBAR has passed pillar assessment test. AU-IBAR hosts the Secretariat for Sectoral meetings of ministers in charge of fisheries and aquaculture, overseeing the implementation of fisheries and aquaculture decisions as well as the fishery component of the Africa Blue Economy, and playing mobilization role through the Secretariat and the organs of the African Union. AU-IBAR will therefore provide relevant support for institutional strengthening and capacity building for realistic and coherent fisheries and aquaculture sector policy formulation, regulatory frameworks. The institution has a coordination role for expeditious development of fisheries and aquaculture in AU Member States and regional levels. In view of its lead role in the implementation of PFRS, AU-IBAR was entrusted with the responsibility to formulate the Africa’s’ Blue economy strategy. The Mandate of AU-IBAR is 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 MSs of the AU. The core functions of AU-IBAR include the following:

1. Facilitate, coordinate and support the formulation, harmonization and implementation of coherent policies, strategies, guidelines, legislation and investment plans
2. Assist AU MSs and RECs in mainstreaming animal resources in CAADP
3. Initiate and coordinate the implementation of relevant programs, projects and activities in collaboration and cooperation with MSs, RECs and development partners
4. Facilitate the formulation of draft common positions among MSs and RECs, RFMOs/ RFBs, for Africa's leverage in negotiations and other global processes related to Animal Resources
5. Collect, collate, analyze, store, share and disseminate data, information and knowledge among relevant stakeholders
6. Play an advocacy role on matters relevant to ARs, including for increased engagement of public and private sector as well as civil society organizations
7. Provide technical support to MSs, RECs and other regional organizations and mechanisms or continental institutions
8. Collaborate with research and academic institutions to identify priority needs for research and training
9. Convene, coordinate and host relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives, platforms and secretariats for the development of the Animal Resources in Africa
10. Provide timely and strategic support to countries experiencing emergencies and those with special needs

The inter-governmental organisation identified above, is currently undergoing an ex-ante assessment of its systems and procedures. Based on its compliance with the conditions in force at the time previously other indirect management actions were awarded to the organisation and based on a long-lasting problem-free cooperation, the inter-governmental organisation can also now implement this action under indirect management, pending the finalisation of the ex-ante assessment, and, where necessary, subject to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation. AU-IBAR was pillar assessed twice; in 2012 and 2015. The institution passed all the pillars on which it was assessed in 2015. Since then AU-IBAR has not undertaken another EU pillar assessment.

A Sub-delegation agreement between AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD will be signed in which details on the activities to be implemented by the AUDA-NEPAD will be provided.

3.6. Project staff: PROFILES, JUSTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF PROJECT STAFF

Senior Fisheries Officer - AU-IBAR

The Senior Fisheries officer will be in charge of the coordination and day to day management of the Action. The Officer will ensure synergies with other regional projects and intervention of development partners to promote coherence in interventions in tune with PFRS and AFRM. The Officer will provide technical and managerial leadership in the implementation of the project activities as work plans, coordination of the Action, including ensuring timely implementation of activities, reporting, organizing steering committee meetings, providing technical support, supervision of and guidance to Action technical staff. The officer will liaise with stakeholders, including RECs, RFBs, NSAs, Development partners for the smooth implementation of the Action. The Senior Fisheries Officer would ensure synergy and complementarities in the implementation

of the activities with other African Union flagship instruments including the PFRS, Africa Blue Economy Strategy, Lome Charter, 2050 AIMS, AU Agenda 2063 as well as supporting AU member states and RECs for coherent implementation of these AU instruments.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Management Officer – AU-IBAR

Under the technical guidance of the Senior Fisheries Officer, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Management Officer shall be actively involved and directly lead the implementation of the project activities related to fisheries and aquaculture. S/he will oversee the implementation of field activities, provide technical guidance to the project assistants, AU member states with respect to project activities.

Legal, Institutional and Policy Officer (Consultant) - AU-IBAR

This position would ensure visibility of African fisheries and aquaculture in global fora and add value to the Action in terms of aligning the Action with global international best practices, legal and institutional issues. S/he would advise on the review, negotiation and drafting of major agreements so as to establish, advance or protect African interests in global community. The consultant would be largely dedicated to work on the Action in support of the African Voice and together with other high level officials, assists AU MS representatives at diplomatic conferences, commissions, committees, task forces, expert groups and other bodies, including preparation of background materials, summaries of issues and views of delegations, meeting reports, etc.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Trade and Investment Officer – AU-IBAR

Significant levels of activities related to investment, trade and marketing have been identified in the Action. These include fish trade corridor analysis, standards, and certification, free trade areas and trade facilitation, value chain analysis etc. It is therefore important an expert in related disciplines is on the project team for the effective implementation of these activities.

Environmental Expert (Consultant) - AU-IBAR

Crucial environmental related activities are identified in the Action. It is therefore important for effective implementation of these activities to have a consultant in environmental issues. The consultant will liaise and support Member states, RECs, NGOs, RSCs, Civil societies, CSOs, volunteer networks or any other relevant and various stakeholders/institutions including UNEP and environmental bodies/organs to mainstream environmental and climate change matters in the Action. S/he would serve as focal point to support coordination, monitoring and expedition of implementation activities relating to environmental governance; liaises with diverse organizational units to initiate requests; prepares standard terms of reference against Action objectives,

Programme Officer – Fisheries and Aquaculture - AUDA-NEPAD

The programme officer would be working on AUDA-NEPAD's component of the Action on fisheries and aquaculture activities as well as the AUDA-NEPAD blue economy programme

Programme Assistant – Fisheries and Aquaculture - AUDA-NEPAD

The Programme Assistant at AUDA-NEPAD would be supporting the AUDA-NEPAD Programme Officer in the AUDA-NEPAD's component of this Action

Senior Policy Officer (Fisheries and Aquaculture) – AUC- DREA

The Officer would be recruited together with the Project Team by AU-IBAR and the Officer would be seconded to AUC-DREA. He or She would be reporting to the Project Team Leader (Senior Fisheries Officer) at AU-IBAR.

