



COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA

CSFS FAD, a complement to ECOWAP/ECOWAS



1. Scope and Nature

The geographic scope of the Comprehensive Strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Fisheries and Aquaculture (CSFS FAD) covers all member states of the ECOWAS. The CSFS FAD focusses on the entire value chain of the marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture. It recognised fish as a strategic resource which, if sustainably managed, can generate important social and economic benefits to the actual and future generation in West Africa.

The Comprehensive framework is based on a clear vision and specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time bound goals. Both the vision and goal are in line with the ECOWAP, the Sustainable Development Goals and the International Conventions and Agreements on Oceans and fisheries and the Malabo Declaration goals and Commitments (re-commitment to the CAADP principles). Furthermore, it is scientific based evidence-based, takes a holistic view of issues and is pragmatic and precautionary in its approach.

2. Overall Purpose

The overall purpose of the Comprehensive Strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development is to scaling up the West Africa's fisheries and aquaculture for food, livelihoods and wealth. Accordingly, the CSFS FAD is intended to:

- ⊙ Elaborate and facilitate the understanding of the guiding principles for good governance of West Africa's fisheries and aquaculture for increased coherence and coordination of the sector;
- ⊙ Assist ECOWAS Member States to develop coherent and pertinent fisheries and aquaculture policies to complement the ECOWAP in a view of increasing the contribution to food security, livelihoods and foreign earning;
- ⊙ Help facilitate regional collaboration and integration in shared fisheries and water bodies and aquaculture resources management;
- ⊙ Provide appropriate guidance on how to implement sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development;
- ⊙ Facilitate ratification and/accesion of international fisheries management instruments;
- ⊙ Facilitate advocacy for increased investment in small scale fisheries and aquaculture sector.

3. Vision, mission, policy area and strategic objectives

Vision: The fisheries and aquaculture sector is built on effective and efficient exploitation of the fisheries resources and promotion of market-led aquaculture enterprises, in order to achieve sustainable production and productivity for the attainment of food security and nutrition, and decent employment of all value chain actors in West Africa.

Mission: To ensure that the fisheries resources (fisheries and aquaculture) of ECOWAS are developed, managed and utilised sustainably for food security, economic growth, wealth-creation and improved livelihoods of the population of the Community.

3.1 General Objective

To enable the sector to contribute to the satisfaction of the food and nutritional needs of fish-dependent communities, the social and economic development and the reduction of poverty in the Member States.

3.2 Specific Objectives:

1. The production of fish from capture fisheries and aquaculture has increased to an optimal level, and post-harvest losses of fish have been reduced to a minimum.
2. The per capita consumption of fish and other fish products for the food and nutrition security in the ECOWAS region have increased.
3. Public funding and private sector investments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector have increased.
4. Intra-regional fish trade in order to reduce dependence on imports has been promoted.
5. The strategic partnership and institutional collaboration and cooperation in West Africa especially in scientific fisheries and aquaculture related research and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and Maritime Security have been promoted and strengthened on a long-term basis.
6. Human and organizational capacity in all types of management of the fisheries and aquaculture sector is continuously built and strengthened.

4. Strategic Policy Priorities, Strategic Objectives and outcomes

In view of the challenges and opportunities in west Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector, the following Strategic Priority Policy area, and strategic outcomes as needing improvement for enhancing the contribution of West Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector to socio-economic development. The table below illustrate the PA and the Strategic Objectives and expected outcomes.

Table 1: Table on the Priority Areas, Strategic Objectives and Outcomes

Strategic Priority Policy Area (PA)	Strategic Objective (SO)	Outcomes (OC)
PA1: Governance of fisheries and prioritized development of small-scale fisheries	SO1: To elaborate and provide essential guiding principles for good governance of West Africa's fisheries for increased coherence and coordination of the sector	OC1: The contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities has improved and is strengthened.
PA2: Sustainable development of Aquaculture for the West African context	SO2: To develop technologies that will increase the profitability of environmentally and socially sound aquaculture to achieve continued sector growth	OC2: The contribution of aquaculture to sustainable economic development, food security and poverty alleviation has increased.
PA3: Awareness enhancing and human capacity development	SO3: To increase awareness of the development potential of sector and enhance the capacity of people and institutions to ensure the sustainable development of the sector, based on science evidence.	OC3: Capacity in fisheries management, regional cooperation is reinforced and the scientific and economic basis is strengthened

PA4: Value chain, Blue Economy and trade and fish marketing	SO4: To harness significantly the benefits of West Africa's fisheries and aquaculture endowments through accelerated trade and marketing	OC4: Increased growth, sustainability, and participation in the fisheries and aquaculture regional value chains through public private partnerships that improve quality, cost and access to key inputs (markets, finance, infrastructure, fingerlings, feed).
PA5: Women and youth empowerment and entrepreneurship	SO5: To promote gender equality, women and youth empowerment and entrepreneurship	OC5: Promote effective engagement of men and boys together with women and girls in fisheries and aquaculture decision-making. Strengthen entrepreneurship and business management in order to achieve viable fish-based Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs)
PA6: Increased resilience to climate change	SO6: To strengthen resilience to climate change of West African fisheries and aquaculture and those dependent on the resources	OC6: Strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in West African fisheries and aquaculture
PA7: Institutional enhancement	SO7: Implement a strategy to strengthen the fisheries agency's approach to cross-cutting issues	To strengthen the fisheries agency's approach to cross-cutting issues To enhance information, knowledge and communication systems in the ECOWAS region

5. Strategies and actions for the CSFS FAD

In view of the challenges and opportunities in west Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector, the following Strategic Priority Policy area, and strategic outcomes as needing improvement for enhancing the contribution of West Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector to socio-economic development. The table below illustrate the PA and the Strategic Objectives and expected outcomes.

