



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

AQUATIC ANIMAL WELFARE **Africa's continental perspective**

by

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at

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AU-IBAR's Mandate

- ***AU-IBAR's overall role*** is to provide leadership and coordinate the sustainable management and utilization of Africa's animal resources for the welfare of the continent and its citizens.
- ***It does so, based*** on the principles of the African Union, and thus is strongly guided by continental policy and strategies as *blueprints*.
- ***Africa's animal resources*** – terrestrial, aquatic, domestic and wild *irrespective of their size or trophic level*
- ***The continental blueprint*** for the sustainable management and utilization of the continent's aquatic animals is the **Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa**



Why and what is the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)

Rationale for developing the PFRS

Fish for all Summit (2005)

- Organized by AUC, AU-MS & development partners
- Status, performance and sustainability sectoral trends declining
- production focused management inadequately coped with impacts of new challenges; demographic changes, environmental degradation, and climate change.
- => Increased exploitation pressure and reduced natural resource regenerative capacity
- => Strengthen sustainability and resilience of sector by improving management of natural stocks, aquaculture production and trade

CAMFA recommended transformative actions

- Cognizant of the transboundary nature of Africa's aquatic ecosystems and role of REC's
1. broad-based participatory continental policy dialogue to support AU-MS strengthen sector policy coherence to the CAADP
 2. An AU coordination mechanism involving REC's and RFB's to ensure coherence of sectoral policies and initiatives with the AU regional integration agenda
 3. AU-MS to consider sectoral reforms and strengthen institutional arrangements to improve sector's productivity
 4. AU-MS must commit to develop sector in a way that focuses on (i) productivity, (ii) profitability, (iii) sustainability, (iv) wealth generation, (v) social welfare, nutrition and food security, (vi) regional management of shared resources and (vi) strengthening south-south (bilateral and regional) cooperation

PFRS

- PFRS constitutes Africa's blueprint for guiding the transformation of its fisheries and aquaculture sector to sustainably achieve for food and nutrition security, livelihoods and wealth
- Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) - its broad-based participatory implementation mechanism
- Both endorsed by AHSG in 2014

Policy Pillars of the PFRS

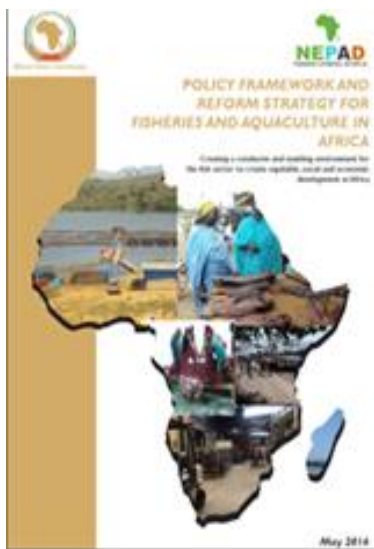
Africa's blueprint providing structure guidance for transforming the sector to improve sustainable management and utilization of fisheries resources, equity and its contribution socioeconomic development.

POLICY PILLARS

1. Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use
2. Small-scale Fisheries Development
3. Sustainable Aquaculture Development
4. Responsible and Equitable Fish Trade and Marketing
5. Strengthened Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation
6. Awareness Enhancing and Human-Capacity Development
7. High Seas Fisheries