The Officer would largely be tasked with the responsibility to ensuring the outcomes of the Action are mainstreamed into AU fora and policy processes. The Officer could assume liaison functions with DREA, other AUC departments and partners for animal resources including fisheries and aquaculture.

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer – AU-IBAR

Working closely with professional staff at the Programs and Project Unit at AU-IBAR, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will support in monitoring and evaluation of fisheries and aquaculture initiatives; and compile, track against agreed targets, and report results of the Action.

Finance Officer -AU-IBAR

To provide financial and accounting support to the Action.

The Administrative Assistant -AU-IBAR

To provide and support administrative functions related to the implementation of the Action.

Counterpart support to the project:

- i. Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer – a regular officer at AU-IBAR to be assigned to the Action
- ii. Communication officer and Senior Knowledge Management Officer at AU-IBAR
- iii. Director of AU-IBAR provides overall supervision and guidance to the implementation of the Action
- iv. M&E functions
- v. Communication staff at AUDA-NEPAD

3.7. Methodology: The Role of Stakeholders

Table 8: ROLE OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: - AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
Result 1: African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies are evidence based	Output 1.1: AU stakeholders have access to quality knowledge products on African fisheries and aquaculture	1.1.1. Collect, collate and centralize information and research relating to fisheries and aquaculture in Africa as a repository within AU institutions and establish a mechanism for regular updating		AU-IBAR	RECS
		1.1.2. Conduct policy oriented studies to address social, economic and environmental challenges on fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (e.g. on the fish stock harvests	AUDA		
		1.1.3. Update the AU-FAO study on the Value of African fisheries (2014);	AUDA		
		1.1.4. Produce foresight studies and relevant fisheries and aquaculture contributions to ongoing thematic processes and initiatives (i.e. on food and nutrition security, gender, marine biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change, blue economy etc.) (in synergies with output 1.4);	AUDA		
		1.1.5. Document lessons learnt and best practices for informed and rational interventions;		AU-IBAR	
		1.1.6. Prepare and present position, advocacy papers and policy briefs on fisheries and aquaculture related issues.		AU-IBAR	
	Output 1.2 Existing platforms and networks are reviewed, rationalized and operationalized for effective participation of stakeholders in policy development and implementation	1.2.1. Conduct a functional review of existing platforms and networks in relation to PFRS and AFRM (e.g. AFRIPAAS, AWFISHNET, Policy research Network; WAS African Chapter etc.);		AU-IBAR	

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
		1.2.2. Support rationalization of existing platforms and networks, ensure institutional anchorage at relevant level, enhance their capacities and use them to implement identified activities / pilot projects;		AU-IBAR	RECS
		1.2.3 Develop cost effective mechanisms for stakeholder consultation;		AU-IBAR	
		1.2.4. Simplify and operationalize the AFRM.		AU-IBAR	
	Output 1.3 A solid reporting system to STC on the implementation of the PFRS is put in place and integrated to CAADP process	1.3.1. Develop indicators to monitor the implementation of PFRS in line with the Malabo goals;		AU-IBAR M&E team, in consultation with the CAADP and AUDA-NEPAD teams.	
		1.3.2. Produce annual snapshot of fisheries and aquaculture performance reports based on these indicators;		AU-IBAR	RECS
		1.3.3. Contribute to the biennial review of Malabo goals for monitoring progress of implementation of AU decisions;	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	DREA
		1.3.4. Actively contribute to the agenda of STC meetings, based on strategic planning and support the organization of biennial African ministerial dialogue on Fisheries and aquaculture		AU-IBAR	DREA
	Output 1.4 Mechanisms are developed to ensure that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are mainstreamed in the development of AU policies / initiatives affecting the sector	1.4.1. Map initiatives that are underway or planned at the AU level that are relevant to fisheries and aquaculture and contribute to their development / implementation by providing relevant input (cf. discussions on blue economy, maritime security, environmental protection and ocean governance etc.). Build synergies and support alignment among these different sectors.		AU-IBAR, in consultation with DREA and other relevant Departments.	

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
		1.4.2. Engage with non-fisheries and aquaculture actors (e.g. ministers in charge of finance, trade, planning, financial institutions etc.);		AU-IBAR	
		1.4.3. Associate relevant AU services to activities developed under this Action		AU-IBAR	
	Output 1.5 Advocacy is improved and awareness created about the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	1.5.1 Develop and operationalize an effective communication and advocacy strategy, in collaboration with competent AU services;	AUDA	AU-IBAR	<i>AUC-Communication Directorate</i>
		1.5.2. Strengthen communication and advocacy capacities in AU-IBAR and AUDA- NEPAD;	AUDA	AU-IBAR	<i>AUC-Communication Directorate</i>
		1.5.3. Draft and disseminate materials, internally and externally, in different languages;	AUDA		
		1.5.4. Develop and operationalize dedicated fisheries and aquaculture portals in support to the Action's activities.	AUDA	AU-IBAR	<i>AUC-Communication Directorate; RECs; COEs</i>
SO2 Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels in order to maintain healthy and resilient marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems in the context of climate change	Output 2.1 Capacities and systems for regional collaboration and integration regarding shared fisheries and aquaculture resources management are improved and linkages with environmental governance frameworks are enhanced	2.1.1. Facilitate coordination among regional organizations (RECs, RFB and RSC) through regular exchange of information between the AFRIPAAS members		AU-IBAR	<i>RECs</i>

