STRATEGY FOR RATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF AFRICAN INLAND FISHERIES
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1. Introduction

Inland water fisheries make very significant contributions to the local populations in Africa especially in nutrition and food security, economic, cultural and recreational roles. These fisheries are the fourth (10.66%) most important source of animal protein after cattle (22.4%), marine fish (21.10%) and chicken (15.79%) (PFRS, 2014); and in several countries particularly in riparian communities along major rivers and lakes of the continent, fish is the major protein source. The annual production has remained stable between 2008 and 2014 at about 2.9 million metric tons contributing about 0.33% of the GDP of all African countries (FAO 2014). In most rural areas especially landlocked countries, inland water fisheries are very important for food security and income generation. Although most inland water fish is consumed locally, products from inland water fisheries can also be important export commodities. For example, the value of the catch from Lake Victoria alone was once estimated at $589 at landing sites with a further $400 million generated by the export of Nile perch (Inland Fisheries Co-Management in Africa, LVFO 2015.

Africa has extensive inland waters from both natural and artificial rivers such as Nile, Congo, Zambezi, Niger among others, lakes such as Victoria, Tanganyika, Nyassa, Volta, Kivu, Kainji, streams and ponds, swamps, mangroves, salt marshes and coastal lagoons to reservoirs. These extensive inland waters have very high diversity of fish species which on record has accounted for two-thirds of total global inland capture production.

Inland fisheries provide employment and income to several million people. A recent estimate of employment and income for seven major river basins found that in West and Central Africa alone fisheries provides livelihoods to more than 227,000 full-time fishers and yields an annual catch of about 570,000 tons with a first-sale value of $295 million. In Africa’s largest and the world’s second largest lake, Lake Victoria, fisheries supports a population estimated at over 30 million1 , while in the whole of Africa over 10 million people are supported by fisheries.

The importance of inland fisheries has led African states sharing these water bodies to establish several Regional Fisheries Bodies to coordinate governance of their fisheries. Some of these regional organizations with inland water fisheries in Africa include the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), and Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Niger Basin Authority (NBA), Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) among others.

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However, inland fisheries face serious challenges including weak institutional and resource capacities, with resulting unsustainable fishing practices and dwindling resource base; marginalisation and gender inequity; environmental degradation; effects of climate change and variability and huge post-harvest fish losses. In addition, the full value of these fisheries are often grossly underestimated. Moreover, these fisheries will only be appropriately considered in decision-making and governance processes if the full range of their economic, social and environmental values are understood and effectively conveyed. Decision makers need periodic, timely and accurate information on the contribution of these fisheries to the economic, nutritional and societal contributions to society. Getting accurate information on these fisheries has remained inherently a challenge because they are small scale highly dispersed and some of them are located in rural areas not easily reachable. Their catches often unreported to governmental agencies. Similarly, significant quantities of fish caught in recreational fisheries are seldom reported. Thus, lack of regular data reporting prevents analyses of trends in and performance of inland fisheries and therefore limits development of effective policies.

**Process of Developing the Strategy**

The process of developing a coordinated inland fisheries resources management and development in Africa was initiated by AU-BAR in collaboration with NEPAD NPCA with assistance from with the EU. Through the Fisheries Governance Project titled *Strengthen Policies and Development Strategies for Inland Water Bodies in Africa*, AU-IBAR commissioned various studies on the Assessment of Fisheries Management and Development Issues of Selected Inland Water Bodies in the West and Central Africa as well as the study for Development/Revision and Implementation of Management Plan for Selected Inland Water Bodies in the North, East and Southern Africa. The assessments were conducted simultaneously with review of policies and regulatory frameworks for the management of aquatic resources for cross border water bodies, in particular. The review was intended to identify gaps and areas requiring realistic amendment. These results of these studies were presented to stakeholders in a workshop organized by AU-IBAR in Uganda between 26th and 29th March, 2018. The stakeholders then identified priority areas for the rational management of inland fisheries management in Africa. The stakeholders included eighty (80) participants comprising of representatives of Member States of selected inland water bodies including Regional Fisheries Organizations (RFOs) such as the Organization for Development of Senegal River (Office de Mise en Valeur du fleuve Senegal (OMVS)), Commission Regionale des Peches du Galfe des Guinea (COREP), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) and Zambezi River, Aswan Dam and Lake Nasser Fisheries Authorities; Fisheries Experts; International Organizations (the WorldFish); the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources and the Consultants as well as appointed Facilitator.
All these efforts were aimed to bring out constraints/issues; identify strategic issues, challenges and trends of regional character in order to develop an appropriate fisheries management plan for effective, rational and sustainable management that are targeted towards the formulation of a Pan African Action Plan for rational management and development of inland fisheries in the continent.

