FishGov2 Key Achievements and Remaining Priorities

This synthesis brings together the main achievements under FishGov2's three specific objectives and the priorities for sustaining them beyond project closure. The overall objective is to enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to food security, livelihoods and economic development in Africa through improved governance.

1. Evidence based decision making

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Knowledge and research	Produced studies, policy briefs and technical tools through the AFRM process, translating research and technical meeting findings into policy messages. All the knowledge products are accessible using this link *https://repository.au-ibar.org/collections/2f4a555a-6709-4aa2-935b-8724a607d734/search* Produced foresight studies on climate change, gender equality, food security and nutrition within the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Undertook study on the Economic Valuation of Ecosystem (Marine and Inland Aquatic) Goods and Services, and Climate Change Risks to Fisheries and Aquaculture in Five African Aquatic Ecosystems. Produced reports on the state of fish stock assessments covering the Western Indian Ocean (FAO 51), Mediterranean (FAO 37), African inland waters (FAO 01), Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO 34) and Southeast Atlantic (FAO 47), together with a summary report. Expanded the dissemination and accessibility of project evidence through policy-oriented communication, web content, interviews, multimedia products and documentation of field-level implementation.	Strengthen dissemination and practical use of knowledge products and research recommendations in policy reform and implementation, including through CoEs, networks and platforms. Continue policy-oriented communication, web content, interviews, multimedia products and documentation of implementation to make evidence accessible and usable.

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Data and economic valuation	Developed AFAData and supported rollout in 12 Member States: seven initial pilot countries and six additional countries supported in 2026—Egypt, Madagascar, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Tunisia. Continental capacity-building activities targeted Member States and RECs. AFAData received STC-ARDWE endorsement in October 2025 and AU Assembly endorsement in February 2026. Following recommendations from the 2014 Value of African Fisheries study, developed a Gross Value Added (GVA) methodology, training manual and questionnaire and validated by 26 AU MS. These tools support planning, investment, CAADP reporting and the planned update of the study.	Expand AFAData coverage and sustain user support, data collection, quality assurance and regular reporting. Complement its sector statistics with the biological and population data required for stock assessment. Production and launching of the 1st biennial report on status of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture Support Member States and regional bodies to institutionalise the valuation toolkit for sector contribution analysis, planning, advocacy and investment. Harmonise GVA with AFAData to inform CAADP Biennial Review reporting, using complementary indicators for employment, gender and other socioeconomic dimensions.
CAADP reporting and cross-sector coordination	Contributed to the post-Malabo CAADP agenda, Biennial Review processes and drafting of a Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Performance Index for the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035. Supported technical engagement with regional agricultural investment planning. Strengthened cross-sector coordination and awareness of fisheries and aquaculture within wider AU priorities, including blue economy, food systems, trade, infrastructure, climate resilience, maritime security, health, gender and youth, peace and security. Engaged planning, finance, trade and investment stakeholders on the sector's contribution to development.	Complete development, testing and validation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Performance Index and institutionalise its application to support monitoring and reporting under the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035 at the national level. Support establishment of CAADP subcommittee on fisheries and aquaculture at national level in support of the CAADP country team

2. Technical capacity and AU policy recognition

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Centres of Excellence and technical capacity	Supported the African Union Network of Centres of Excellence in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Biodiversity (AUN-CEFAAB), including four network meetings, research cooperation, training, knowledge exchange and resource sharing. Supported development of draft Rules of Procedure, strategic and operational planning instruments. Supported AU endorsement of six additional CoEs to the original eight endorsed CoEs: two in aquaculture, one in aquatic animal health and three in aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem management. Supported strengthening of training and research capacity through specialised equipment for seven CoEs.	Finalise and harmonise the network's governance, strategic and operational instruments; clarify coordination between its Bureau, member institutions, AU-IBAR Secretariat and collaboration modalities with other AU organs and partners. Mobilise sustainable financing and investment and promote shared use of equipment, joint assignments and clearer arrangements for joint bidding and shared expertise. Explore continuing professional development and specialised African postgraduate programmes, with targeted opportunities for women and youth.
AU policy decisions and institutional recognition	Supported submission and endorsement of project-supported outputs through AU policy organs, including the continental PPP strategy, the framework on harmonised minimum conditions of access to fisheries, AFRIFISH-NET, ANAF, the aquatic animal health and biosecurity framework, AFAData and additional CoEs. AU policy decisions provide an institutional basis for follow-up beyond the project.	Translate endorsed outputs into institutional responsibilities, operational arrangements and funded implementation plans. Mobilise resources for implementation and monitor follow-up to the relevant AU decisions.

