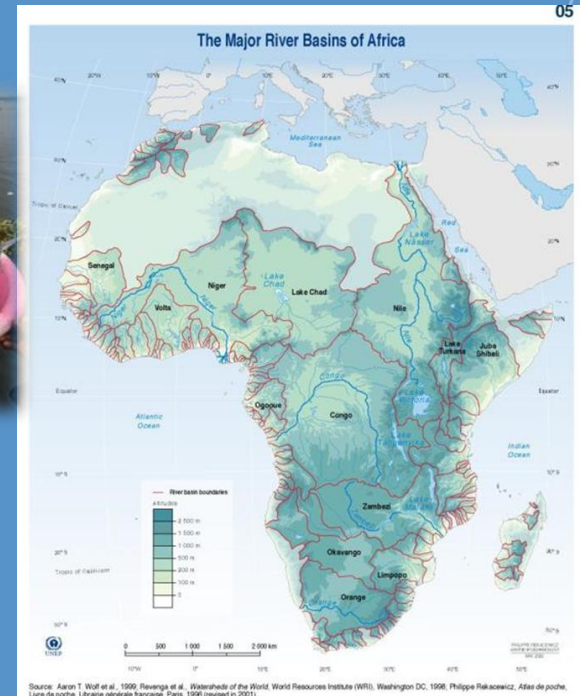




Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO's Role in Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation in Africa



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Presentation Outline

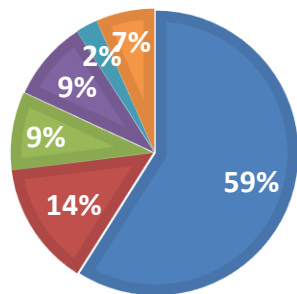
1. Introduction
2. Global Biodiversity Instruments, relevance/status
3. Challenges in Implementation ?
4. FAO Role in addressing the challenges
5. Opportunities for Enhancing Regional Cooperation
6. Conclusion



Introduction

1. Aquatic biodiversity is crucial for Africa's sustainable development, food security, and resilience to climate impacts.

Biodiversity as aquatic foods, commodities and services



- Marine Fish
- Freshwater and diadromous Fish

Global Aquatic biodiversity 35,500 spp (world Atlas animals) by May 2024

Biodiversity of Aquatic Production 3,175 spp

- 2,981 capture fisheries
- 652 aquaculture
- **Less than 10 in Africa**

Introduction

1. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management requires addressing ecosystem interactions and broader environmental impacts. [As provided by for by FAO Blue transformation \(3 pillars\)](#)



SUSTAINABLE
AQUACULTURE



SUSTAINABLE
FISHERIES



SUSTAINABLE
VALUE CHAINS

2. Many biodiversity challenges are transboundary, necessitating regional and intersectoral coordination.

Key Biodiversity Global Instruments, Relevance and status in Africa

1. **The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):** provides a legal framework for ocean use and conservation, including Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and dispute resolution mechanisms. (38 countries parties)
2. **The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Promotes sustainable development through biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and international cooperation to address environmental challenges and protect ecosystems. (54 countries Parties, 36 domesticated)
3. **The 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries:** provides a framework for sustainable fishing practices, promoting the conservation of aquatic ecosystems and ensuring the livelihoods of fishing communities worldwide. (Voluntary But Most African countries incorporate its principles in legislation)

Key Biodiversity Global Instruments, Relevance and status in Africa

4. The 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA): aims to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by enhancing cooperation and monitoring in port states to improve fisheries management and sustainability. (35 countries parties)
5. The 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): aimed at ensuring that trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. (54 parties)
6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – specifically SDG 14: Life Below Water

Challenges in Implementation

1. Transboundary nature of biodiversity threats
2. Inadequate limited resources,
3. Lack of quantitative data
4. Political commitment/will.
5. Inadequate collaboration, particularly among regional fisheries bodies, environmental agencies, and national governments.

FAO Role in addressing the challenges & successful/ongoing initiatives

1. Facilitates members in the domestication and adoption of the global instruments through capacity building and policy guidance.
2. Enhances knowledge exchange by providing platforms for dialogue, promoting scientific research, and supporting monitoring systems.
3. Support Africa's biodiversity through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.