2. **Fundamental elements of the Rational Management of Inland Fisheries**

2.1. **Scope**

The geographic scope of this strategy covers all African Union member states where inland fisheries takes place. It focuses on inland fisheries and aquaculture as well as the post-harvest sector. It is grounded on the reality that inland fisheries if properly governed can provide immeasurable benefits to the present and future generations.

2.2. **Overall Purpose**

The overall purpose of this rational management is to improve governance of small-scale fisheries sector for increased benefits to African populations and countries.

2.3. **Summary of Strategic Areas**

**Thematic Area 1:** Strengthen inland fisheries to contribute to food and Nutritional security.
**Thematic Area 2:** Create an enabling environment for inland fisheries to create wealth and increase economic benefits at local, national and regional level.
**Thematic Area 3:** Strengthen governance of inland water bodies with special attention to shared water bodies.
**Thematic Area 4:** Enhance capacity at various levels for development of inland fisheries and promote a regulated investment in post-harvest sector and value addition.
**Thematic Area 5:** Protect rights of fishers, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children and physically impaired, and formulate policies to achieve equality.
**Thematic Area 6:** Take cognizance of cross cutting issues that affects inland fisheries. Health issues HIV and related problems
**Thematic Area 7:** Strengthen cost-effective and pragmatic research (information generation system, analysis and knowledge) to support decision-makers.
3. **Vision, Goal and Strategic Areas**

3.1. **Vision statement**

Sustainable management and utilization of Africa’s inlands fisheries resources through the creation of a conducive and enabling environment for equitable, economic and social development.

3.2. **Overall Goal**

The overall goal for this rational management of inland fisheries is to provide a structured guidance to fisheries governors, development assistance donor agencies, technical institutions, fish producers and traders, and other stakeholders involved in the sector through a prioritized prospectus of opportunities to facilitate reforms towards coherent national and regional policies that realize the full wealth-generating potential of Africa’s inland fisheries and ensure sustainable social, environmental and profitable outcomes for Africa and its peoples.

3.3. **Objectives**

The overall objective of this rational management of Africa’s inland fisheries is to improve and strengthen the contribution of inland fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, wealth creation and socio-economic benefits to fishing communities.

