

ACP Fisheries Mechanism:

Partnerships for Fisheries Development

Strategic Plan of Action
for Fisheries and Aquaculture

2012-2016

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Foreword

This strategic Plan of Action represents the culmination of 2 years work for the ACP Fisheries Mechanism. ACP Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture identified the need for a more structured approach to their work at their 2nd Meeting in 2010 in the Seychelles. I am proud to see the resulting Plan adopted at the 3rd Meeting of Ministers here in Fiji.

The plan brings together a set of Strategic Priorities and Actions for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors of ACP countries. It has been prepared in a way that can serve to guide all ACP countries, while at the same time providing flexibility for states to move forward according to their own circumstances, priorities and resources.

The Strategic Plan of Action rightly identifies the need to build partnerships to support implementation. I hope that donors and other partners will put their support behind the strategy, so that we can see real progress over the five years to 2016.

I commend this Strategy to all ACP members and partners.

Chair of the 3rd ACP Meeting of Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Fiji
2012

2 Background

In June 2008 the 87th African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Council of Ministers called for: *"a first meeting of the ACP Ministers responsible for Fisheries to be convened not later than the first quarter of the year 2009, with a view, inter alia, to establishing a ministerial mechanism for ACP coordination and cooperation on fisheries issues"*.

Accordingly, in 2009 ACP Ministers responsible for fisheries met for the first time to address their collective interests in fisheries and aquaculture. At that meeting, Ministers took the significant step of establishing the ACP Ministerial Fisheries Mechanism. Ministers resolved that:

"The overall Objective and functions of the Fisheries mechanism is to shore up political support, both within the group and from its external partners, for new approaches to fisheries governance and cooperation in fisheries, in order to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture play their just part in the social and economic development of ACP member states."

ACP Ministers responsible for Fisheries met for a second time in November 2010 in the Seychelles. Ministers took the further step to:

"mandate the ACP Fishery Mechanism to put in place a 5-year strategic plan of action which will include collaboration with new and established partners and explore the ways and means to guarantee regular and sustainable financing for [the plan]."

In line with these Ministerial resolutions, this Plan has been developed to describe strategic priorities and actions for the Fisheries Mechanism for the period 2012-2016.

The Strategic Plan of Action is set out in two parts:

- **Part 1** provides the overall context, vision and strategic priorities.
- **Part 2** focuses on implementation and actions.

The Plan, priorities and actions will be reviewed at 2-yearly intervals to ensure that they remain relevant and reflect current ACP priorities for fisheries and aquaculture.

3. The Fisheries Mechanism

The ACP Fisheries mechanism is a tiered arrangement of entities each with different roles and functions as set out below.

Council of Ministers

The Ministerial Fisheries Mechanism formally reports to the ACP Council of Ministers, which is the main decision-making body of the ACP Group of States.

Ministerial Mechanism

The core of the Ministerial Fisheries Mechanism is the annual meeting of ACP Ministers responsible for Fisheries. At each meeting Ministers review progress and consider / adopt new initiatives. In particular, the Meeting of Ministers will review progress, at national and regional level, in addressing the priorities and actions in this Plan.

Ambassadorial Working Group on Fisheries

The ACP Working Group on Fisheries (composed of Brussels-accredited ACP Ambassadors) has been mandated to prepare an annual work plan for the Mechanism, assigning responsibility for specific initiatives. The Working Group on Fisheries is the executive arm of the Ordinary Ministerial Meeting.

ACP Fisheries Fund

The ACP Fisheries Fund has been established to facilitate the functioning and operation of the Fisheries Mechanism. The members of the Working Group on Fisheries are the Trustees of the Fund and supervise its operation.

ACP Secretariat

The ACP Secretariat provides administrative support for the Fisheries Mechanism. The Secretariat employs a Fisheries expert to undertake this role.

The Secretariat has a facilitating role with respect to this Strategic Plan of Action. The Secretariat will act as a communication hub in relation to fisheries and aquaculture, and will monitor progress to inform a two-yearly review of the Strategic Plan of Action.

The Secretariat also administers the ACP Fisheries Fund.

Part 1: Strategy

4. Context and rationale

ACP states wish to enhance the key role that fisheries and aquaculture play in their social and economic development. Fisheries and aquaculture make a significant positive contribution to employment creation, revenue generation, and food security – all of which are crucial for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

More than 60 of the ACP States are engaged in the export of fish, and fishery and aquaculture products to regional and international markets, making these products an important source of foreign exchange earnings for many ACP States.

ACP states recognise that there is great potential to increase the overall contribution of fisheries to social and economic development. Globally, fish products and aquaculture exports fetch in excess of 150 billion USD annually, and have become the most valuable renewable natural resource commodity traded worldwide. While the international trade in fisheries products has grown tenfold in value since the mid-seventies, ACP States provide only a 3% share (in value) of this global trade.

According to FAO estimates, global consumption of fish, currently at 140 million tonnes, is likely to reach 200 million tonnes by 2030. The market is looking to aquaculture to provide this increased volume of fish products, acknowledging that many wild fisheries are already fully exploited.

There is global concern about the management of wild capture fisheries. The sector faces many problems including vast overcapacity of global fishing fleets, high incidence of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, heavily exploited fish stocks, and an entirely forfeited global resource rent. Management models for wild fisheries have been described as 'dysfunctional'. In addition, there are concerns about pollution, habitat destruction and global climate change all adversely affecting wild fisheries.