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
		2.1.2. Ensure cross-regional/trans-regional coherence of RECs and RFBs strategies and facilitate their institutional anchorage, in line with the PFRS		AU-IBAR	RECS
		2.1.3. Identify mechanisms for establishing / strengthening linkages between regional organizations in charge of fisheries management (RFMOs/RFBs) and regional organizations in charge of environmental issues (RSC and inland water bodies). Promote the implementation of the relevant RFMOs/RFBs' provisions. Document linking fisheries and environment etc. Link CAMFA with AMCEN and other subcommittees		AU-IBAR	
	<i>Output 2.2 Capacities of Member States, RECs and RFBs to develop realistic sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies in coherence with the PFRS are strengthened</i>	2.2.1. Develop capacities and provide technical support to Member states and RECs to develop sectoral strategies and investment plans.	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	RECS
		2.2.2. Support member States in reviewing their policies and legislations and aligning them with best international practices (i.e. the FAO code of conduct for responsible Fisheries, etc.) and existing continental / regional instruments (e.g. PRFS, RFB/RSC recommendations etc.)		AU-IBAR	
		2.2.3. Mainstream sustainable and climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture in NAIPS, RAIPs and other Investment programmes	AUDA	AU-IBAR	
		2.2.4. Facilitate stakeholders consultation on the design and implementation of national and regional strategies	AUDA		

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
		2.2.5. Promote uptake and implementation of knowledge, innovations and best practices (including those generated by FISHGOVI and FishTrade to inform policy change at national and regional levels		AU-IBAR	
	Output 2.3 Capacities are strengthened to facilitate intra and inter regional fish trade in line with the regional integration trade agenda and the Protocol on Trade in Goods of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area	2.3.1. Identify strategic regional value chains for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	AUDA		
		2.3.2. Support RECs and their Member States in reviewing their trade and SPS policies to facilitate fish trade along those strategic regional value chains;	AUDA	AU-IBAR working closely with AfCFTA Secretariat (SPS Sub-Committee)	RECs
		2.3.3. Support regional approaches for the establishment of regional reference laboratories and diagnostic networks;		AU-IBAR	RECs
		2.3.4. Enhance the capacity of fisheries and aquaculture traders with due consideration for small scale traders and women engaged in fish trade and processing;	AUDA	AU-IBAR	
		2.3.5. Improve aquatic disease outbreak detection, notification and support coordinated response.		AU-IBAR	

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
SO3. Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and ably domesticates relevant global instruments	Output 3.1 Capacities of AU Member States – including SIDS - in terms of international negotiations are increased and a mechanism is put in place to coordinate African common positions	3.1.1. Identify specific issues / events on which it is relevant to develop an African voice and plan adequately preparatory work;		AU-IBAR	
		3.1.2. Identify specific needs of African SIDS and take them into account in strategic positions in international fora (can either be done directly with the MSs or through consultancy)		AU-IBAR	
		3.1.3. Identify expertise in the different Member States and set up a consultation mechanism to prepare positions;		AU-IBAR	
		3.1.4. Increase capacities on international issues and organize specific trainings for pre-identified negotiators;		AU-IBAR	
		3.1.5. Prepare African common positions using AU processes;		AU-IBAR	
		3.1.6. Assist AU policy organs in the identification and participation of African champions (HSG and Ministers) in relevant High level events, enhancing visibility of the African voice	AUDA	AU-IBAR	
	Output 3.2 Mechanisms are put in place to encourage and facilitate the domestication of global instruments and initiatives at continental, regional and national levels	3.2.1. Identify a list of priority instruments and initiatives (e.g. PSMA, CCRF, SSF-VG, CITES, CBD etc.)	AUDA	AU-IBAR	
		3.2.2. Establish and regularly update their state of ratification and domestication	AUDA	AU-IBAR	

Result AREAS	Outputs	Activities	AUDA-NEPAD	AU-IBAR	SUPPORT OF COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS e.g. at AUC and RECS
		3.2.3. Develop inputs for the STCs and high level AU policy organs		AU-IBAR	DREA
		3.2.4. Support dialogue and sensitization at RECs level		AU-IBAR	RECS
		3.2.5. Identify mechanisms supporting developing countries' involvement and compliance and promote their use by AU member States	AU-IBAR	AUDA	
	Output 3.3 – Capacities of AU Member States are strengthened to effectively articulate African positions on fisheries and aquaculture in the AU-EU dialogue	3.3.1. Collect information on relevant EU initiatives (Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, EIP etc.);		AU-IBAR	
		3.3.2. Engage in a regular sectoral dialogue with European Commission services and identify issues of common interest;		AU-IBAR	
		3.3.3. Prepare technical inputs to relevant AU bodies in view of AU-EU summits;		AU-IBAR	
		3.3.4. Consider the organization of joint technical events or the development of common positions at global level.		AU-IBAR	

The Action would endeavour as far as possible to contract knowledge-based institutions and especially the Centres of Excellence in the execution of Action activities to be outsourced. In this regard, a framework contract would be developed at the beginning of the Action in a bid to reduce the risk of delay in implementation of activities and ensure long term commitment. This would be executed by launching calls for expression of interest for all Action activities to be outsourced. The mobilization of external expertise will be carried out via the publication, at the beginning of the implementation period, of all external technical support and the request for expression of interest by eligible institutions.

The COEs or specialized institutions would always be the preferred consultants for this Action. However, where there may be challenges in identifying appropriate COEs or specialized institutions for some specific limited consultancies, consideration would be given to proven individual experts that are qualified for these specific consultancies. This proviso is made in recognition of the principle that the involvement of individual

experts will be minimized so as to build long term partnerships with knowledge based institutions and Centres of Excellence and promote institutional memory.