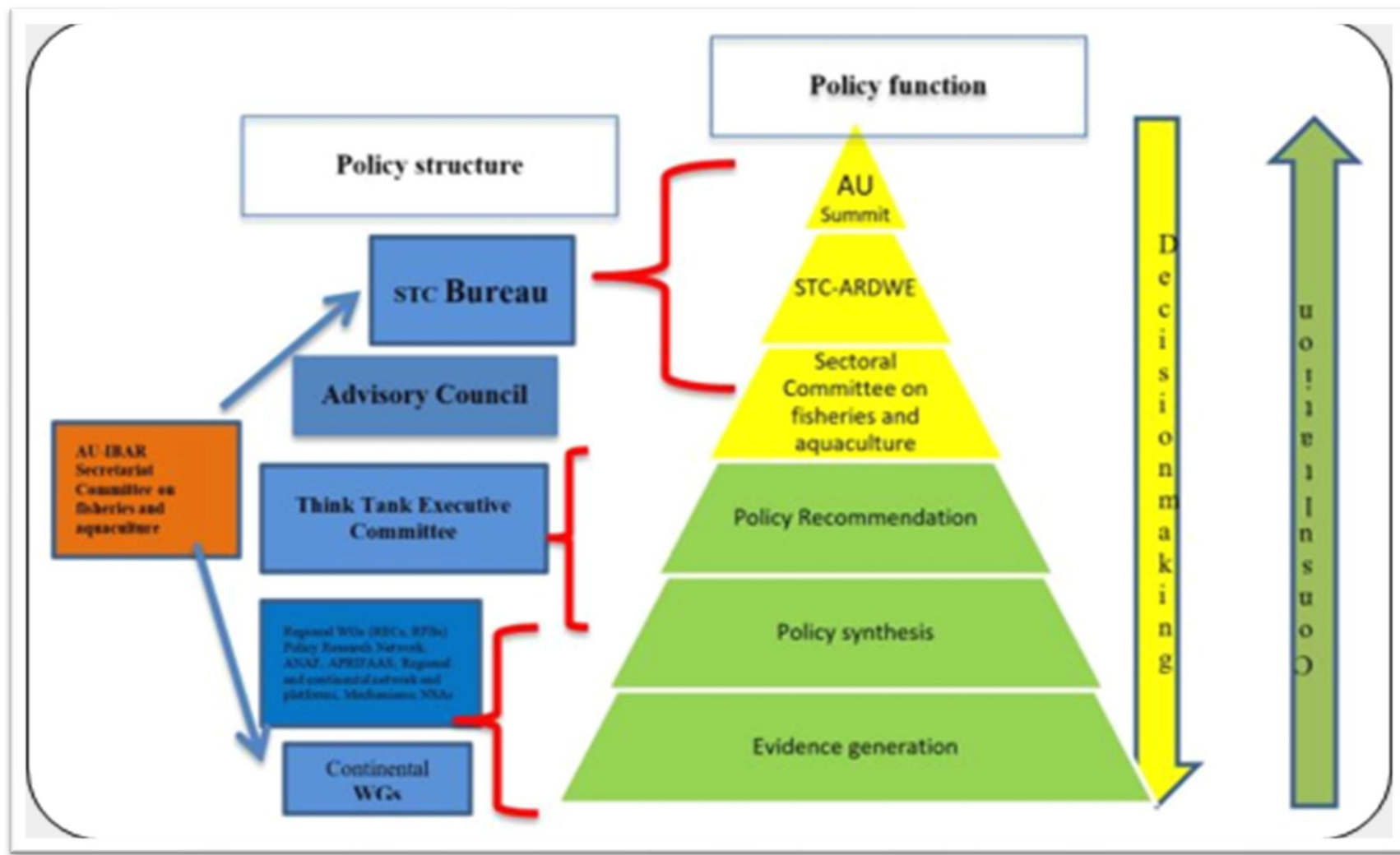
CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

- Strengthening Resilience and Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in African Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Gender and Youth
- Private Sector Investments & Financing Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa



The PFRS and AFRM are also the anchor for the sector under the Africa Blue Economy

The Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM)



The PFRS is anchored on international, Africa's continental and regional norms and best practices, notably (but not exclusively):

- ✓ UN Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ AU Agenda 2063, CAADP
- ✓ FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture
- ✓ WTO SPS Measures (notably the Aquatic Code & manual, Codex Alimentarius)
- ✓ The Convention on Biodiversity
- ✓ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ✓ Development plans and protocols of AU REC's and institutions

Aquatic animals and the PFRS

An aquatic animal is any animal, whether vertebrate or invertebrate, that lives in a body of water for all or most of its lifetime



Floaters – at surface of water

Drifters e.g metazoan plankton, copepods, etc

Swimmers eg. fish, mammals, reptiles, etc

Bottom dwellers e.g. sponges, coral, fish, crustaceans, molluscs, octopus etc

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

Aquatic animals and the PFRS

1. Fish:

Actinopterygii: Ray-finned fish (the most diverse group of fish).

Sarcopterygii: Lobe-finned fish (including coelacanths and lungfish, and the ancestors of tetrapods).

Chondrichthyes: Cartilaginous fish (sharks, rays, and chimaeras).

Agnatha: Jawless fish (lampreys and hagfish).

2. Mammals:

Cetaceans: Whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

Pinnipeds: Seals, sea lions, and walruses.

Sirenians: Manatees and dugongs.

Marine Fissipeds: Polar bears and sea otters.

3. Reptiles:

Sea Turtles: (Green sea turtle, Loggerhead sea turtle, etc.).

Sea Snakes: (Venomous snakes adapted to marine life).

Marine Iguanas: (Only found on the Galapagos Islands).

4. Amphibians:

Frogs and Toads: Some species live in or near water;

Salamanders: Many salamanders are aquatic throughout their lives.

5. Mollusks:

Bivalves: Clams, oysters, mussels.

Gastropods: Sea snails, slugs.

Cephalopods: Squid, octopus, cuttlefish.

6. Cnidarians:

Anthozoans: Corals, sea anemones.

Medusozoans: Jellyfish, hydras.

7. Echinoderms:

Starfish: (Also known as sea stars).

Sea Urchins: (Spiny, globular creatures).

Sea Cucumbers: (Elongated, leathery-skinned animals).