3. Policy coherence and institutional coordination

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Policy alignment and national domestication	Supported policy alignment and national consultation processes in 18 Member States under FishGov2, bringing cumulative FishGov1 and FishGov2 coverage to 28 Member States. Reviews addressed the PFRS, relevant international instruments and climate change frameworks. Prepared a continental Biennial Status Report on implementation of the PFRS to assess progress, identify implementation gaps and inform future policy and technical support. Supported work in 18 Member States on integrating fisheries and aquaculture into National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs and RAIPs). Supported development of the COMESA regional fisheries and aquaculture policy framework and reform strategy, preparation and validation of the CEBEVIRHA strategic and action plan.	Extend policy alignment support, strengthen legislative review, and complete outstanding validation and adoption processes. Translate aligned policies into funded strategies and investment priorities, integrating climate resilience and environmental considerations into NAIPs, RAIPs and successor agrifood systems investment plans. Finalise and validate the PFRS indicator handbook and strengthen implementation monitoring under the CAADP Kampala framework, in coordination with the Sector Performance Index work. Consider support to additional regional fisheries bodies, including COREP, based on needs and resources.
Regional coordination and implementation partnerships	Supported APRIFAAS as a coordination mechanism linking RECs, regional fisheries bodies, regional sea conventions and other regional institutions with continental and national processes. Supported coordination meetings, policy alignment, technical cooperation and regional dialogue, including development of the APRIFAAS Strategic Action Plan and Resource Mobilisation Plan.	Implement the APRIFAAS Strategic Action Plan and Resource Mobilisation Plan, with clear responsibilities, regular coordination and follow-up on agreed actions. Strengthen institutional anchorage and sustainable financing; assess the need for regional coordination arrangements linked to APRIFAAS.

4. Inclusive participation and market access

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Inclusive stakeholder participation and continental networks	Reconstituted the AFRM into four thematic working groups: governance, aquaculture, small-scale fisheries and fish trade. Supported establishment and AU recognition of AFRIFISH-NET, including its second General Assembly and gathered inputs for the draft strategic action plan and second ten year action plan for small scale fisheries in Africa. Supported AWFISHNET operationalisation, a General Assembly and national chapter expansion, including Cabo Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe in 2026. Built capacity of women's cooperatives, associations and chapter representatives in business development, processing and trade, financing, advocacy and networking; developed an advocacy and awareness strategy for AWFISHNET. Supported ANAF governance and its 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, two General Assemblies, and continental aquaculture positions through its 10th and 11th Technical Committee meetings. Used World Aquaculture and African Aquaculture Conferences (AFRAQ) for policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement. At World Aquaculture Safari 2025 in Kampala, convened the 11th ANAF Technical Committee meeting, promoted the strategy and gathered inputs for the next continental Aquaculture Action Plan, including through the "Aquaculture on the Rise: Africa's Perspective" session. Advanced collaboration with the World Aquaculture Society African Chapter on research, training, networking, technical exchange and joint events; initiated partnership efforts with NACA. Supported PRNFAA research-policy dialogue and links with AFRM working groups. Supported the African SIDS fisheries and aquaculture platform, including five meetings, strategic planning and articulation of island priorities in international fora.	Sustain network operations and national engagement beyond project funding; strengthen representation and leadership of small-scale fishers, producers, women and youth. Implement ANAF's Strategic Plan, strengthen resource mobilisation and knowledge sharing, and support follow-up towards the second AU Aquaculture Action Plan. Validate and operationalise SIDS Strategic Action Plan and workplan, and support implementation. Continue supporting women-led organisations to develop business and investment plans and community-based capacity-building programmes. Strengthen equitable access to national and regional markets under AfCFTA, and expand their reach through networking and advocacy. Document participation and resulting policy influence more consistently. Joint resource mobilization for the formulation and implementation of the ten year action plan for small scale fisheries