African Union Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture

The 3rd Session of the STC-ARDWE endorsed eight African institutions as African Union centres of excellence in fisheries and aquaculture, six of which (Table 9) had been assessed whilst two are yet to undergo assessment for technical qualification and fitness. The process of technical evaluation of the two has commenced.

The COEs have been identified as the key institutions that would be contracted to provide requisite technical expertise for implementation of this Action; hence the need to invest in enhancing their capacities to adequately perform.

Regional Economic Communities

Table 9: African Union Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture:

No.	Country of location	Selected Institutions	Disciplines	Anticipated clustering and institutional networking
1	Ghana	University of Cape Coast, Ghana, Centre for Coastal Management (CCM Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and now the World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence in Coastal Resilience (ACECoR) under the World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence (ACE) Development Impact Project	Academic training in Marine Fishery and coastal zones management; with additional options in policy and governance	To collaborate or network with Ibadan University (Nigeria) for complementarity in aquaculture and inland fisheries
2	Uganda	National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI)	Research in Aquaculture (Fish feeds, nutrition, genetics etc) and Research Inland Capture Fishery; with additional options in Climate Change	To strengthen existing collaboration and enhance networking with education training institutions (Makerere and Busitema Universities, Fisheries Training Institutes) that award degrees. The Institute will also collaborate with the Fisheries Training Institute
3	South Africa	Rhodes University	Academic Marine Fisheries and Academic Aquaculture; additional options in biodiversity; Oceanography and Ecosystems studies	To strengthen existing collaboration and enhance networking with SAIAB (South Africa) for biodiversity, oceanography and ecosystems studies and LUANAR (Malawi) for aquaculture
4	Nigeria	University of Ibadan	Academic Aquaculture and inland fisheries;	To collaborate with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana for complementarity in marine fisheries and coastal zone management

5	Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Fisheries Resources, University of Suez • Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) 	<p>Academic Aquaculture and Marine Fishery Sciences and Technology; Research Aquaculture; Fish Feeds, diseases, genetics</p> <p>Aquaculture research in genetics, feeds, various culture systems for diverse species etc.</p>	<p>The Centre of Excellence will incorporate The University of Suez, and the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) to collaborate with the National Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries. The University of Suez will lead the consortium.</p>
6	Cote d'Ivoire	Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM)	Marine Engineering, Seafaring and Safety, Navigation, fishing gear and fish technologies	<p>The academy is highly specialised in marine engineering, technology, navigation, safety at seas. It will provide valuable trained manpower support in these critically important aspects that are auxiliary to the fishing industry</p>

The RECs play an important role in facilitating regional integration in the continent. They have the mandate to foster policy coherence among their constituent AU member states. The project would leverage on their mandate to promote regional cooperation. In this regard, the Action will work closely with the RECs to gain political commitments and facilitate the implementation of activities that are regional in nature including the following activities:

1. Monitoring the implementation of PFRS by AU member states
2. Mainstreaming fisheries and aquaculture in NAIPs and RAIPs and establishing the monitoring and evaluation component mechanism
3. Promoting domestication of continental frameworks and programs and monitoring the implementation of policy organs' decisions
4. Identification and development of regional value chains in fisheries and aquaculture
5. Promoting regional harmonization on trade certification and SPS issues
6. Support the functions and institutionalization of regional NSAs, platforms and other regional networks
7. Identification and assessment of regional value chains

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Regional fisheries bodies are intergovernmental bodies through which States cooperate on the management of fisheries in specific region. These specialized technical bodies are charged with the responsibilities of enhancing regional cooperation on fisheries management and aquaculture development to promote the sustainability of their activities. Some Regional Fisheries Bodies face challenges to effectively perform their mandates due in part to poor funding from constituent member states as well as capacity. These bodies would therefore be strengthened as beneficiaries as well as support implementation of selected project activities within their areas of competencies. While the measures adopted by RFMOs are binding for their Members, RFBs produce non-binding recommendations. Compliance with RFMOs rules are an essential element of their Member's obligations.

Continental networks, regional platforms and networks

Platforms would be utilized as assets to support the implementation of certain activities of the project. The Action would support the rationalization of these NSAs as well as utilize them in the implementation of selected activities including the following:

- a. Act as pressure groups for the dissemination of provisions of PFRs at national and regional levels
- b. Support the implementation of ministerial decisions
- c. Utilize them as advocacy groups on key issues at national and regional levels, examples in the implementation of relevant global instruments, support the consumption of knowledge products (e.g. policy briefs)

The African Union, through AU-IBAR, would have strong partnership or collaboration with the newly