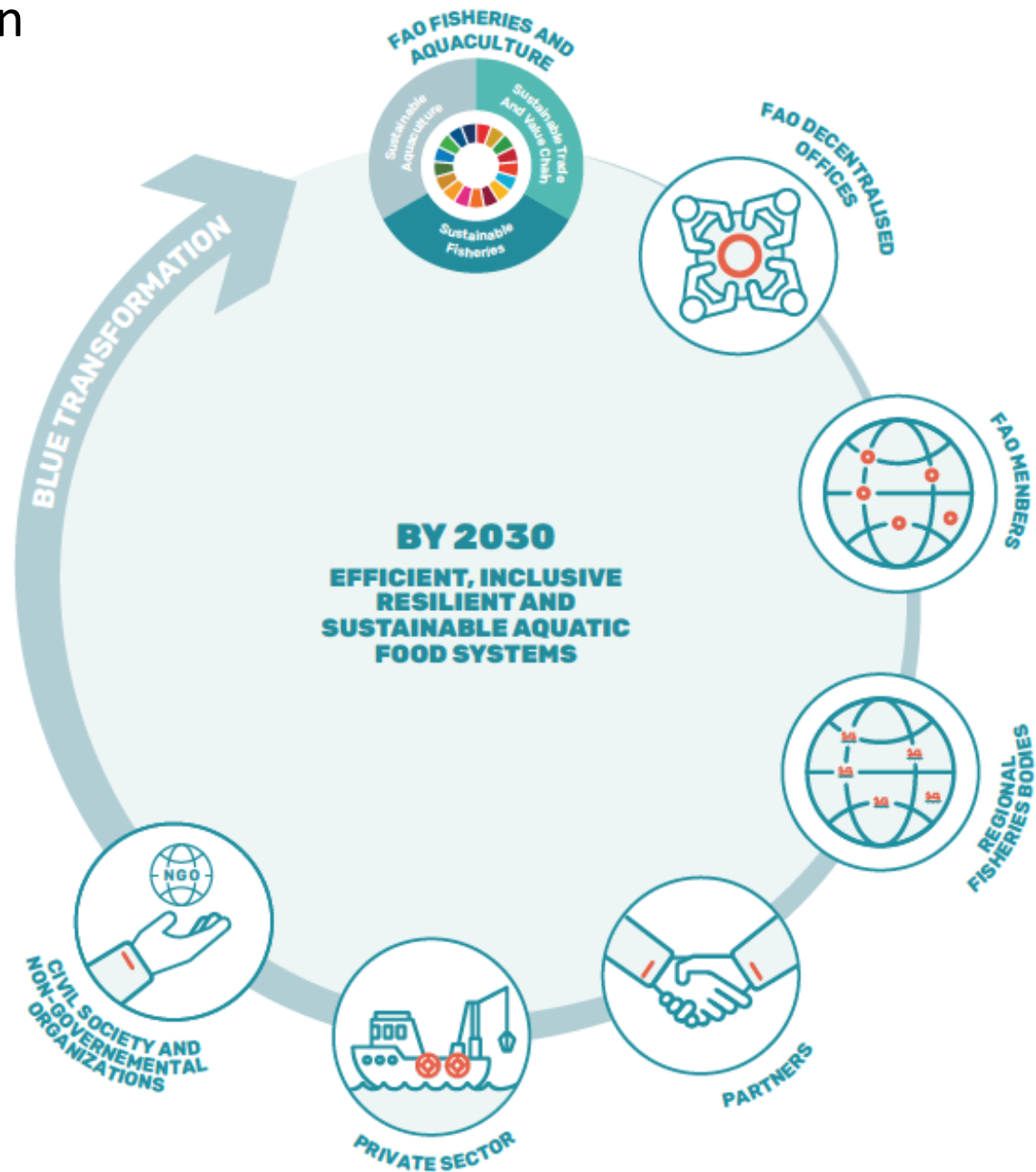
FAO Collaborative Mechanisms and Initiatives

1. AFRM illustrates FAO's role in facilitating regional dialogues and monitoring compliance with global instruments.
2. FAO actively engages with countries, regional economic communities (RECs), and regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) to enhance policy alignment and resource sharing.
3. Examples of successful initiatives;
 1. *Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI)- promoting sustainable, inclusive, and ecosystem-based management of coastal fisheries (CCLME & BCCLME) (GEF)*
 2. *CECAF-PESCA project –Improving fisheries governance CECAF region: **Pipeline West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme (WASOP) –3 million Euro 3 year programme (EU)***
 3. *SWIOFish 1,2,3, support to IOC. Transforming Fisheries sector SWIO region and **ongoing SWIOFC 5 7 year, Programme (World Bank)***
 4. *FAO/UN Environment Partnership for Marine Coastal Governance and Fisheries (Sweden)*

Opportunities for Enhancing Regional Cooperation

1. FAO's role in regional alignment of African policies with global frameworks and promoting interagency partnerships for cohesive action.
2. Emphasis on FAO's advocacy to strengthen Africa's voice on biodiversity at global forums.
3. FAO is committed to supporting Africa in achieving sustainable aquatic biodiversity management through targeted capacity building, regional collaboration, and alignment with global instruments.

Implementation





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An underwater scene with a large school of fish swimming in clear blue water. A bright sun is visible in the upper left, creating a lens flare effect. The text 'SHUKURAN! MERCI! THANK YOU!' is overlaid in the center in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**SHUKURAN!
MERC!
THANK YOU!**