



POLICY DIALOGUE WITH DMRO AND RECS

COMESA's role in adoption and use of International Conventions and rules

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COMESA MTSP (2021 – 2025)



We are guided by the decisions of Councils of Ministers and regional and continental programs:

MTSP: Strategic Focus

1-Market integration

- Removing barriers to trade to consolidate the internal market/FTA
- Building productive capacity to enhance global competitiveness and build regional capacity

2- Productive Integration

- Agriculture and Animal Resources
- Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
- Blue Economy Development
- Industrialization-Value addition, Manufacturing

3- Physical Integration / Connectivity

- Digital, physical, aerial

4- Gender and Social Integration



COMESA Priorities and interventions

Key priority area:

- Fisheries management and governance based on international conventions and rules, a number of countries supported in
 - SSF and their regulation to address open access fishery
 - Empowerment of local administrations and social organisations
 - Improve capacities of the regional and national agencies
 - Improve fisheries statistics and economic data
- Support to value addition and trade taking in to consideration WTO SPS rules
 - Reduce post-harvest losses – Enhance value chain, value addition, packaging
 - Diversification into domestic semi-industrial fisheries
 - Support investments and industrialization-improve access to finance



COMESA Priorities and interventions

- COMESA has developed One Stop Boarder Posts: refers to the legal and institutional framework, facility and associated procedures based on international especially WTO SPS rules
- The COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative supported under the 11th EDF Trade Facilitation Programme (SSCBTI) is an initiative to facilitate cross border trade for small – scale traders under the COMESA Simplified Trade Regime (STR). Small Scale Cross Border Trade Initiative (SSCBT)
- One of the trade facilitation Instrument is the COMESA Green Pass, which is a certification system meant to support trade in agricultural commodities. The Green Pass is a risk-based certification system
- We are supporting to value addition and trade through Trade facilitation and RECAMP program
 - Reduce post-harvest losses – Enhance value chain, value addition, packaging
 - Diversification into domestic semi-industrial fisheries
 - Improve sanitary of products



COMESA Priorities and interventions

- COMESA is implementing the Green Pass (GP) Certification System with a pilot on dried fish (salted/smoked) in Luangwa as the source of the fish and Kasumbalesa as the uptake market of the fish. Reduce post-harvest losses –
 - Equipment installed and commissioned in Luangwa District by COMESA for sampling, rapid testing, weighing and storage of the fish, to improve sanitary of products
 - We are collaborating with the University of Manitoba, Canada through its Dried Fish Matters (DFM) Program.
 - COMESA and the DFM can enhance fisheries governance, optimize value chains, and create sustainable and inclusive solutions for small-scale fisheries in the COMESA region.

COMESA Priorities and interventions



1. Capacity Enhancement of Fish Traders for Effective Participation in Cross Border Trade and the use of WTO SPS rules
 - The project focus on capacity building effort involving knowledge and skills enhancement in the following areas:
 - Causes of fish spoilage, Hygiene and handling fish to the landing sites and onward transportation,
 - Assessment and maintenance of fish quality,
 - Use of approved containers for fish handling,
 - Proper waste disposal
 - Value –addition and marketing,
 - Reduce Non-tariff Barrier
 - Access to credit/loans for fish trade,
 - Governance of the fish trade associations



**August 12th and 23rd, 2024
Busia Town, Busia County-Kenya**

COMESA Priorities and interventions



2. Enhancing Competitiveness and Access to Markets of our Women MSME Entrepreneurs, Start-ups and Youth through Value addition of the Agriculture and Fisheries value chains – through COMFWB **Seychelles chapter**
- The project focus on providing training in the SPS rules and Fisheries value chains of women and girls in Seychelles who most often operate at informal level, with a view of
 - Regularizing their businesses.
 - Train in technical production,
 - Training of SMEs on value addition and market access
 - Benchmarking Visits to the regional centres
 - Business skills and product standardisation to allow them to be competitive and access to larger local and regional markets with scaled up and standardized goods.