Table 10: Summary: The support role of platforms and networks

FISHGOV I established a number of platforms and networks that proved essential to achievement of project objectives. Based on lessons learnt from FISHGOV I, the following platforms and networks will now be taken forward in support of the project. They are:		
Platform/ Network	Short Description and rationale	Specific role in support of project outcomes and activities
APRIFAAS	A convening platform that groups all RECS, RFBS, WBCS & LME- based organizations as well as NSAs in a general assembly format. Meets annually or more often as required	APRIFAAS will support Objective 2.1.: Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels in order to maintain healthy and resilient marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems in the context of climate change with specific reference to Ensure cross-regional/trans-regional coherence of RECs and RFBs strategies and facilitate their institutional anchorage, in line with the PFRS (2.1.2).. the RECs and RFBs are also included in Output 2.2 Capacities of Member States, RECs and RFBs to develop realistic sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies in coherence with the PFRS are strengthened
Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa	Network linking over 100 researchers, policy practitioners and government officials from across the continent in support of the PFRS – comprises of academia, practitioners, NSAs, women and youth groups	The Policy Research Network will provide expert support with respect to the following activities: Activity 2.2.3. Mainstream fisheries and aquaculture in NAIPs, RAIPs and existing and emerging initiatives; Activity 2.2.1 Develop capacities and provide technical support to MSs and RECs to develop strategies/ investment plans (similar to CAADP process) on relevant guidelines and frameworks;
Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF)	Comprised of AU member states institutions (focal points in each ministry for aquaculture). Secretariat located at AU-IBAR	ANAF members can support activity 2.2.5. Promote uptake and implementation of knowledge, innovations and best practices (including those generated by FISHGOVI and FishTrade) to inform policy change at national and regional levels; with specific regards to aquaculture value chains as well as advocacy for uptake of innovations e.g. environmental frameworks for sustainable aquaculture; aquaculture business model and extension models
AWFISHNET (African women fish processors and traders network)	AWFISHNET groups together over 50 women engaged commercially in fish trade from across the continent with key women officials and policy practitioners	AWFISHNET will support: Activity 2.2.5. Promote uptake and implementation of knowledge, innovations and best practices to inform policy change at national and regional levels

Platform/ Network	Short Description and rationale	Specific role in support of project outcomes and activities
		AWFISHNET, like the regional NSAs, and other networks would benefit from this activity 1.2.2. Support rationalization of existing platforms and networks, ensure institutional anchorage at relevant level, enhance their capacities and use them to implement identified activities / pilot projects;
Regional NSA platforms	These platforms covering West Africa; East Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa provide direct links into the professional organizations active within the fisheries and aquaculture sector	The Regional NSA platforms will support Activity 1.5.1 Develop and operationalize an effective communication and advocacy strategy; will support Activity 2.2.5. Promote uptake and implementation of knowledge, innovations and best practices (including those generated by FishGov and Fish Trade) to inform policy change at national and regional levels;

endorsed African Union Centres of Excellence. The Action would endeavour as far as possible to utilize their technical expertise in various disciplines to implement selected activities including:

- Establishment of a data repository and building capacities of AU member states
- To conduct foresight studies on critical elements in fisheries and aquaculture (climate changes and biodiversity, food security, MPAs, GDPs etc)
- Production of knowledge products and capacity building activities
- Formulation of mechanism for enhancing collaboration
- Piloting innovations and mechanism for uptake
- Prepare and implement capacity development activities and training.

The services of other specialized institutions as well as experts of the AFRM would be engaged, where it becomes necessary, for the implementation of selected activities.

4. Project management

4.1. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will be responsible for overall management and coordination of the Action, under the leadership of the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture who will provide political leadership. The implementation partners of the Action will be AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD; based on each partner's mandate, comparative advantage and division of responsibilities. Clear repartition of tasks will be specified at contract level.

The Action shall establish a project coordinating committee, to ensure coherence in the implementation of activities by the implementing partners and other institutions. This committee shall be composed of Action implementing partners and will act as the project planning, monitoring and coordination platform and shall ordinarily meet twice a year.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC), comprising among others the European Commission representatives,

shall be set up to oversee and validate the overall direction and policy of the Action, including adoption of annual work-plans and related implementation reports. It is chaired by Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture and shall meet once a year, ideally after budget guidelines are issued by the AUC Chairperson so that annual work-plans are developed in accordance with budgeting provisions and priorities contained in the annual budget framework papers. The composition shall include Representative AU member states (one representative from each of the five regions of Africa), Representatives from RECs (one representative from each REC), representative RFBs, AU Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture, Representative NSA platforms, private sector, Representative women and youth groups. Development or technical partners, e.g. FAO, UNEP, who are stakeholders, shall also be members of the project steering committee as observers.

The Steering Committee will be an advisory body. It will have the mandate to provide strategic and policy guidance, and to review past performances and approve annual work plans and recommend the adoption of its budgets. Specifically, the Steering Committee will:

- Advise the Project Management on strategy taking an overview of the shape, direction and implementation of the project to meet its objectives;
- Review and approve annual work plans and endorse periodic reports;
- Review and advice on the strategic direction of the project to ensure its activities are demand-led;

4.2. Performance and Results monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partners' responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the Action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the Action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix (for project modality).

The Action would develop an M&E framework that would serve as a guide for Action implementation and management so that implementers, target groups, beneficiaries and other stakeholders understand the objectives and targets they are responsible for achieving and are also aware of their progress towards meeting those objectives and targets during implementation. AU-IBAR has Projects and Programmes Unit (PPU) which incorporates M&E activities. The Unit has well-qualified and experienced M&E as well as planning experts that support projects within AU-IBAR. The Action would, in addition, recruit and assign an M&E staff dedicated to the Action. The M&E staff would develop an M&E plan to monitor the implementation of project activities in relation to the project logframe. For the practical execution of project/programme M&E, AU-IBAR has adopted the log-frame approach and all project/programme indicators are interlinked to the indicators of its Strategic Plan as dictated by good RB management practice.

Relevant PFRS, Agenda 2063 and SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators as for

instance per Joint Programming document should be taken into account.

The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the Action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the Action implementation. The Action would align its reporting systems with the New EU open system (OPSYS) for management and monitoring of EU Actions. OPSYS is the new one-stop-shop for the effective and efficient management of the entire EU external relations portfolio of Actions (projects, programmes) throughout the project cycle, from programming to evaluation and audit.

The EU Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

4.3. Evaluation

Besides an internal M&E evaluation, the Action would in addition engage external evaluation to undertake periodic evaluation of the Action implementation, efficiency and effectiveness and propose recommendations for enhanced project performance.

Having regard to the nature of the Action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this Action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the EU Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the identified outputs and allocation of tasks between partners.