Increasing ACP participation in fisheries production and trade faces additional challenges, including:

- Uncertain market access and stringent export requirements;
- Limited resources and capacity of governments to undertake effective fisheries management, and to implement adequate monitoring, control and surveillance activities;
- Lack of appropriate infrastructure and technical know-how to enable ACP countries to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources, especially in the domain of value-addition;
- Increased competition from non-ACP fish and fishery products;
- Erosion of traditional market preferences, recognizing that the EU is the main or principal market for the exports of fisheries and aquaculture products by ACP States;
- Exposure to the damaging effects of piracy on fishing and maritime security, and
- Particular vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

ACP States are determined to overcome these challenges and to take full advantage of opportunities presented in regional and international fisheries trade and fisheries-related economic and social development.

In developing this Strategic Plan of Action, ACP States recognize the need to address fisheries in pro-active terms at the country and regional levels first so as to maximize the chances for sustainable management of fisheries resources to occur. This requires continued intra-ACP coordination and cooperation. At the same time, meaningful partnerships with ACP development partners, notably the EU, will remain imperative.

5. Vision

The Fisheries Mechanism has adopted the following Vision to describe ACP members' aspirations for developing their fisheries.

ACP countries taking control of their fisheries resources to benefit their people now and into the future.

6. ACP Strategic Priorities

To achieve this vision ACP states have adopted a set of five strategic priorities. These strategic priorities do not stand alone, but are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Strategic Priority 1: Effective Management for sustainable fisheries

The World Bank stated in 2011 that:

The state of global fisheries and aquaculture is characterized by weak governance. This results in the development of excessive fishing capacity, overfishing, and a vast loss of wealth.

Focus on sustaining fish stocks

For ACP States to gain sustainable benefits from wild capture fisheries, the fish stocks themselves must be managed for sustainability. This means that States must work to improve their fisheries governance systems, as these are the fundamental base for sustainable management of fish stocks and all future benefits that flow from them.

Strengthening fisheries management/governance

While circumstances vary between ACP countries, in general, the capacity for effective fisheries management at national level is limited. This Plan therefore highlights the call for States to assess their fisheries management regimes and put in place fisheries management frameworks appropriate to their circumstances. This includes having access to fundamental knowledge/data about fish stocks and fishing activity; the capacity to analyse data and apply it in a management context; a clear understanding of fishing rights; the capacity to control fishing and vessels, and adequate systems for support in the crucial area of compliance (monitoring, control and surveillance).

Addressing key threats

ACP States continue to focus on trans-national issues that undermine effective fisheries management. This Plan calls for specific efforts to address two such issues.

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing has the potential to put fish stocks at risk, as it can undermine attempts to control fishing effort.

Excess fishing capacity is another key risk to fisheries, creating excessive fishing effort and incentives towards over-exploitation of fish stocks as well as undermining profitability. ACP States have emphasised, in the context of the World Trade Organisation, the need for discipline in relation to subsidies that may lead to overcapacity and overfishing by distant water fishing nations.

In addition, in order to avoid excess fishing capacity while addressing the special requirements and development aspirations of small developing states, including in regional high seas, ACP states call for distant water fishing nations to take concrete plans to transfer their fishing effort to coastal states in accordance with the aspirations and capabilities of those coastal states and call for the establishment of mechanisms for broad discussion and agreement amongst stakeholders at regional level to give effect to that in an orderly manner.

Cooperation and coordination

Many wild fisheries are shared between the waters of different states, associated with migratory habits, environmental conditions, or contiguous ecosystems that traverse national boundaries. Effective management of these stocks requires cooperation between states. This Plan therefore calls for increasing use of joint / shared management arrangements for such stocks, and a greater level of participation by ACP States in order to influence Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to support sustainable management. There also needs to be effective coordination between RFMOs and States to bring coherence across national fisheries policies.

ACP States are encouraged to establish their own regional fisheries organisations, where they are not already in place to ensure access to sound science, including, for example data-sharing, and fisheries management advice.

International guidelines

ACP States recognise that fisheries management is a global issue, and accepts the need to conform with international agreements, conventions and guidelines aimed at improving governance to support sustainability.

Strategic Priority 2: Promoting optimal returns from fisheries trade

ACP States are determined to gain the best sustainable returns available from their fisheries and aquaculture resources, and see significant opportunities for development, working off a solid base of strengthened governance (Strategic Priority 1).

The World Bank has stated:

Potential net gains from good governance of capture fisheries are on the order of US\$50 billion per year from improvement in production efficiency alone. When market gains are also considered, sustainable net benefits are estimated to exceed US\$100 billion per year.

Promoting Trade: Access to markets

ACP States have a long-standing relationship with the EU which has included provisions for market access for fisheries products. Over the last decade, fisheries relations between ACP States and the European Union have been subject to a multiplying set of frameworks, including the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, bilateral Fisheries Partnership Agreements and Economic Partnership Agreements. ACP countries are concerned to retain access for fisheries products to the EU markets under favourable conditions (including fair arrangements in relation to Rules of Origin for fisheries products).

Promoting Trade: Technical barriers

For ACP countries, the technical requirements for access present a significant technical barrier to trading in fisheries products. Two EU initiatives are highlighted in particular, relating to Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, and IUU fishing. In each case ACP States seek support in developing the technical capacity to deal with these requirements, and reduce the compliance costs.