Through Ocean Innovation Challenge by UNDP

- **Project 1: Kenya “Enhancing Women Participation in Blue Economy Fish Value Addition for Improved Livelihoods and Trade” to be implemented along with COMRED International (NGO)**
- **Project 2: Madagascar “Empowering women and youth organization in sustainable coastal ecotourism for LMMA Funding” and will be implemented along with MIHARI (CBO) focussing in Madagascan coastal areas**
- **Project 3: Egypt “Transformation of Fish waste into value added products for increased incomes among the Coastal women and youth groups” implemented alongside Life Maker foundation (NGO)**

Co-Management and Community based approaches to fisheries management was studied

We collaborated with University of Birmingham to study the Status of Collaborative and Community-Based Fisheries Management in the COMESA Region

- Co-management has been defined as ‘an arrangement where responsibility for resource management is shared between the government and user groups’
- Co-management and community-based approaches to fisheries management have been introduced and encouraged since at least the 1990s, taken up across the world to bring communities into fisheries governance

Co-Management and Community based approaches to fisheries management



- Only a few countries have strong evidence of implementing and supporting fisheries co-management.
- Several other countries have embarked on co-management, but the approach has not been adopted nationwide or has not been implemented effectively, often lacking supporting financial and technical resources.
- Policy and legislation are not always adequate in terms of commitment to, and enabling of, co-management and community-based fisheries management. Even where policy and legislation are fairly strong, practice and performance has been fairly weak.
- Effectiveness and sustainability of co-management and community-based fisheries management are particularly affected by insufficient ongoing support, the role of government in co-management not always being adequately articulated, and continuing pressure on fisheries resources, resulting from few viable alternative employment and income-generating opportunities.

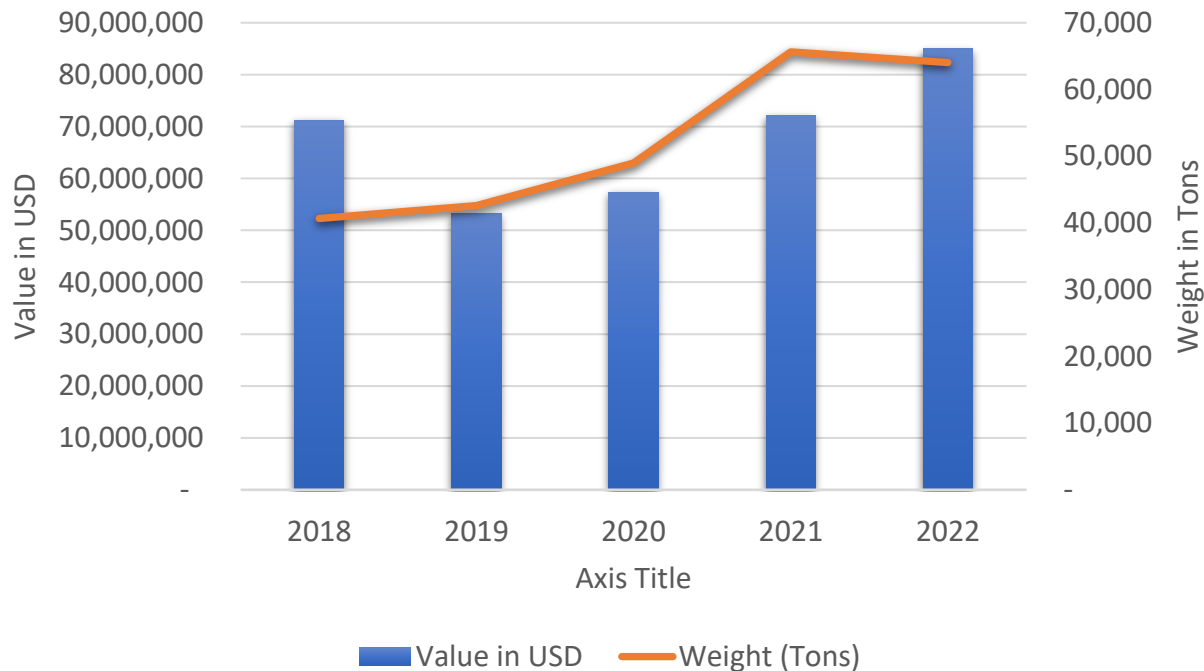
COMESA has developed policies and strategy based on international and continental policies