The final or ex-post evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that this support to AU is an important element of the EU support to fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa.

The EU Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the relevant AU member states and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the EU Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the relevant AU member states, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

4.4. Audit

Annual Audits would be carried out by AU-IBAR. In addition, verifications may be carried out by the EC. The relevant expenditures are catered for under “Evaluations and Audits” at the end of the Budget Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the EU Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments.

4.5. *Communication and visibility*

AU-IBAR has a regular Communication Officer and a Senior Knowledge Management Officer. Both members of staff will be at the service of the Action. In addition AUDA-NEPAD also has very strong communication team that will be at the service of the Action. There will be collaboration with AUC Directorate of Information and Communication to ensure communication activities are aligned within the framework of AUC plans.

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This Action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation in line with EU template. The overall visibility and communication objectives would be to:

- Enhance the communication and visibility of and promote the Project;
- Establish a feasible and efficient system of communication to contribute to knowledge creation and to policy and decision-making in the field of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- Inform stakeholders about the project activities and outcomes and raise awareness on the key issues addressed by the project among all stakeholders and beneficiaries, while assuring effective communication within the management and funding agency and with other relevant actors outside the project management
- Advocate for stronger and better coordination among institutions mandated with governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- Promote behavioural change and perception among stakeholders on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing practices which arise from weak monitoring, control and surveillance;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among the project partners, relevant external actors, and final beneficiaries.
- Ensure visibility of the funding agency (EU) and the implementation partners (AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD)

Within the framework of the fisheries governance project, AU-IBAR, in partnership with AUDA-NEPAD and the Information and Communication Directorate of AUC, and with financial support from the European Union, some of the key messages that the Action will disseminate are on:

- Illegal and unregulated fishing practices; capacity building in policy formulation; and institutional strengthening for sustainable management, rational utilization and profitable exploitation and conservation of fisheries and aquaculture resources.
- The importance of the fisheries and aquaculture and their prevalent trans-boundary nature that calls

for coordinated and harmonized policy and plans to ensure sustainable management and growth.

- The importance for African Member States to invest on the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources and support the implementation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa as well as relevant global fisheries management and aquaculture development instruments.
- The significance of fisheries and aquaculture resources on food and nutrition security, incomes and livelihoods of Africa's populations.
- The imperative of safeguarding fisheries and aquaculture resources from the very negative effects of IUU, pollution, siltation and erosion, water extraction and diversion, hydroelectric development and draining of wetlands.
- The value of sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources to avoid negative impacts on the environment
- The importance for fisheries communities to respect child and women rights and protect themselves from diseases such as HIV.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

5. ANTICIPATED IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY:

- The successful accomplishment of the project would result in evidence-based decision making with regards to fisheries and aquaculture by policy organs of the African Union. The source of high quality data would also be available to the stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including AU member states, RECs, RFBs etc for sustainable governance of the sector
- Coordination and institutional collaboration would be enhanced and broadened between regional institutions to include RECS, RFBs, RSC and RFMOs, WBC. This would result in synergies in the governance of the sector especially at regional levels for sustainable management of shared fish stocks.
- Improved governance of the fishery and aquaculture sectors would be ensured through fostering policy coherence, accountability as well as ratification and adoption of international best practices and global instruments by AU member states and RECs.
- Sustainable exploitation of fish stocks and responsible aquaculture practices would improve through capacity building in fisheries management approaches or tools and aquaculture practices by provisions of policy briefs, advocacy notes, access to quality data and information and foresight studies.
- Improved governance and management practices would impact on increased contribution of the sector to GDP, economic growth, food security and livelihoods and social welfare, food safety, including employment, in the long-time.
- Participatory, inclusive approaches and transparency in the governance of the sector would be enhanced through active, effective and coordinated stakeholders (the NSAs platforms, AWFISHNET, MOSFA, ANAF, PRNFAA)
- The visibility of the importance of the sector in national development, food security, and social

cohesion would be increased and public sector support or allocation enhanced through establishment of the culture of engagement and consultation between the fisheries and aquaculture sector with other sectors such as finance, public health, trade, judiciary, foreign affairs ministries or departments at member states level. The increased public and private investments in the sector through increased visibility of the sector in national and regional investment plans

- Increased recognition of African fisheries and aquaculture in global fora through effective coherent African voice
- Enhanced partnership and coordination between African Union and European Union on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development

Actions for the sustainability of the project:

Table 11: risks and assumptions

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Insufficient commitment and cooperation by the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Fisheries Bodies for effective participation in the action implementation.	M	Promote institutional collaboration between RECs and RFBs. Provide targeted support to RECs/RFBs in their effort to develop regional policies consistent with the PFRS.
Poor commitment of AU Member States for programme implementation at national levels due to limited capacity	H	Provide targeted support to AU member states engaged in policy reform. Promote success stories, show return on investment and concrete results. Conduct regular consultative processes with national stakeholders to engage them in the project implementation.
Limited donor coordination and synergies with other interventions	M	Map relevant initiatives and ensure regular dialogue with donors. AU institutions are invited to the steering committees of EU funded regional programmes.
Lack of synergies between the different AU institutions and policies	M	Organise regular coordination meetings with AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD and relevant AU departments.
Insufficient sectoral policy dialogue between the EU and AU	M	Organisation of an annual policy dialogue involving competent Commission services
Incidences of outbreaks of highly contagious endemic or pandemic diseases (e.g. COVID 19)	M	Organize virtual meetings. Project staff to adopt safety measures and conduct among stakeholders training, awareness and sensitization campaigns; another mitigation measures would be utilization of national and regional consultants to facilitate national and regional workshops as well as validate project studies
Assumptions:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the AU institutional reform, including a better coordination between national, regional and continental African institutions and a clear division of labour based on subsidiarity, complementarity, comparative advantage and burden sharing, is implemented in accordance with the planned timeframe • International momentum on the importance to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to achieve Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 relevant targets is maintained 		

- Within the framework of the AFRM, key outputs and initiatives of the Action would be channelled through the STC process for adoption as AU initiatives. The significance of this high level recognition and adoption is that, AU-IBAR, through the AUC would now be in a stronger position to advocate for mobilization of national, regional and continental resources to implement adopted initiatives and this would ensure financial sustainability from member states contributions to AU. Thus, mainstreaming the outcomes of the Action into AU political processes (STCs and other policy organs of the AU) would

ensure sustainability of the results of the Action.