Addressing key external causes of value loss

Piracy has been an enormous area of concern for ACP States in recent years. ACP States highlight their call for international action to address piracy and its root causes, as it has the potential to destroy all efforts in the development of the fisheries sector for some States.

Adding value

ACP states wish to move away from being a source of a bulk commodity where most of the value is extracted by others. ACP states seek to develop their fisheries and aquaculture sectors to increase the value added to these products domestically.

There are many aspects of 'adding value'. States can assist by providing a stable regulatory environment, along with appropriate infrastructure to support investment in the sector through all facets of the value chain. This provides the platform for private sector partnerships and joint ventures to develop new markets and innovative products.

The increased interest in sustainability in key markets highlights the benefits of improved governance of fisheries, and provides an opportunity for targeted marketing, branding and eco-labelling initiatives.

Promoting Ancillary Services

There are opportunities to develop service sectors that support core fisheries and aquaculture businesses, for example; port services, bunkering, observer services etc.

Fishing access

Access fees for foreign vessels are an important alternative source of revenue, particularly while States lack the capacity for local processing and marketing. ACP States recognise the need for fishing access agreements to reflect the value, and sustainability, of their fisheries resources.

Strategic Priority 3: Supporting food security in ACP countries

Planning for food security

Populations in ACP Group countries are expected to double by 2050. Fish products from capture fisheries and aquaculture will be increasingly important for nutrition and food security. It is therefore essential for States to plan for future food security, in terms of quantity, quality, continuity of supply, availability and price.

Such planning needs to incorporate population trends, assess the contribution for fisheries products in light of the ongoing focus on better governance of wild fisheries (Strategic Priority 1) and development of aquaculture.

Commercial fisheries and aquaculture support food security

While many commercial fisheries focus on exports, they also contribute directly to nutrition and food security in local markets of ACP States. There are opportunities to increase the utilisation of by-catch species through local market sales.

There is high potential to increase the contribution of Aquaculture to food security on ACP States (Strategic Priority 4).

Artisanal fishing

Artisanal fishing, which plays a key role in the social and nutritional well being of local populations, faces a number of challenges including:

- Competition from larger vessels and fleets,
- increasing emphasis on export for stocks traditionally destined for local markets,
- Displacement of traditional fisheries and loss of access to traditional grounds,
- Lack of codified rights and influence in management decision-making.

This Plan highlights the need to recognise a clear role for local and artisanal fisheries in the context of improved governance of wild stocks.

Local businesses and infrastructure

There is significant scope for improved supply of fish to local markets, from artisanal and commercial/industrial fisheries and aquaculture, through support of local businesses and development of appropriate infrastructure. For example, improved storage, processing and transport can improve product quality and safety, and assist in reducing the high level of post-harvest waste. Opportunities for investment are also to be found in 'aqua-businesses' as aquaculture is progressively seen as a viable enterprise in ACP countries.

Strategic Priority 4: Developing Aquaculture

The global production from aquaculture, including mariculture, has increased dramatically in the last 15 years. Aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production system, increasing at a rate of 8 percent annually. Currently one-half of all food fish supply comes from aquaculture. However most of this increase in production is from Asian countries; according to FAO figures, ACP countries in total produce less than 1% of aquaculture production.

There are many existing programmes and projects to promote aquaculture, particularly in Africa. New initiatives must link with and supplement these existing activities.

A report on the development of aquaculture in ACP countries identified a number of areas to promote aquaculture development in both marine and freshwater systems. In line with the Report's findings, this Plan identifies support for aquaculture production in the following areas.

Regulatory framework

Development of comprehensive national frameworks supportive of aquaculture (including, for example, favourable tax treatment), along with a strategic approach to development.

Infrastructure

Systematic identification of areas with potential for aquaculture, and provision of infrastructure to underpin development (utilities, roading etc).

Technical requirements

Providing the technical know-how and capacity to develop efficient aquaculture businesses. Linking in the necessary feed requirements and quality brood stock to support production.

Market development

Addressing technical requirements for export (as for Strategic Priority 2) as well as promoting market access and targeted marketing tools such as eco-labelling.

Strategic Priority 5: Maintaining the Environment

While Strategic Priority 1 focuses on the core business of managing fisheries, Strategic Priority 5 reflects the increasing concern for the environment in which fishing and aquaculture is conducted.

Over recent decades that has been increasing recognition that activities such as fishing and aquaculture should be viewed in the context of the wider environment. This has led to a move towards management approaches that integrate additional factors into fisheries management. These can range from relatively straightforward assessments within a fisheries context, to consideration of 'Oceans management' across all activities, and long term issues such as climate change.

This Plan provides a practical menu of actions that address selected areas that are important for fisheries and aquaculture and the environments that support these activities.

Ecosystems-based approaches to Fisheries management

There is a growing body of experience in developing ecosystems-based approaches to fisheries management. In general these include consideration of important species linkages and interactions, and management of protected by-catch species.

Coastal zone management

Coastal zones are used for many purposes and coastal fisheries and aquaculture are particularly vulnerable to the effects of other activities, both at sea and on land.

Run-off of pollutants can be highly damaging to near-shore fisheries, and especially so for vulnerable ecosystems like coral reefs.

Near-shore and estuarine areas are important breeding grounds, as well as playing a key role in ecosystem functioning.

Environmental impact assessment

This Plan provides for a range of approaches to assessing the environmental impact of fisheries production. Aquaculture and mariculture initiatives can have a range of impacts

according to the situation and species being reared. If introduced species are being used in aquaculture, they can potentially affect the balance of the indigenous systems in case of escape.