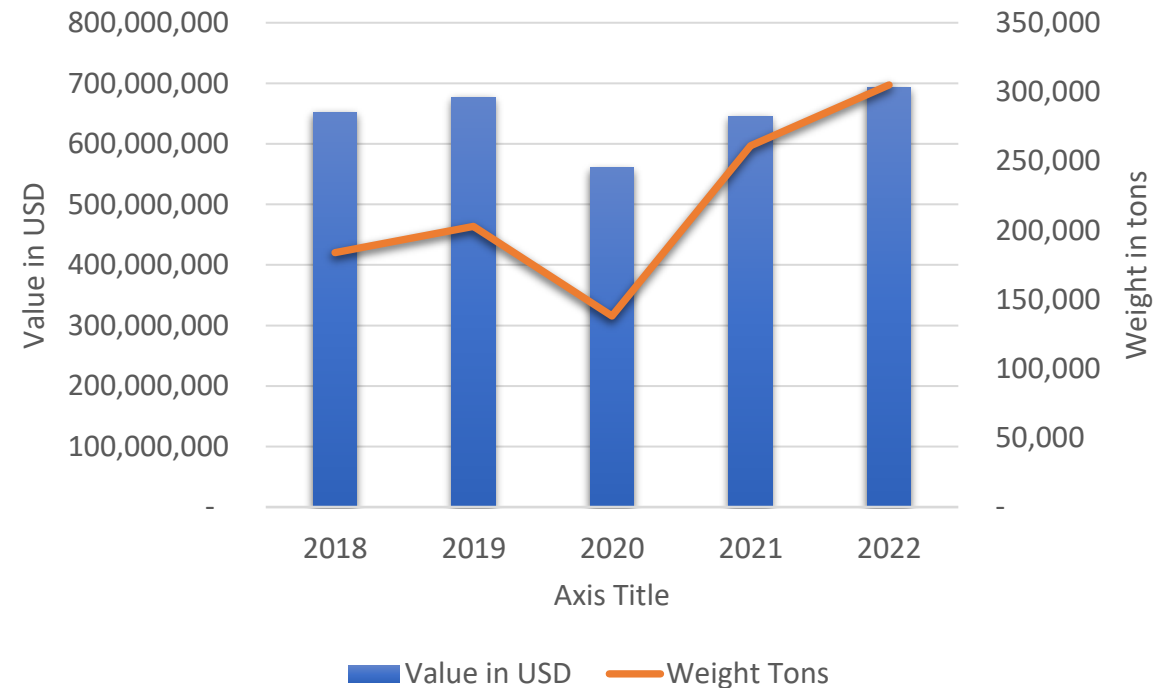
- COMESA developed Blue Economy Strategy with the support of AU-IBAR through FISH-GOV 2. The BE strategy was presented during the COMESA Heads of States summit and was adopted as COMESA strategy to guide the Blue Economy of the region. The COMESA Blue economy is one of the focus under **productive integration**
 - We have also supported a number of countries to develop their Blue Economy Strategy
 - We conducted experience sharing with RECs as well as Member States
- **We have also developed COMESA Fisheries Policy Framework and Reform Strategy with the support of AU-IBAR**
 - The PFRS for Fisheries and Aquaculture in COMESA region is a comprehensive blueprint designed to transform and strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture sectors across the region.
 - These sectors are vital for the socio-economic development of COMESA member states, contributing significantly to food security, employment, and economic growth.
 - The framework seeks to address existing challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and promote sustainable practices that will ensure the long-term viability and prosperity of these industries.