- The AU institutional reform aims at raising 75% of the Programme budget and 100% of the operating budget from AU MS assessed contributions by levying 0.2% on imported eligible goods. Both political and financial commitments by AU MS should ensure that key investments of FishGov2 would be maintained
- Formulation of Exit Strategy in consultation with stakeholder and partners. In order to ensure sustainability of the Action's foreseen achievements and initiatives at the expiry of the Action support, there would be a need to develop an appropriate exit strategy that would consolidate these achievements as well as rolling out activities on to exiting or identified well thought out future programmes or projects. The exit strategy would be developed jointly with RECS, RFBs and other partners to identify ongoing or planned activities taking into consideration the FishGov 2 activities for possible phasing over at the end of implementation. The specific objectives of the exit strategy are therefore to:
 - Provide mechanism or approach for the sustainability of the achievements of the project
 - Give options for the harmonization, developing synergies, consolidation and sustainability of specific project activities and achievements that have been accomplished
 - Outline in the identification of sustainable financial mechanism and sources of finances for sustainability of the achievements of the project
 - Identify relevant project achievements and a brief review of its importance or impact in terms of stated project objectives
- Inclusive approach involving the RECs, RFBs and RSC particularly would be critical in ensuring the sustainability of the project. The strategy would be to generate synergies between the project activities and ongoing or planned activities of the regional and continental institutions. The support to regular convening of APPRIFAAS would bring about harmonization of workplans and complementarities in activities with members of this continental platform. Promoting inclusiveness through collaboration with the regional institutions of member states (RECs and RFBs) in project implementation and creating expanded, broad-based project steering committees would facilitate continuity of project actions. Additionally, the RECs would be supported to undertake certain responsibilities such as identification of regional value chains, monitoring the implementation of PFRS by AU MS aligned with the CAADP process (which they are already key partners). The support will be on need basis and managed by AU-IBAR. Facilitating institutional anchorage between RECs and RFBs is a strategic mechanism for RECs to consider financing the RFBs annually as their specialized technical regional bodies in charge of fisheries and aquaculture
- Adopting regular consultative process within the framework of AFRM involving annual fora of AU member states and deliberating on fisheries and aquaculture issues would engender ownership of the project outcomes among the stakeholders. These fora would comprise of Directors of fisheries, RECs, RFBs, NSAs with the objective of discussing critical issues, define and agree on the development agenda of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- Supporting the AU member states to ensure fisheries and aquaculture issues are mainstreamed in national development plans or strategies would promote sustainability of project outcomes and investments. The project would endeavour to identify ongoing or planned activities of AU member states for synergizing with project activities in phasing out
- Capacity building is the accepted norm in development theory for ensuring sustainability of project

achievements since it is mainly about enhancing knowledge and competencies. The project has training activities, for example, in negotiation skills, fish disease surveillance, blue economy concept, evidence-based decision making; a substantial component is also represented by knowledge generation and dissemination through policy briefs, advocacy notes and messages on critical fisheries and aquaculture. The knowledge acquired through implementation of these activities would be retained in the administration of fisheries and aquaculture on the continent. These activities would be underpinned by developing training tools or information package on key issues in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains (e.g. MPAs, EAF, user-right etc)

- The Action has a component dealing with awareness enhancing to mainstream fisheries and aquaculture in climate change adaptation plan. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy identified environmental sustainability as a key vector for Africa blue economy development. The rolling of this Strategy would therefore assist the AU member states to incorporate environmental sustainability in their national blue economy strategies.
- Utilization of AU recognized institutions, such as Centres of Excellence, will help to ensure the long-term sustainability and accumulation of institutional memory. This will also ensure that they disseminate achievements on past and on-going initiatives supporting fishery and aquaculture within the networks that they already have. The role of the EU and the African Union will also obviously be made visible and the funds expended on these two Action (FishGov 1 and 2) will have a longer-term impact as FishGov 1 and 2 will become embedded in these institutions.

APPENDIXES

Appendix I: Logframe Matrix (for project modality)