Global environmental change

Climate change is a global and long term issue, and the future effects are poorly understood. There is a need to build in resilience within the management framework to adapt to future changes.

Part 2: Implementation

7. Capacity, Infrastructure and Resources

To build on current initiatives and face the challenges confronting them, ACP countries need to overcome some key constraints that apply across all of the priority areas.

Capacity Development: there is a need for training in the broad range of skills, expertise and know-how necessary to ensure that States have the human capability for effective governance and development of fisheries and aquaculture.

Infrastructure: ACP States have identified the need for development of infrastructure to support participation in the catching and processing sectors, as well as associated storage and transport facilities, including ports.

Resources: ACP States currently lack sufficient resources to support investment and rationalisation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

8. Partnerships for Implementation

ACP states recognise that meaningful partnerships will be needed to provide the expertise, infrastructure and resources to implement this Strategic Plan of Action.

European Union

The ACP countries value their relationship with the European Union highly, and look to this partnership as the first port of call for support in developing their fisheries resources.

EU support for fisheries and aquaculture is identified in the revised Cotonou Agreement which states, in part:

Cooperation programmes and activities shall support, inter alia, the development and implementation of sustainable aquaculture and fisheries development strategies and management plans in ACP countries and regions; the mainstreaming of aquaculture and fisheries into national and regional development strategies; the development of the infrastructure and technical know-how necessary to enable ACP countries to yield maximum sustainable value from their fisheries and aquaculture; capacity building of ACP countries to overcome external challenges that hinder them from taking full

advantage of their fisheries resources; and the promotion and development of joint ventures for investment in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors of ACP countries

ACP countries therefore invite the EU to assist in implementing the actions in this Strategic Plan of Action to promote self sufficiency, facilitate market access, and support ACP states in taking control of their fisheries resources.

Current partners

A range of development partners currently support various fisheries and aquaculture projects. A 2009 report prepared jointly by CDE and CTA identified the donors shown in Table 1. Support also comes from development banks including the Islamic Bank of Development.

Table 1 Main donors for fisheries and aquaculture in ACP countries

| Main Donor support to Fisheries and Aquaculture in ACP Countries 2009 | |
|--|--|
| (source CDE:CTA) | |
| Multilateral Donors | The World Bank; FAO (including Common Fund for Commodities); IFAD; African Development Bank; European Commission; European Investment Bank; CDE. |
| Bilateral Donors | <u>EU member states</u> : Belgium; France; Italy; Spain; United Kingdom; Germany; Sweden; The Netherlands. |
| | <u>Non-EU Bilateral Donors</u> : China; Japan; New Zealand; United States. |
| International government organisations | non- WWF; World Fish Centre; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Practical Action. |

Donor and partner programmes are continually being revised, and new ones initiated. ACP States encourage the development of means to update and expand the range of partner agencies that can complement existing activities.

New Partnerships

In addition to the current partners, ACP States have expressed the intention to identify new partners and partnerships to develop their fisheries and aquaculture sectors, including:

- Development partners
- Investment partners
- Joint ventures in catching/production, processing and marketing
- Market partnerships
- Technical partners

South-South Cooperation

ACP States are increasingly looking to South-South cooperation arrangements to support development.

South-South cooperation (SSC) describes developing countries sharing knowledge, experience, technical prowess, appropriate technologies, financial and in-kind contributions, and other appropriate resources. This can be assisted by developed countries serving to facilitate and foster these South-South linkages via triangular partnerships.

A range of participants may be involved, including the private sector, civil society organizations and academia.

In relation to fisheries and aquaculture, ACP States recognise that there is an untapped reservoir of experience and expertise within the ACP, and other developing nations, which can be brought to bear to support development for all parties.

South-South cooperation may be particularly effective in relation to:

- Regional cooperation in fisheries management
- Joint negotiations on vessel access, market access and terms of trade
- Pooling resources to create 'pools' of expertise available to ACP states
- Shared investments and joint ventures

Coordinated Support

There is a need for effective coordination to ensure efficient delivery of support across the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. With constraints in development funding, it is increasingly important to harmonise development programmes so that national, regional and multilateral efforts are mutually supportive and build on current initiatives.

9. Matrix of Actions

Direct action is needed if ACP States are to make progress on the Priority areas identified in this Plan.

The matrix below presents an array of actions for ACP states. States are not expected to deliver across all of these, but rather address them according to their own national and regional circumstances and priorities, and the resources available to them.

As noted in Section 6, the Strategic Priorities are interlinked, and action in one area may contribute to development in one or several others (for example, improved fisheries management/governance underpins the value available from the resource; aquaculture development contributes to food security and so on).

The matrix incorporates certain actions specified in Resolutions adopted by the first two Meetings of Ministers responsible for Fisheries held in 2009 and 2010. These actions are identified by a reference in square brackets citing the relevant Meeting and Resolution.

For example the reference [M1:R8] refers to the 1st Meeting of Ministers; Resolution 8.