5.1 PA1 Governance of fisheries and prioritized development of the SSF

PA1 Governance of fisheries and prioritized development of small-scale fisheries	
Policy and reform context	Fisheries governance in most West African countries is typically ineffective or absent, resulting in fisheries being over-exploited economically and often well beyond biologically sustainable limits. Both at national and regional levels, policy objectives are often ill-directed and, in some cases, sensible policy choices often have unintended, and sometimes perverse, consequences that policy makers may not appreciate. Amongst the more perverse of these is that fishers and policy makers regard fish resources as if they were free goods and not the peoples' national and regional wealth.
Strategic objective	SO1: To elaborate and provide essential guiding principles for good governance of West Africa's fisheries for increased coherence and coordination in the sector
Expected outcomes	<p>OC1.1: The contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development, food and nutrition security as well as national economies is recognized, valued and enhanced.</p> <p>OC1.2: Rights-based management approaches and increased integration of small-scale fisheries in decision-making across the ECOWAS region has been introduced on a large scale and is widely accepted.</p> <p>OC1.3: Empowerment of fish-dependent communities is ensured through their participation in the integrated management of the social, economic and ecological systems underpinning the sector.</p> <p>OC1.4: Economically, environmentally and socially viable fisheries and aquaculture Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs) are operating in many countries.</p> <p>OC1.5: Fisheries management programmes that account for and integrate ecological interactions, by-catch, habitat quality, and socio-economic concerns have been developed across in West Africa.</p> <p>OC1.6: Effective and sustainable regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems are operating in the region.</p>

5.2 PA2: Sustainable aquaculture development within the context of West Africa

PA2: Sustainable aquaculture development in West Africa	
Policy and reform context	While fish farming has advanced in West Africa, challenges still remain for the region to create conducive policy environment for the farmers to cultivate fish on scale. Significant progress and success in aquaculture development in West Africa over the past decade are limited only to a few countries, namely Nigeria and Ghana. Moreover, within these successful countries, close to 90 percent of the total production is from large-scale private sector producers. This means that the potential of the sector to reduce poverty and improve food security and nutrition of West Africans is yet to be fully exploited. Sustainable aquaculture practices offer water, energy and feed conversion efficiencies superior to any other domesticated animal food production system—and fish is the only animal-source food that can be produced in saltwater, offering unique advantages for climate resilient production (WorldFish 2016) ¹ .
Strategic objective	To develop technologies that will increase the profitability of environmentally and socially sound aquaculture to achieve continued sector growth.
Expected outcomes	<p>OC2.1: The dissemination of the new regional vision of aquaculture has led to better performance of the sector to sustainable economic development, food security and poverty alleviation</p> <p>OC2.2: Market-led aquaculture investments are operating in many countries.</p> <p>OC2.3: Accelerated sector growth takes place in countries across West Africa.</p> <p>OC2.4: Enabling environment for investment and governance has significantly improved in many countries region-wide.</p> <p>OC2.5: Strengthen collaboration with the private sector as a partner for research and development to deliver impact at scale.</p>

5.3 PA3: Awareness enhancing and human capacity development

PA3: Awareness enhancing and human capacity development	
Policy and reform context	ECOWAS recognises the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in meeting the ECOWAP/CAADP objectives, because the fish makes vital contributions to food and nutrition security of millions of West Africans and provides income for millions more who are engaged in fish production, processing and trade. Yet these benefits are at risk as the exploitation of natural fish stocks is reaching limits and aquaculture production has not yet fulfilled its potential. Strategic investments are needed urgently to safeguard the future contribution of West Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector to poverty alleviation and regional economic development. In support of strategic actions, capacity building needs to be strengthened at regional and national level for research, technology transfer, policy development and implementation, in order to develop the sub-sectors in a coherent and equitable manner.
Strategic objective	To increase awareness of the development potential of sector and enhance the capacity of people and institutions to ensure the sustainable development of the sector based on science evidence.
Expected outcomes	<p>OC3.1: Enhanced capacity in fisheries planning, fisheries management, regional cooperation, strengthening scientific and economic basis for improved competitiveness,</p> <p>OC3.2: Enhance awareness and capacity development to improve fisheries and aquaculture governance</p> <p>OC3.3: Enhance capacity for effective regional mechanisms for the planning and coordination of research in order to strengthen the knowledge base systems and implementation of development plans, with the active participation of stakeholders</p> <p>OC3.4: Empower fishers, fish farmers, processors and traders in order to improve the fish sector productivity and develop systems that foster greater knowledge</p>