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact (Overall Objective)	The overall objective of the action is to enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources to the achievement of AU Agenda 2063 objectives notably in terms of food security, livelihoods and wealth creation	O1. Average fish consumption per capita O2. Number of jobs in fisheries and aquaculture sector O3. Percentage of fisheries and aquaculture contribution to agricultural GDP in Africa	FAO/World Bank/AU reports	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1 (Specific Objective)	1. African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are evidence based	1.1 Number of fisheries and aquaculture policy documents and briefs discussed and approved by AU and RECs policy organs 1.2 Number of fisheries and aquaculture performance reports measuring PFRS implementation based on indicators	1.1 Policy documents and briefs publicly available 1.2 Performance reports publicly available	The AU institutional reform doesn't put into question the role played by the AUC-DREA, AU-IBAR and AUDA-NPCA on fisheries and aquaculture issues.
Outputs SO1	1.1 AU stakeholders have access to quality knowledge products on African fisheries and aquaculture 1.2 Existing platforms and networks are reviewed, rationalised and operationalized for effective participation of stakeholders in policy development and implementation 1.3 A solid reporting system to STC on the implementation of the PFRS is put in place and integrated to CAADP process 1.4 Mechanisms are developed to ensure that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are mainstreamed in the development of AU policies / initiatives affecting the sector. 1.5 Advocacy is improved and awareness created about the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	1.1.1 Number of users accessing articles / reports publicly available on the AU repository (disaggregated by country) 1.2.1 Number of functional reviews conducted 1.3.1 The status of the reporting system and of indicators to monitor PFRS implementation 1.4.1 Number of policy contributions drafted and made available to other AU services 1.5.1 Number of communication products published (by type) 1.5.2 Number of policy makers reached with communication products (by country)	1.1.1 Annual report 1.2.1 Final functional reviews publicly available 1.3.1 Annual report 1.4.1 Annual report 1.5.1 Annual report (based on social medias and websites statistics)	Momentum on CAADP is maintained Collaboration between AU services is not impeded by reorganisation
Outcome 2 (Specific Objective)	2. Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels in order to maintain healthy and resilient marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems in the context of climate change	2.1 Number of RECs that adopted PFRS-aligned regional fisheries and aquaculture policies 2.2 2 Number of countries that adopted PFRS-aligned fisheries and aquaculture policies 2.3 Number of institutionalised cooperation agreements signed between RECs, RFBs and/or RSC.	1.3 Draft policy documents 1.4 Draft policy documents 1.5 Cooperation agreements	The AU institutional reform, including a better coordination between national, regional and continental African institutions and clear division of labour based on subsidiarity complementarity, comparative advantage and burden sharing, is implemented in accordance with the planned timeframe.
Outputs SO2	2.1 Capacities and systems for regional collaboration and integration regarding shared fisheries and aquaculture resources management are improved and linkages with environmental governance frameworks are enhanced 2.2 Capacities of Member states, RECs and RFBs to develop realistic sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies in coherence with PFRS are strengthened 2.3 Capacities are strengthened to facilitate intra and inter regional fish trade in line with the regional integration trade agenda and the Protocol on Trade in Goods of the ACFTA	2.1.1 Number of AFRIPAAS meetings 2.2.1 Number of NAIPs and RAIPs including fisheries and aquaculture 2.3.1 Number of RECs having adopted harmonised standards for fish trade	2.1.1 Minutes of meetings publicly available 2.2.1 NAIPs and RAIPs publicly available 2.3.1 RECs' decisions	Momentum on CAADP is maintained Momentum on ACFTA is maintained
Outcome 3 (Specific Objective)	3. Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture for and ably domesticates relevant global instruments	3.1 Number of international fisheries and aquaculture fora where African common positions are presented for adoption 3.2 State of domestication of fisheries and aquaculture global instruments in AU Member States	1.1 Proposals submitted to international organisations 1.2 AU monitoring table	International momentum on the importance to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to achieve Agenda 2030 relevant targets is maintained.

Outputs SO3	3.1 Capacity of AU Member States – incl. SIDS – in terms of international negotiations are increased and a mechanism is put in place to coordinate positions	3.1.1 Change in the number of African common positions facilitated by the AU in various international fisheries and aquaculture fora	3.1.1 Annual report	Regular AU-EU summits continue to be organised
	3.2 Mechanisms are put in place to encourage and facilitate the domestication of global instruments and initiatives at continental, regional and national levels	3.2.1 Number of global and continental initiatives supported by the action for domestication at continental, regional and national levels	3.2.1 Annual report	
	3.3 Capacities of AU Member States are strengthened to effectively articulate African positions on fisheries and aquaculture in the AU-EU dialogue	3.3.1 Number of AU-EU declarations referring to fisheries and aquaculture	3.3.1 Declarations adopted	

Appendix 2: Workplan

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Inception and closure					
Inception phase workshop					
Drafting of the exit strategy					
Continental closure workshop					
SO1: African Union decisions on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies are evidence based					
Output 1.1 AU stakeholders have access to quality knowledge products on African fisheries and aquaculture					
Output 1.2 Existing platforms and networks are reviewed, rationalised and operationalized for effective participation of stakeholders in policy development and implementation					
Output 1.3 A solid reporting system to STC on the implementation of the PFRS is put in place and integrated to CAADP process					
Output 1.4 Mechanisms are developed to ensure that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are mainstreamed in the development of AU policies / initiatives affecting the sector					
Output 1.5 Advocacy is improved and awareness created about the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture					
OS2 Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the PFRS and coordinated at continental, regional and national levels in order to maintain healthy and resilient marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems in the context of climate change					
Output 2.1 Capacities and systems for regional collaboration and integration regarding shared fisheries and aquaculture resources management are improved and linkages with environmental governance frameworks are enhanced					
Output 2.2 Capacities of Member States, RECs and RFBs to develop realistic sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies in coherence with the PFRS are strengthened					
Output 2.3 Capacities are strengthened to facilitate intra and inter regional fish trade in line with the regional integration trade agenda and the Protocol on Trade in Goods of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area					
SO3. Africa is adequately represented and effectively participates in international fisheries and aquaculture fora and ably domesticates relevant global instruments					
Output 3.1 Capacities of AU Member States – including SIDS - in terms of international negotiations are increased and a mechanism is put in place to coordinate African common positions					
Output 3.2 Mechanisms are put in place to encourage and facilitate the domestication of global instruments and initiatives at continental, regional and national levels					
Output 3.3 – Capacities of AU Member States are strengthened to effectively articulate African positions on fisheries and aquaculture in the AU-EU dialogue					



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