3.4. **Constraints**

The prioritized constraints that affect inland fisheries include but not limited to issues listed in Table 1:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Constraints/issues</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Priority Strategic Actions</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Geographical Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1st  | Weak science-based approaches to fisheries management | • Existence of the data collection strategy of AU  
• The presence of universities and research institutions. | • Build capacity for collection and management of scientific data and information to guide management and development of inland fisheries  
• Mobilize and fund research to support management | Establish fisheries database to inform management | National and regional and continental |
| 2nd  | Governance of shared water bodies | • Continental initiatives supporting sustainable fisheries management.  
• Some laws, regulations and standards existing nationally.  
• Existence of regional fisheries organizations.  
• A continental Policy framework (PFRS) for harmonization of laws, regulations and standards  
• Existence of participatory approaches  
• Presence of educational and training institutions.  
• Availability of manpower.  
• Potential for transfer of knowledge | (a) Strengthen governance of these inland fisheries  
• Build human and institutional capacity for development and implementation of laws.  
• Empower fisher’s groups to take active role in governing these fisheries.  
• Strengthen compliance and enforcement.  
• Create, where they do not exist, and strengthen, existing, regional fisheries institutions.  
(b) Establish a policy advisory mechanism to guide policy development and implementation based on lesson-learning and best-practice approach.  
(c) Formulate and periodically update policies, regulations and laws for governing inland fisheries  
• Develop a guideline for reviewing and harmonization of laws and regulations at a regional level  
(d) Reduce resource user conflicts  
(e) Establish a multi-stakeholder platform for multi-stakeholder decision making and governance (co-management initiatives, NSAs). | Improve governance of shared water bodies | National, Regional and continental |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Priority Strategic Actions</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Geographical Scale</th>
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</table>
|      | Excessive pressure on fisheries resources | Underutilized alternative livelihoods  
- Potential aquaculture areas in the continent.  
- Existing national and regional development plans.  
- Existing stock enhancement programs  
- Existing fisheries management plans and measures | (f) Commit to internationally agreed decisions specially on shared water bodies  
(g) Mobilize financial resource strategies and develop human and | Enhance diversification of livelihoods. | National, regional and continental |
| 3rd  | Effect of Climate change and variability on inland fisheries | International attention and support. | (a) Mapping livelihoods options.  
(b) Review and realign the national development plans in line with the regional and continental plans  
(c) Enhance capacity to develop and implement fisheries and related laws  
(d) Create an enabling environment for private investment including small-scale enterprises in the post-harvest sector  
(e) Capacity building on value addition and fish processing | Establish a climate change response mechanism. | National, regional and continental |
| 4th  | Increased aquatic invasive weeds | Alternative utilization of the weeds | Develop and effective and sustainable management of invasive weed eradication/management | Establish a control mechanism of invasive weed | National, regional and continental |
| 5th  | Aquatic health | Existing knowledge on aquatic health | Management of aquatic health problems | Establish a mechanism to control aquatic disease outbreak | National, regional and Continental |
| 6th  | Child labour | Existing legislation against child labour | Build capacity of stakeholders to actively engage in advocacy against child labour | Establish a monitoring system to eradicate child labour | National and regional level |
| 7th  | Economic and nutritional value of inland fisheries | Rich inland fisheries | (a) support assessment of ecosystem services provided by inland aquatic ecosystems to value their contribution to ecosystem health and societal wellbeing  
(b) Value ecosystem along the entire value chain | Carryout periodic monitoring of inland fisheries ecosystems to value their contribution to ecosystem health and societal wellbeing | National, regional and Continental |
4. Strategic Areas and Priority Actions

4.1. Thematic Area 1: Strengthen inland fisheries to contribute to food and Nutritional security

Fish as a food is generally acceptable to all regardless of region, religion, race, gender and age and it has an important role to impact on food and nutrition security. There is need to ensure that stocks of inland fisheries are healthy to enable rural communities and vulnerable groups continue to access them to meet their food and nutritional needs. Therefore, improving food and nutrition security is not only central to African Union member states but it is also a strategy to reduce poverty, promote economic and development of member states countries and prevent untimely deaths. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Priority Actions on Thematic area 1**

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Geographic Scale</th>
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</table>
| 1  | Optimize production of inland fisheries | • Rebuild and restore overexploited stocks  
• Promote use of gears that ensure sustainability of stocks | Water body level |
| 2  | Increase accessibility of nutrient rich fish to local communities | • Improve market infrastructure where inland fisheries are sold | National level |
| 3  | Increase utilization and consumption of fish and fishery products | • Carryout periodic eat more fish campaigns.  
• Improve fish distribution networks. | National and regional levels |
| 4  | Promote sustainable Cage farming in lakes | • Map potential cage farming sites | National regional and continental |

4.2. Thematic Area 2: Create an enabling environment for inland fisheries to create wealth and increase economic benefits at local, national and regional level

Inland fisheries' economic and social value are often underestimated and therefore overlooked. As a consequence, they often receive low prioritization in budget allocation for their management. However, these fisheries are crucial in the sustainable development of national both local and national economies of areas where they are located. They are a source of public revenues, trade, foreign exchange and employment. They contribute significantly to reducing extreme poverty, building resilient communities, and fostering strong economies. Moreover, they play a crucial role in ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner. Through this thematic area, it is important to facilitate a paradigm shift from focusing purely on the biology of the fisheries to a all-inclusive approach that guarantees derivation of maximum potential benefits. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 3.
Table 3: Priority Actions on Thematic area 2

