



AFRICAN UNION  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
 FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



*Establishing a conducive and enabling environment for the fish sector to create equitable, social and economic development in Africa*

# THE AFRICAN FISHERIES REFORM MECHANISM

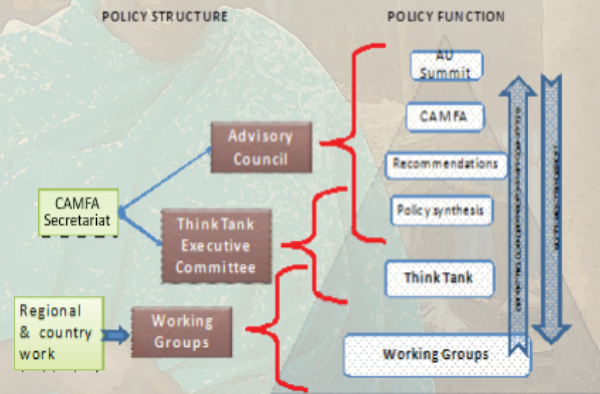


*Creating a conducive and enabling environment for the fish sector to create equitable, social and economic development in Africa*

## Objective

The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) is an AU-based regional partnership platform that is established with the objective of facilitating the development, adoption and implementation of reforms in fishery governance and management that would contribute towards transforming Africa's fisheries from current levels of overexploitation and overcapitalization towards environmental, economic and social sustainability.

## African Fisheries Reform Mechanism



## Background

- Africa is fortunate in having rich and diverse fisheries resources, both marine and inland which together generate significant economic benefits to the continent in terms of revenues, food and livelihoods.
- These benefits are currently under threat. The primary threat is from ineffective governance combined with policies that are both poorly conceived and implemented, and which are rarely coordinated between neighbouring states and regions.
- For decades, there have been interventions in supporting a wide range of fisheries development programmes throughout the continent. Many

of these interventions have failed to ensure sustainable outcomes commensurate with all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

- One reason for this state of affairs has been the absence of an informed, pan-African mechanism able to take a political and technical leadership in guiding more effective development and the implementation of reforms.
- Providing leadership at a continental level would help articulate the regional issues on fisheries that would constitute a framework for realistic policy formulation based on innovation and best practice.
- At the same time, leadership is needed not only in defining more effective policies and governance within States, but also to enable regional collaboration.
- AFRM is therefore primarily a coordination mechanism to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives and to foster fisheries reforms and strengthen institutional arrangements in order to improve the productivity of fisheries and aquaculture

## Main functions of the AFRM

The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism serves as a platform for:

- Coordination and collaboration
- Information sharing
- Communication and knowledge generation
- Advocacy
- Policy development
- Performance monitoring

- Resources mobilization for fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa



## COMPONENTS OF THE AFRM

### **CAMFA Secretariat**

*CAMFA Secretariat* – has overall responsibility for CAMFA events and monitoring CAMFA decision implementation.

- The CAMFA Secretariat monitors progress of implementation of CAMFA decisions and maintains linkages with RECs, RFBs/RFMOs and fisheries/aquaculture programmes, projects and initiatives on the continent.
- The CAMFA Secretariat supports all administrative, management, logistic and governance functions of the AFRM.
- The CAMFA Secretariat ensures effective collaborative working arrangements with the main AU organs, external partners and regional institutions and together, defines their working arrangements.
- The CAMFA Secretariat coordinates the representation and participation of AU in international fisheries and aquaculture forums

for adoption of ‘unified voice’ and ‘common position’ in these forums.

- The CAMFA Secretariat is the custodian of all databases, reports and other relevant information/documents of all AFRM organs.
- The CAMFA Secretariat works closely with the Advisory Council in resource mobilization efforts.

### **Advisory Council**

The Advisory Council, comprising of a limited number of high level experts, is responsible for the examination of policy options and the transformation of these as recommendations for the consideration of CAMFA. The functions of the Advisory Council include:

- To act as the interface between policy synthesis (by the Executive Committee and CAMFA).
- To ensure that policy recommendations are appropriately articulated in preparation for CAMFA meetings as well as strengthening and increasing the ‘African Voice’ in international forums.
- To support political advocacy and lobbying to facilitate adoption of policy recommendations by CAMFA in tandem with the CAMFA Secretariat.
- To strengthen partnerships, linkages and coherence with other non-AFRM partners.
- Development of resource mobilization mechanisms to support the AFRM.
- To Initiate independent performance evaluation of the various organs of the AFRM.

### **Executive Committee**

- The Executive Committee manages, directs and supervises Think Tank events and AFRM Working Groups.
- The Executive Committee ensures research findings and debates are translated into feasible policy options that are taken forward into the political domain by the Advisory Council and CAMFA Secretariat.
- The Executive Committee provides the Advisory Council and CAMFA Secretariat with policy recommendations relevant to CAMFA and other forums (including international meetings where a single ‘African Voice’ may be seen as advantageous).

### **AFRM Working Groups**

Working Groups are technical, policy-related groups formed to discuss key issues in fisheries and aquaculture on the continent and provide technical support to Think Tank events. There are at present working groups on:

- Policy, Institutions and Governance
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
- Aquaculture development
- Small-scale fisheries development
- Fish trade and marketing
- Finance and Investment
- Human capacity development



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