Table 2: Summary Strategic Priorities and Key Result Areas

| | Strategic Priority 1 Effective Management for Sustainable Fisheries | Strategic Priority 2 Promoting optimal returns from fisheries trade | Strategic Priority 3 Supporting Food Security | Strategic Priority 4 Developing Aquaculture | Strategic Priority 5 Maintaining the Environment |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| Key Result Areas (KRA) | KRA 1: National governance frameworks | KRA 5: Access to markets | KRA 9: Planning for food security | KRA 12: Planning for aquaculture | KRA 15: Ecosystems approach to fisheries management |
| | KRA 2: Addressing key threats to sustainable fisheries management | KRA 6: Overcoming technical barriers | KRA 10: Artisanal fisheries | KRA 13: Infrastructure and technical support | KRA 16: Coastal zone management |
| | KRA 3: Conformance with international agreements and guidelines | KRA 7: Addressing key external causes of value loss | KRA 11: Business development to support food security | KRA 14: Market development | KRA 17: Environmental impact assessment |
| | KRA 4: Regional cooperation and partnerships | KRA 8: Adding value for ACP countries | | | KRA 18: Global environmental change |

Table 3: Strategic Priority 1: Effective Management for Sustainable Fisheries

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| Strategic Priority 1: Effective Management for Sustainable Fisheries |
| Goal: Put in place comprehensive governance arrangements to ensure sustainability of wild fish stocks |

| Key Result Areas | Actions | Time frame [1-2ys; 1-5ys; ongoing] | Partnerships |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| KRA: 1 National governance frameworks. | <u>Governance arrangements</u> | | |
| | 1.1 States to assess the performance of their fisheries management frameworks, and identify those instances where they are not producing satisfactory results. [M1:R22] | 1-2 years | National fisheries agencies. |
| | 1.2 States to adopt an effective management system that reflects the realities and level of development of the country. [M2:R4] | 1 – 5 years | National fisheries agencies; development partners. |
| | 1.3 States to consider a full range of elements for an effective management system, including: | Ongoing | National fisheries agencies and other relevant government agencies; regional fisheries agencies. |
| | 1.3.1 <u>Stakeholder engagement</u> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance by stakeholders of the need to manage for sustainability, and respect for the management system. • Clear understanding of fishing rights and responsibilities for all stakeholders • Appropriate mix of regulatory and co-management approaches. | Ongoing | | |
| 1.3.2 <u>Governance</u> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agency assigned with responsibility, authority and resources for fisheries management. • Management system which provides sufficient level | | | |

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|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| | <p>of control in relation to fishing capacity, vessel operations (including foreign fleets), catch levels, data, technical knowledge, understanding of species, fish stocks etc, which can provide the foundation for Fisheries Management Plans for selected fisheries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity for effective governance across shared fisheries. • Some means of effective control throughout the area of jurisdiction. • Compatibility with sub-regional and RFMOs management. • Means to promote the safety of vessels and crew, including observers and service personnel. <p>1.3.3 <u>Science and data/information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient understanding of key target stocks to be able to set sustainable catch limits. • Authority to require data from vessels. • Capacity to interpret data in the context of stock changes, fishing effort and market incentives. <p>1.4 <u>Compliance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to support compliance with management rules and controls. • Ensuring flag state responsibility for vessels operating outside their national jurisdiction. • Partnerships to support vessel monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>National fisheries agencies; regional fisheries agencies; technical agencies; development partners.</p> |
| <p>KRA: 2 Addressing specific threats to sustainable fisheries management.</p> | <p><u>Fishing Capacity</u></p> <p>2.2 States to assess fishing capacity in relevant national fisheries, and design appropriate programs – donor backed where necessary – to adjust fishing capacity with resource carrying capacity. [M1:R21]</p> <p><u>IUU Fishing</u></p> <p>2.3 States to develop and implement an NPOA-IUU as a guide to addressing IUU fishing at national and regional levels. [M1:R20]</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> <p>1-2 years</p> | <p>National fisheries agencies; technical agencies; development partners.</p> <p>National and regional fisheries and compliance agencies.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>KRA: 3 Conformance with international agreements and guidelines.</p> | <p>3.1 States to have in place policy and legal frameworks which are in line with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, • the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, • the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, • decisions of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, and other FAO instruments, including Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, 2012 FAO voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure <p>[M1:R15]</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> | <p>National fisheries agencies.</p> |
| <p>KRA: 4 Regional cooperation and partnerships</p> | <p><u>Regional Cooperation</u></p> <p>4.1 States to establish mechanisms for support and collaboration between regional economic integration organizations and regional fisheries organizations. [M2:R21]</p> <p>4.2 States to urgently seek to establish sustainable financial mechanisms for regional fisheries organizations to strengthen these institutions. [M2:R23]</p> <p>4.3 States to Reinforce coordination between regional fisheries organizations and ACP Countries and the ACP Secretariat to support a more coherent approach at the sub-regional and international level [M2:R22], in particular to ensure shared/joint management of straddling stocks and contiguous habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>4.4 States to pool their technical and financial resources together in order to better combat IUU fishing [M2R11], and address shared challenges such as training in evaluation of fish stocks and data management.</p> | <p>1-2 years</p> <p>1-2 years</p> <p>1-2 years</p> <p>1-2 years</p> | <p>National and regional fisheries agencies; regional economic integration agencies.</p> <p>National and regional fisheries agencies; development partners.</p> <p>Regional fisheries agencies and ACP Secretariat.</p> <p>National fisheries agencies, technical agencies.</p> |