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| 1  | Promote national, regional and international trade of inland fisheries | • Establish marketing desk/intelligence/ Authority within fisheries authorities  
• Encourage the use of market information system through mobile platforms  
• Create an enabling environment for women and youth investment in inter/intra-regional fish trade | National, regional and continental |
| 2  | Promote value addition and processing of inland fisheries | • Foster investment in processing technologies  
• Support research on processing technologies and value addition  
• Include post-harvest actors in decision-making processes  
• Improvement of cold chain infrastructure through solar generated ice plants  
• Improve transport infrastructure (roads, railway and air)  
• Build capacity on value addition | National and regional |
| 3  | Promote research to capture true value and innovate new ways of increasing wealth from fisheries | • Mobilize resources for research and innovative activities  
• Train human capacity in innovation | National and regional and continental |
| 4  | | • Provision of financial and advisory support fishers | National and fisher group |

4.3. Thematic Area 3: Strengthen governance of inland water bodies with special attention to shared water bodies

Many inland water bodies in Africa are shared water bodies. The fish in these bodies do not have a clue on the human made national borders. Moreover, these inland water bodies are connected to other essential human activities for example hydroelectric power generation, agriculture, urban growth and transportation, which rely on the fresh water ecosystems. African member states recognize that understanding of fisheries interactions with the non-fishery sectors is critical for achieving sustainable exploitation of these fisheries. However, these water bodies do not have a holistic governance mechanism that captures this interconnectivity. It is important to stimulate efforts towards achieving a balanced governance of these diverse sectors and interests. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 4.
**Table 4:** Priority Actions on Thematic area 3

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<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Geographic Scale</th>
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| 1  | Strengthen governance of these inland fisheries | • Build capacity of these institutions in governing the fisheries  
       • Provide resources timely and efficiently for these institutions to execute their mandates  
       • Include various actors with stake in the inland fishery to restore, conserve, protect and co-manage the freshwater ecosystems  
       • Facilitate, train and support inland fishing communities to participate in and take responsibility for, their fisheries on which they depend for their well-being | National, regional and continental |
| 2  | Formulate and periodically update policies, regulations and laws for governing inland fisheries | • Review the existing operational and legal framework related to co-management system with a view to making the system functional  
       • Carryout harmonization of fisheries policies, legislations and regulations for co-management of shared water bodies: -  
       • Promotion of regional strategies for closed fishing seasons | National and regional |
| 3  | Reduce resource user conflicts | • Engage local fishers in resolving their own conflicts  
       • Encourage the implementation of Inland fisheries and aquaculture committees within existing water bodies | Local National and Sub regional |
| 4  | Establish a multi-stakeholder platform for multi-stakeholder decision making and governance. | • Define through consultations, the roles, responsibilities and rights of each stakeholder  
       • Strengthen enforcement of existing laws  
       • Build a strong participatory MCS | Local National and Sub regional |
| 5  | Commit to internationally agreed decisions specially on shared water bodies | • Ratify international agreements. | National and Regional |

**4.4. Thematic Area 4:** Enhance capacity at various levels for development of inland fisheries and promote a regulated Investment in post-harvest sector and value addition

The ability of inland fisheries to continue providing nutritional value, social and economic benefits is firmly rooted in the capacity of stakeholders to manage the complexity of fisheries resource uses and pressures that they experience. Historically, this capacity has traditionally been based upon the inter-generational knowledge of fishers, however, with changes in fishing techniques as well as increased number of people involved in the fisheries, there has been an increasing dependence on scientific research, fisheries managers and policy makers to make decisions on behalf of fishers. It is here, therefore, where much of the efforts in capacity development for resource management have
been directed over recent times. While progress has been made in this direction, there is still need for greater human capacity enhancement and a recognition of the importance of local knowledge, institutions and social capital in the areas of science – knowledge for management advice, fisheries laws and regulations, control of fishing activities, sanctions for violators and investments. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 5.