5.4 PA4: Value chain, blue economy as well as trade and fish marketing

PA4: Value chain, blue economy and trade and fish marketing	
Policy and reform context	There is evidence of massive inefficiencies in fisheries and aquaculture value chains, resulting in the fact that many fish consumers are unable to benefit from the highly nutritious and relatively affordable fish products. Key to these inefficiencies are post-harvest physical and nutritional losses. Planning and implementing the Regional Framework in an innovation system context that involves actors across the whole value chain, will enable ECOWAS to achieve optimum development impact from its fisheries and aquaculture resources. ‘Blue Economy’, defined as all economic sectors that have a direct or indirect link to the ocean is becoming a key pillar to development and economic planning in many countries in Africa. OECD estimates that by 2030 Blue Economy could outperform the growth of the global economy as a whole, both in terms of value added and employment
Strategic objective	To harness significantly the benefits of West Africa’s fisheries and aquaculture endowments through accelerated trade and marketing
Expected outcomes	OC4.1 Increased growth, sustainability, and participation in the fisheries and aquaculture regional value chains through public private partnerships that improve quality, cost and access to key inputs (markets, finance, infrastructure, fingerlings, feed). OC4.2 Provisions of the FAO led International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries are widely applied across ECOWAS Member States OC4.3 Harness significantly the benefits of West Africa’s fisheries and aquaculture endowments through accelerated trade and marketing OC4.4 Increased consumption of nutrient-rich, safe fish, especially for women of reproductive age, infants and young children. OC4.5 Strengthen inclusive value chain development that supports ecologically sustainable, climate-resilient fisheries OC4.6 Harness the sea and inland waters to promote an integrated, harmonized and concerted approach to economic, social and environmental development in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”)

5.5 PA5: Women and youth empowerment and entrepreneurship

PA5: Women and youth empowerment and entrepreneurship	
Policy and reform context	The Regional Strategic Framework will need to mainstream cross-cutting issues in order to be balanced and successful. First conceptualised during the Third World Conference on Women in 1985 in Nairobi, to refer to gender equality, the term “mainstreaming” is now widely used to refer to a number of development issues, including cross-cutting issues. Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in the Regional Strategic Framework means that these cross-cutting issues become an integral dimension of the Strategy’s design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the fisheries and aquaculture development strategies and programs. Therefore, critical to the success of the Regional Strategic Framework gender equality, youth, entrepreneurship, climate change, and HIV/AIDs.
Strategic objective	To promote gender equality, women and youth empowerment, entrepreneurship
Expected outcomes	OC5.1 Effective engagement of men and boys together with women and girls in fisheries and aquaculture decision-making. OC5.2 Entrepreneurship and business management in order to achieve viable fish-based Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs) strengthened.

5.6 PA6: Increased resilience to climate change

PA6: Increased resilience to climate change	
Policy and reform context	Along the region’s large river and lake basins impact of climate change is manifested through rising temperatures and changing patterns and levels of precipitation (rainfall). Unpredictable changes in availability of fish due to climate change may affect food availability and affordability for many in the ECOWAS region, leading to additional health burden. Therefore, addressing the vulnerability of fisheries to climate change should be an urgent priority for ECOWAS and its member states.
Strategic objective	To strengthen resilience to climate change of West African fisheries and aquaculture and those dependent on the resources
Expected outcomes	OC6.1 Resilience strengthened and vulnerability to climate change in West African fisheries and aquaculture reduced

5.7 PA7: Fisheries agencies’ approach to handling cross-cutting issues

PA7: Fisheries agencies’ approach to handling cross-cutting issues	
Policy and reform context	Cross-cutting issues like gender and climate change are critical for development of the fisheries and aquaculture because long term development of the fisheries is not attainable, for example, if climate is changing. Likewise, no country in ECOWAS can achieve its aquaculture development potential if female fish farmers do not have same access to land, credit and extension services as their male counterparts. Therefore, mainstreaming cross-cutting issues is a strategy to make these issues as integral dimensions of the ECOWAS CSF-SFAD.
Strategic objective	To strengthen the fisheries agency’s approach to and handling capacity of cross-cutting issues
Expected outcomes	OC7.1 A strategy to strengthen the fisheries agency’s approach to cross-cutting issues developed and implemented OC7.2 Strengthen the capacity of fish-dependent communities and agencies in the ECOWAS region to develop practical, coordinated and sustainable solutions to HIV/AIDs in the fish sector OC7.3 To enhance information, knowledge and communication systems

6. Strategy plan and estimated programme budget

The seven outcomes have been consolidated in Strategic Plan with provisional indicators and estimated budgetary requirement for ECOWAS to implement the Regional Strategic Framework. An estimated total of USD350 million will be required for ECOWAS to implement the Regional Strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

7. Conclusion

The Comprehensive Strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (CSFS FAD), complement the ECOWAP/ECOWAS offers the opportunity to improve the regional fisheries and aquaculture governance in West Africa productivity, sustainability and profitability with options for enhanced regional collaborative management of shared resources.



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