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| | <p>4.5 States to develop partnerships with the international community for financial and technical support for specific programmes at the national and regional levels to prevent counteract and eradicate IUU fishing. [M2:R12]</p> <p><u>South-South cooperation</u></p> <p>4.6 States to develop mechanisms which effectively strengthen south-south cooperation in fisheries at all levels, with the view to increasing solidarity between ACP States, and transferring successful models, approaches and standards between countries facing similar limitations. [M1:R19]</p> <p><u>International participation</u></p> <p>4.7 States to assign sufficient human and financial resources into actively participating in relevant regional Fishery Bodies, in order to influence decision-making to the benefit of resource owning members of such bodies, seeking to maximize economic benefits and sustainable outcomes of management arrangements. [M1:R18]</p> <p>4.8 States should actively encourage the establishment and the strengthening of Regional fisheries Bodies as appropriate. [M1:R18]</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>National fisheries agencies; development partners; technical agencies.</p> <p>National and regional fisheries agencies (ACP and other).</p> <p>National fisheries and budget/finance agencies; development partners</p> <p>National fisheries and Foreign Affairs departments.</p> |
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Table 4: Strategic Priority 2: Promoting optimal returns from fisheries trade

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| Strategic Priority 2 Promoting optimal returns from fisheries trade |
| Goal: Adding value in an efficient fisheries sector through fair market access and industry development |

| Key Result Areas | Actions | Time frame [1-2ys; 1-5ys;ongoing] | Stakeholders and Partnerships |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| KRA: 5 Access to markets | 5.1 States to negotiate for continuing access to key markets (including the EU and new markets) under conditions that favour local investment, participation and employment in ACP countries. | Ongoing | National fisheries and trade development/negotiation agencies; trading and development partners. |
| | <u>Erosion of preferences</u> 5.2 States to evaluate the consequences of ever likelier preference erosion for fisheries products of national export sectors, and to start developing national approaches to assist the private sector in mitigating related impacts – in consultation with the private sector. [M1:R28] | 1-2 years | National fisheries and trade development agencies; private sector. |
| | 5.3 States and the Ministerial Mechanism to provide political support to re-engage with the EU bilaterally and multilaterally on the erosion of preferences, which will have devastating effect on the processing industries of fisheries and aquaculture products in the ACP States. [M1:R29] | 1-2 years | National fisheries and trade development/negotiation agencies; EU. |
| | <u>Economic/Fisheries Partnership Agreements (EPAs/FPAs)</u> 5.4 States to promote information and opinion exchange on EPA-specific Fishery Chapters with all involved public and private stakeholders, and ACP countries participating in the same regional configurations, in order to maximise relevant and beneficial negotiation outcomes. [M1:R31] | 1-2 years | National fisheries and trade development/negotiation agencies; national stakeholders; regional fisheries agencies. |

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| KRA 6: Overcoming technical barriers | support compliance with export requirements for food safety and product quality. | | agencies; privates sector |
| | <u>SPS and IUU Regulatory compliance</u> 6.2 States to analyze the potential of creating regional solutions to national EU SPS and IUU regulation compliance needs, bearing in mind the potential economies of scale to be tapped into. [M1:R33] | 1-2 years | National and regional fisheries agencies; private sector. |
| | 6.3 States to seek financial and technical support from the EU and other development partners in order to strengthen value chain frameworks including National Health and Food Safety Agencies and the private sector, in order to meet increasing international sanitary requirements [M2:R6][M1:R9], including, for example, accreditation of laboratories to support product testing to ensure compliance with international standards. | 1-5 years | National fisheries, health and food safety agencies; EU. |
| | <u>EU 2008 IUU Regulation</u> 6.4 States to assess in detail the contents of the 2008 EU IUU Regulation, to take immediate steps to analyze their national situation, the arising compliance needs, and to devise a national strategy to address and solve the challenges inherent to this requirement. [M1:R34] | 1-2 years | National fisheries, health and food safety agencies, technical agencies. |
| | 6.5 Seek financial and technical support from the European Commission to fund an ACP-wide programme assisting ACP Members to implement the 2008 EC Regulation on IUU fishing, making sure that such a programme be developed in consultation with ACP countries. [M1:R10] | 1-5 years | National and regional fisheries agencies; EC. |
| 6.6 In partnership with the EC, adopt and implement a flexible and negotiable timetable, allowing a gradual ACP-level implementation of the EU Regulation on IUU fishing within reasonable and practically feasible timeframes. [M1:R11] | 1-5 years | National and regional fisheries agencies; EC. | |
| | <u>Piracy</u> | | |

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| KRA: 7 Addressing specific external causes of value loss | 7.1 States to seek the assistance of the international community, when requested by the ACP states, in ensuring the safety of all fishing vessels and crew fishing in waters of ACP member countries, or international waters, from acts of piracy and armed robbery which, if allowed to continue unabated, may destroy all efforts in the development and promotion of the fisheries sector. [M1:R23] | 1-5 years | National fisheries, maritime transport and foreign affairs departments; development partners; international community. |
| | 7.2 States to urge the international community to provide full support including financial and technical assistance for implementation of the ESA/IO Regional Strategy and Plan of Action against piracy and for maritime security. [M2:R14] | 1-5 years | National fisheries, maritime transport and foreign affairs departments; development partners; international community. |
| | 7.3 States to Appeal to the international community to tackle piracy and the root causes of piracy as a matter of priority and provide improved support to ACP States that are affected by piracy. [M2:R15] | 1-2 years | National fisheries and foreign affairs departments; development partners; international community. |
| KRA: 8 Adding value for ACP countries | <u>Local industry development</u> | | |
| | 8.1 States to pursue greater value of their fisheries resources, and to undertake all necessary political efforts, or otherwise, to promote value addition in the fisheries sector by national entrepreneurs in order to maximize the potential of, and revenue from fisheries for national development and economic growth. [M1:R38] | Ongoing | National fisheries, budget, industry development and trade agencies; financial institutions; private sector. |
| | 8.2 States to bring together national public and private sector stakeholders involved in poverty reduction and social and economic development, in order to promote the development of national entrepreneurship. [M1:R36] | 1-5 years | National fisheries agencies; national stakeholders (including private sector). |
| | 8.3 States to strengthen policy for trade development in order to improve national investment climates, and to enable meaningful private-public partnership development. [M1:R37] | 1-5 years | National fisheries, budget and trade agencies; private sector. |
| 8.4 States to work with development partners to assess and | | | |