**Table 4: Priority Actions on Thematic area 3**

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Geographic Scale</th>
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</table>
| 1  | Develop (where non-exist) and/or improve science based decision-making processes | • Establishment of full database of all fisher including, stakeholders, fisherfolk, processors, operators, Non-State Actors (NSA), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)  
  • Undertake stock assessment of all the inland fisheries in the western and Central Africa including Lakes Chad, Senegal River basin and Niger river basin  
  • Ensure social safeguards and alternative livelihoods for fishers who have to leave the fishery due to overcapacity | Water body level |
| 2  | Enhance capacity to develop and implement fisheries and related laws              | • Train fishers on formulation of laws and monitoring and surveillance Control (MCS)  
  • Review and realign the national development plans in line with the PFRS.  
  • Strengthen advocacy to increase funding to the sector | National and regional |
| 3  | Build capacity for collection and management of scientific data and information to guide management and development of inland fisheries | • Establish and strengthen integrated data collection and management information systems.  
  • Upscale fisheries data and information that guide resource utilization and management  
  • Invest in periodic stock assessment surveys  
  • Standardize data collection and management system  
  • Development of information systems on inland fisheries | National and regional |
| 4  | Create an enabling environment for a regulated private investment including small-scale enterprises in the post-harvest sector | • Development of health and social security insurance for fishers.  
  • Invest in value addition of fish and fish products without jeopardizing stock levels.  
  • Develop policies to manage cage farming in inland water bodies.  
  • Develop a strategy to optimize investments. | National, regional and continental |
| 5  | Build capacity to enable integration of local knowledge in the management inland fisheries | • Capture local knowledge existing among fishing communities’ riparian to inland water bodies  
  • Integrate local knowledge in the management of inland fisheries | National and regional |
4.5. **Thematic Area 5: Protect rights of fishers and formulate policies to achieve equality especially for vulnerable groups**

Secure access to natural resources is critical for achieving basic supply of food, nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods. Rights therefore aid management by specifying and clarifying who the stakeholders are in a certain fishery, while also aiding these stakeholders - whether fishers, fishers’ organizations, fishing companies or fishing communities - by providing some security over access to fishing areas, use of an allowable set of inputs, or harvest of a quantity of fish. If use rights are well established, fishers know who can or cannot access the fishery resources, how much fishing each is allowed to do, and how long these rights are applicable. A well-defined and implemented rights ensures that rights of vulnerable groups such as women, the youth and physically disabled who are participating in fisheries are protected. In the wake of increasing demand for development in tourism, housing, energy and power related developments and agriculture, fishing communities face evictions and marginalisation in many such developments, particularly where fishers do not have written, registered titles to the lands that they occupy. Subsequently this threatens their livelihoods. It is therefore important to secure and protect rights so as to enable inland fishers continue deriving their livelihoods. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 6.

**Table 6: Priority Actions on Thematic area 5**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Increase participation of women in various sectors of fisheries value chain</td>
<td>• Formulate policies and laws to improve women participation in fisheries</td>
<td>National and regional</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Strengthen institutions that protect fisher’s rights</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Formulate, where they do not exist, or review laws and regulations that ensures rights of fishers.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Invest in human resource development such as health, education, literacy, and other skills of a technical nature for vulnerable groups.</td>
<td>• Mobilize resources to enhance human capacity of vulnerable groups.</td>
<td>National and regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Promote social security protection for inland fishers in the entire value chain</td>
<td>• Establish insurance schemes for fishers</td>
<td>Regional, National and community level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Extend social welfare schemes (retirement and health schemes) to the inland fishers</td>
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</table>
4.6. Thematic Area 6: Take cognizance of cross cutting issues that affects inland fisheries

Challenges facing inland fisheries often originate both from inside and outside fisheries. For instance, climate change and climate variability affect productivity of an ecosystem, invasion of aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth among others affects levels of oxygen in the water, an irresponsible construction of dams interferes with water levels and reduces the health of an ecosystem. Moreover, use of fresh water from these inland water bodies to promote agriculture through irrigation as well as use of pesticides to control insects in the agricultural fields riparian to the inland water bodies causes serious threat to fish. These among other have the effect of affecting fish recruitment and thereby fish supply. It is important that factors of this nature be taken into consideration and a balance is sought rather than emphasizing on one or two them at the expense of the others which are equally important. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Priority Actions on Thematic area 6