Highlights of fish trade in COMESA

Intra-COMESA Fish exports from 2018 to 2022 values and Net weights



Extra-COMESA exports of Fish from 2018 to 2022 values and Net weights



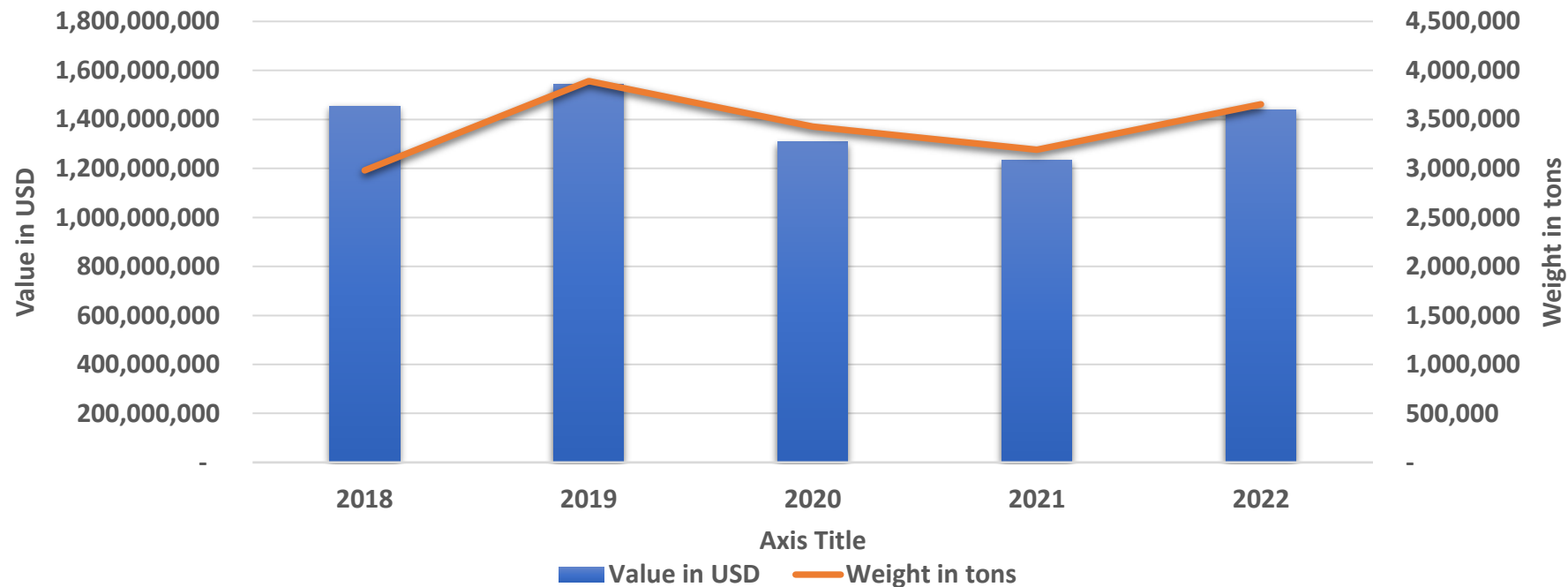
Fish: Fish fresh/chilled, Fish fillets & other fish meat, fresh/chilled, Crustaceans, prepared/preserved, Molluscs & other aquatic invertebrates, prepared/preserved, Tunas, skipjack/stripe-bellied bonito, frozen (excluding livers & roes);

Source: COMSTAT. 2024



Highlights of fish trade in COMESA

Extra-COMESA's imports of Fish from 2018 to 2022 values and Net weights



Fish: Fish fresh/chilled, Fish fillets & other fish meat, fresh/chilled, Crustaceans, prepared/preserved, Molluscs & other aquatic invertebrates, prepared/preserved, Tunas, skipjack/stripe-bellied bonito, frozen (excluding livers & roes);

Source: COMSTAT. 2024





Partners

- AU-IBAR
- AUC-ARBE
- RECs: All RECs as well as IOC
- COMESA MS
- AfDB
- EU/EDF-IOC: ECOFISH
- EU/EDF: Small Scale Cross Border Trade Initiative (SSCBT)
- EU/EDF: COMESA IA Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) FED/2019/407-838
- USAID
- UNDP: Partnering in different areas
- University of Birmingham
- WOA: Technical support/Animal health, biosecurity, food safety
- FAO: Technical support / control of PPR and small ruminant respiratory diseases
- IFAD: Technical



Thank you

<http://www.comesa.int>