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| | <p>implement appropriate industry support measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting efficiency in catching and processing • Supporting private sector initiatives to improve product quality and value throughout the value chain. • Providing infrastructure, such as utilities and transport, to underpin investment in the sector. • Providing access to finance / investment in small and medium sized enterprises, processing and storage facilities. • Developing and diversifying fisheries. • Encouraging the development of new products and market partnerships, for example in the aquarium trade. • Support role of women in production, processing, commerce and as entrepreneurs, for example through micro-finance initiatives. • Generate and interpret data to promote understanding of market variability, pricing and demand/supply requirements. • Promote expansion and diversification of services supporting the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, for example vessel maintenance, bunkering, stevedoring, provisioning etc. <p><u>Marketing and labelling</u> 8.5 States to support promotion of ecolabelling schemes consistent with international norms [M2:R5], including traceability and product branding.</p> <p><u>Fishing access agreements</u> 8.6 States to negotiate conditions for access (including fees) of vessels that reflect market values of fish and support local employment and participation in fisheries.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>1-5 years</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>National fisheries, planning, budget and trade agencies; financial agencies; NGOs; private sector.</p> <p>National fisheries and technical agencies.</p> <p>National fisheries and trade negotiation agencies; flag states.</p> |
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Table 5 Strategic Priority 3: Supporting Food Security

| Strategic Priority 3: Supporting Food Security | | | |
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| Goal: Ensure continued access to fisheries products for national populations | | | |
| Key Result Areas | Actions | Time frame [1-2ys; 1-5ys;ongoing] | Stakeholders and Partnerships |
| KRA 9: Planning for food security | <p>9.1 States to gather and interpret data to understand availability/supply, quality and price of fish products on local markets (from wild capture and aquaculture/mariculture).</p> <p>9.2 States to assess future population changes and nutrition requirements,.</p> <p>9.3 States to implement national planning for future food security with emphasis on the role of fish products (wild capture and aquaculture).</p> <p>9.4 States to take into account the supplementary benefits of local supply substituting for imported fish products.</p> <p>9.5 States to promote utilization of by-catch and by-products of industrial fisheries and processing.</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> <p>1-5 years</p> <p>1-5 years</p> | National fisheries, health and planning agencies, national stakeholders. |
| KRA 10: Artisanal fisheries | <p>10.1 States to recognise and protect rights of artisanal fishers.</p> <p>10.2 States to identify a clear role for artisanal fishers in decision-making.</p> <p>10.3 States to maintain access and yield of inshore stocks to the artisanal fishing sector.</p> | <p>1-2 years</p> <p>1-5 years</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | National fisheries, health and planning agencies, artisanal fishing sector; national stakeholders. |
| KRA 11: Business development to support food security | <p>11.1 States to support development of infrastructure for local storage, transport and processing of fish.</p> <p>11.2 Research, development and support for SME investment in utilization of by-catch and processing by-products to strengthen domestic food security.</p> <p>11.3 States, with development partners, to provide access to microfinance and insurance arrangements to support local businesses built around catching and processing of fish.</p> <p>11.4 States to provide targeted support to enhance the contribution of women to food security, throughout</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>1-5 years</p> | National and regional fisheries organizations and food technology organizations; food agencies and technical international organizations. National fisheries, budget, |

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| | the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. | Ongoing | planning and industry development agencies; financial institutions; national stakeholders. |
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Table 6: Strategic Priority 4: Developing Aquaculture

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| Strategic Priority 4: Developing Aquaculture |
| Goal: Sustainable increase in production from aquaculture and mariculture |

| Key Result Areas | Actions | Time frame [1-2ys; 1-5ys;ongoing] | Stakeholders and Partnerships |
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| KRA 12: Planning for aquaculture | 12.1 States to develop coherent and conducive national frameworks for aquaculture development, in line with existing policies on economic and social development. (Such frameworks should be complemented as soon as possible thereafter by action-oriented national master plans for sectoral development, taking into account, where applicable, underlying factors for past failures). [M1:R35] | 1-5 years | National fisheries (aquaculture), budget, planning and industry development agencies; private sector; national stakeholders. |
| | 12.2 States to develop regulatory framework that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides clear rights in relation to access to land/water for aquaculture. • Enables aquaculture development, through supportive policies, potentially including favourable tax regimes. • Recognises stakeholder involvement (including, for example, professional umbrella organisations for the sector). | 1-5 years | National fisheries (aquaculture), budget, planning and industry development agencies; private sector; national stakeholders. |
| KRA 13: Infrastructure and technical support | <u>Infrastructure</u> 13.1 States, with development partners, to develop infrastructure (including utilities and transport/roading) to support aquaculture development. | Ongoing | National fisheries (aquaculture), budget, planning, transport and industry development agencies; private sector; national stakeholders; development partners. |
| | <u>Technical requirements and research</u> 13.2 States to promote research into aquaculture, and in | 1-5 years | National fisheries (aquaculture) and research agencies; private |