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<th>No</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Geographic Scale</th>
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</table>
| 1  | Develop and effective and sustainable management of invasive weed eradication/management | • Invest in research on invasive weed control  
• Address causes of invasive invasion  
• Promote alternative use of the invasive weeds | National, regional and continental |
| 2  | Management of aquatic health problems | • Put in place a diagnostic and response mechanism for aquatic health outbreak  
• Build capacity in the continent on aquatic health | National, regional and continental. |
| 3  | Monitor Climate change and climate variability impacts on fish and fishing communities | • Develop resilience activities  
• Design and introduce mitigation measures | Continental, regional and national. |
4.7. **Thematic Area 7: Strengthen cost-effective and pragmatic research (information generation system, analysis and knowledge) to support decision-makers.**

Research is crucial not only for socio-economic development but also it aids evidenced-based decisions to be made. In inland fisheries, research is necessary as an entry point to generate an understanding of the complex ecosystem and the ongoing interactions. Such an understanding is inevitable if inland fisheries ecosystems are to be kept healthy to support sustainable fisheries. The major goal of research in inland fisheries, just as it is in other sectors, is to serve as an instrument of change to improve fishers and various actors living standards by stimulating growth and increasing productivity. Research will always lead to new exploitation approaches, creation of more competitive products and services, increased food productivity and security and shelter, among many other benefits. Research will also bring about innovations, technological advancements, fish product improvement, enhanced service efficiency, effectiveness and improved performance in the market place. Actions required for this thematic area are presented in Table 8.

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<th>No</th>
<th>Priority Actions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Geographic Scale</th>
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</table>
| 1  | Strengthen research in inland fisheries | • Mobilize resources for continued support to research  
• Improve capacity of fisheries researchers in undertaking research to support management  
• Build an integrated research program in fisheries biology, ecology, economics, socio-economics and humanities for rational management of inland fisheries | Regional, national and community level. |
| 2  | Promote research in technological innovations with the aim of reducing wastes from fisheries | • Fund research that focus on value addition technology  
• Support research on strengthening the use mobile technology in improving markets for fish and fish products from inland fisheries  
• Support research in improving non-destructive fishing gear technologies | Community, national and regional levels |
5. Implementation

5.1. Principles for implementation

In line with the PFRS framework, implementation of this strategy is an activity to be jointly taken by relevant government ministries, departments and/or authorities charged with the responsibility in fisheries, development partners, academic institutions, middle-level technical institutions and other sector stakeholders. To effectively implement this strategy a strong cooperation, collaboration, coordination and investment across a range of entities based on a visionary, sequencing and participatory approach will be required. This should be guided by the following principles:

**Consultation, cooperation and participation:** Participatory decision-making must be vested at the entire value chain starting from the lowest possible level. Institutional linkages must be established with other line ministries or agencies and partnerships and collaboration promoted between the private sector, international organizations, NGOs and CSOs.

**Adopting a process approach:** Member states should develop an approach that will enable implementation of this strategy taking into consideration the available information and diagnosis. Implementation must develop on relevant information and implement relevant interventions in response to opportunities identified and constraints which need to be overcome.

**Prioritization:** It is important that implementation of this strategy focuses on the realistic attainment of objectives in line with national, regional and continental priorities. The continental priorities in mind here is the PFRS.

**Equity and equality:** The issue of legitimacy, inclusivity, fairness and transparent and non-discriminatory to vulnerable groups, gender and disadvantaged groups.

**Scalability:** Activities proposed here needs to be streamlined and or designed to be useful in different levels such as local, national regional and continental.

**Sustainability:** Implementation needs to be undertaken through an Ecosystems Approach (EAF). Care must be taken to guard against undesirable biological and socio-economic and socio-cultural outcomes.
Accountability: At each level of implementation, actors must be held responsible for their decisions and actions.

5.2. Facilitating implementation

There are several working groups already established at the continental level to facilitate implementation of the PFRS. For this Rational management of Inland fisheries, RECs and RFBs should constitute similar working groups at regional level to support members states in the implementation of this strategy.