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Fish trade and market access	Supported technical work and policy dialogue on intra-African fish trade, market access and sanitary and phytosanitary requirements in relation to AfCFTA. Linked trade facilitation with aquaculture development, aquatic animal health and biosecurity cooperation.	Translate trade facilitation recommendations into practical measures and investment priorities. Strengthen cooperation between competent authorities and RECs, application of relevant sanitary standards and market access for small-scale producers, women and youth.

5. Aquatic animal health and biosecurity

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Aquatic animal health and biosecurity	In collaboration with WOAH, supported two Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks (RAAHNs), launched in North Africa in April 2023 and Southern Africa in July 2023, and the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network for Africa (RAAHLN-AF), launched in December 2023. Supported the first Steering Committee meetings of the North and Southern African networks in 2025, related policy messages, and the Southern African network's first General Assembly. Its validated action plan was endorsed by the 43rd SADC Fisheries Technical Committee in 2026. Mapped aquatic animal vaccine distribution and use, assessed aquatic animal health diagnostic services, and gathered stakeholder input for a continental aquatic animal health strategy. These findings informed technical contributions to WOAH and FAO processes on research, biosecurity, antimicrobial use and resistance, vaccines, and engagement with African Chief Veterinary Officers. Supported WOAH capacity-building activities for aquatic animal health and AMR focal points. Supported follow-up to AU policy directions on multisectoral One Health cooperation and continental aquatic animal health and vaccine strategies. AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC submitted a joint paper for possible publication in the WOAH Scientific and Technical Review.	Develop and implement continental aquatic animal health, biosecurity and vaccine strategies, drawing on the surveys and a One Health approach. Institutionalise existing RAAHNs with RECs, mobilise sustainable financing and extend regional coverage where needed. Operationalise RAAHLN-AF and its action plan; strengthen diagnostics, surveillance, early warning, disease preparedness and response. Support AU-PANVAC and partner institutions to apply survey recommendations and strengthen risk-based biosecurity and safe trade.

6. African participation in international fora

Focus area	Key achievements	Remaining priorities
Africa's voice in international processes	Strengthened the African Voice mechanism through structured preparation for threer FAO Committee on Fisheries sessions (COFI 35–37) and participation in intersessional meetings. Supported the African Group of Rome-based Ambassadors through three background briefing documents in English, French and Portuguese, 44 common position and coordination of African participation in side events. Presented African positions and technical contributions in 19 international fora and processes during the project period including UNOC, OOC, UNFSA, G20 Sherpa Track, Ocean20 and Youth20 processes, and supported AWFISHNET members' participation in the 2025 G20 processes. Promoted fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic foods in continental and global food-system policy processes, including the CAADP Kampala agenda and UN Food Systems Summit processes, highlighting their contribution to food security, nutrition, resilience, livelihoods and economic development. Aquaculture conference inputs complemented this engagement.	Sustain preparation and coordination between meetings and strengthen follow-up on commitments and their translation into regional and national action. Maintain structured technical support for African representatives and stakeholder participation mechanisms. Adapt the coordination approach used for FAO COFI to other relevant global processes, with clear institutional responsibilities and financing.

Overall lesson and transition priority

FishGov2 strengthened the policy frameworks, technical tools and institutional partnerships supporting fisheries and aquaculture governance in Africa. The next priority is funded implementation, sustained national use and measurable sector results, supported by clear institutional ownership, continued technical assistance, functioning data systems and viable networks.

AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD can jointly connect fisheries governance tools with wider AU implementation and investment systems. Data, economic valuation, sector performance monitoring, technical expertise and stakeholder networks should be used together to inform national planning, CAADP Kampala reporting, investment priorities and AU decisions, while completing outstanding validation, adoption and operationalisation tasks.



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