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| | <p>particular the sustainable supply of good quality seed stock and good quality fish. [M2:R18]</p> <p>13.3 States to seek ways and means to establish fish breeding centres in areas of high aquaculture potential to facilitate a reliable supply of seed stock to farmers. [M2:R19]</p> <p>13.4 States to seek technical and financial assistance to promote development of inland and marine aquaculture from specialized international agencies, including the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE). [M2:R20]</p> <p>13.5 States, with development partners, to put in place means to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide finance/capital for aquaculture development. • Develop genetic improvements in aquaculture species, for example in inland countries. • Provide for training and development of skills and knowledge relevant to the aquaculture sector. • Provide for access to specialised equipment. <p>13.6 States to seek financial and technical support from the EU and other development partners to strengthen the capacity to meet increasing international sanitary requirements.</p> <p>13.7 States to actively promote South-South cooperation initiatives for aquaculture development.</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> <p>1-5 years</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>1-5 years</p> | <p>sector.</p> <p>National fisheries (aquaculture) and research agencies; private sector.</p> <p>National fisheries (aquaculture) and research agencies; financial institutions, private sector; technical and development partners; CDE.</p> <p>National fisheries (aquaculture), budget, planning, transport and industry development agencies; financial institutions; private sector; development partners.</p> <p>National fisheries (aquaculture), health and food safety agencies; development partners; EU.</p> |
| KRA 14: Market development | <p><u>Access to markets</u></p> <p>14.1 States to negotiate favourable access to local/regional and international markets for fish products from aquaculture and mariculture production.</p> <p><u>Marketing and labelling</u></p> <p>14.2 States to put in place measures to encourage the</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> <p>1-5 years</p> | <p>National fisheries and trade negotiation agencies.</p> <p>National fisheries and industry</p> |

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| | <p>development of new products and market partnerships.</p> <p>14.3 States to support access to ecolabelling schemes for aquaculture/mariculture products in key markets.</p> | 1-5 years | <p>development agencies; private sector.</p> <p>National fisheries and industry development agencies; private sector.</p> |
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Table 7: Strategic Priority 5: Maintaining the Environment

| Strategic Priority 5: Maintaining the environment | | | |
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| Goal: Maintaining the environment to support fisheries and other key ecosystem services | | | |
| Key Result Areas | Actions | Time frame [1-2ys; 1-5ys;ongoing] | Stakeholders and Partnerships |
| KRA 15: Ecosystems approach to fisheries management | <p>15.1 States to incorporate relevant ecosystems considerations into fisheries management systems, including provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain key species/ecosystem linkages. • Avoid unwanted side effects of fisheries activity • Provide appropriate protection for associated species such as seabirds. | 1-5 years | National fisheries and planning agencies. |
| KRA 16: Coastal zone management | <p>16.1 States to ensure that coastal development occurs in a way that maintains fish stocks and associated coastal systems and habitats through such means as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated coastal management. • Managing land based sources of marine pollution. | Ongoing | National fisheries and planning agencies. |
| KRA 17: Environmental impact assessment | <p>17.1 States to assess and implement appropriate means to manage environmental effects of aquaculture and mariculture development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Strategic Environmental Assessment techniques. • Assessing and managing the potential effects of new /enhanced species. • Monitoring water quality and ecosystem functioning in rivers, lakes, lagoons and estuaries. • Maintaining water quality and access for all stakeholders. | Ongoing | National fisheries (aquaculture) planning and environment agencies; private sector. |
| KRA 18: Global environmental | 18.1 States to undertake all necessary action to build the | Ongoing | National fisheries planning, |

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| <p>change</p> | <p>resilience of fisheries and fishing communities to climate change and natural disasters in order to protect livelihoods and alleviate poverty .[M1:R17]</p> <p>18.2States to take steps to further integrate fisheries and oceans into the national and international climate change agendas so as to secure space for fisheries and oceans in financial instruments that support both adaptation and mitigation including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change-Global Environmental Facility funds (Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and Adaptation Funds). [M2:R16]</p> <p>18.3Need to build or strengthen the capacity (institutional, human and technical etc) of ACP States and regions to help them confronting the environmental and climate change/climate variability challenges to the development of their fisheries sector.</p> | <p>1-5 years</p> | <p>technical and environment agencies.</p> <p>National fisheries planning, technical and environment agencies.</p> <p>National fisheries planning, technical and environment agencies</p> |
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Acronyms

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| ACP | African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states |
| CDE | ACP-EU Centre for the Development of Enterprise |
| CTA | ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation |
| EC | European Commission |
| EPA | Economic Partnership Agreement |
| EU | European Union |
| ESA/IO | Eastern and Southern Africa/Indian Ocean |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations |
| FPA | Fisheries Partnership Agreement |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| IUU | Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated |
| MCS | Monitoring, Control and Surveillance |
| NPOA-IUU | National Plan of Action - Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated fishing |
| RFMO | Regional Fisheries management Organisation |
| USD | United States' Dollar |
| WTO | World Trade Organisation |