8. Crustaceans:

Decapods: Crabs, lobsters, shrimp.

Copepods: (Tiny crustaceans, important part of plankton).

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



- Human Food and nutrition
- Animal foodstuffs and feeds
- Environmental goods and services *e.g. water purification, indicators of environmental pollution, food webs, etc*
- Non-food uses – *fuel, medicines (eg. fish oils), industrial chemicals (e.g. chitin, bioplastics), cosmetics & ornaments,*
- Tourism, recreation,
- Research *(including human & animal medical, water quality management, etc)*
- Jobs
- Culture
- And so much more.....

Aquatic animals and the PFRS: *Our scope and value is wider and greater than 'fish' alone*



<https://www.oceansafrica.com/>



Aquatic animals and the PFRS: *Care for us to experience and enjoy our benefits sustainably*



Home Boat Trips ▾ Scuba Diving ▾ Whale Watching ▾ Sardine Run ▾ About Contact 🔍



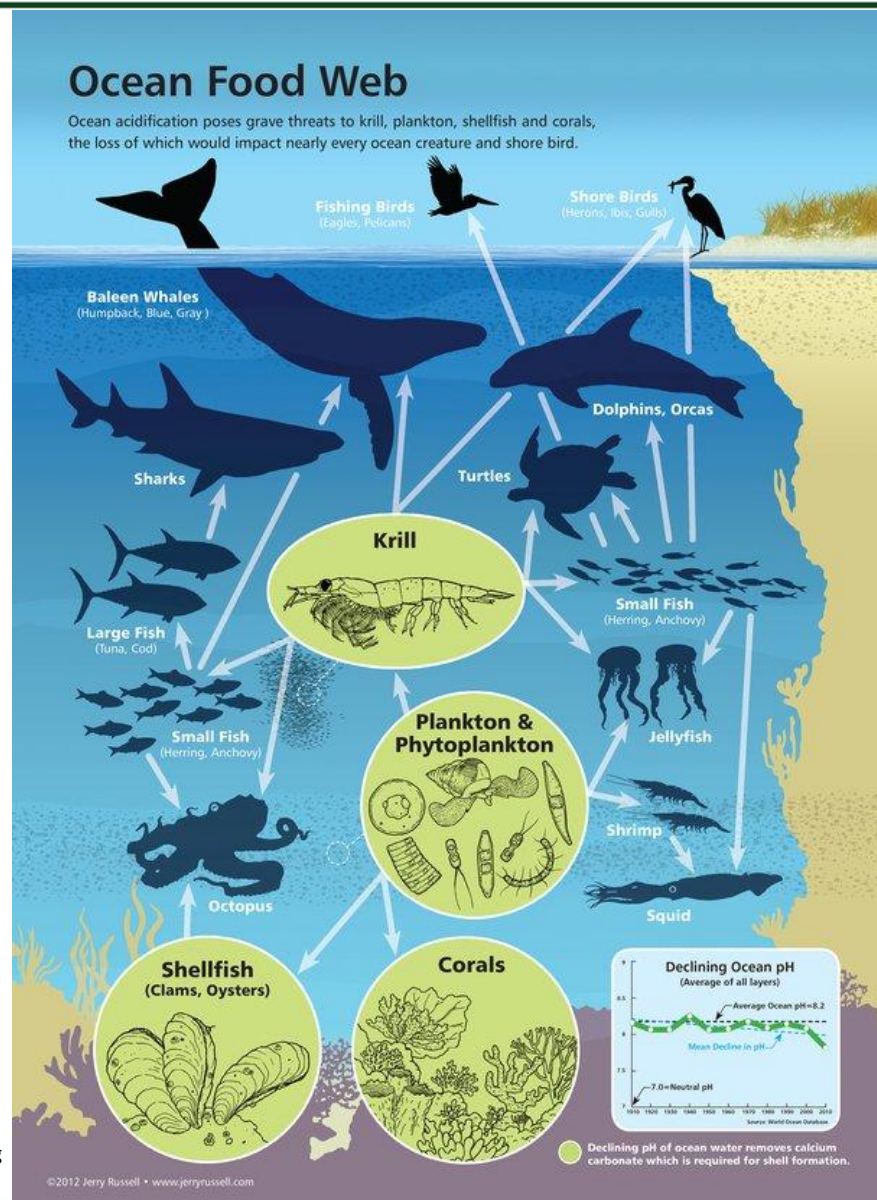
<https://www.oceansafrica.com/>

Major threats for the health and welfare of aquatic animals in Africa:

- *IUU* particularly due to overfishing, destructive fishing,
- *Environmental & habitat degradation* – destruction of watersheds, obstruction of waterways, water pollution (including plastics, noise), climate change, acidification, invasive species and competition from invasive species
- Diseases

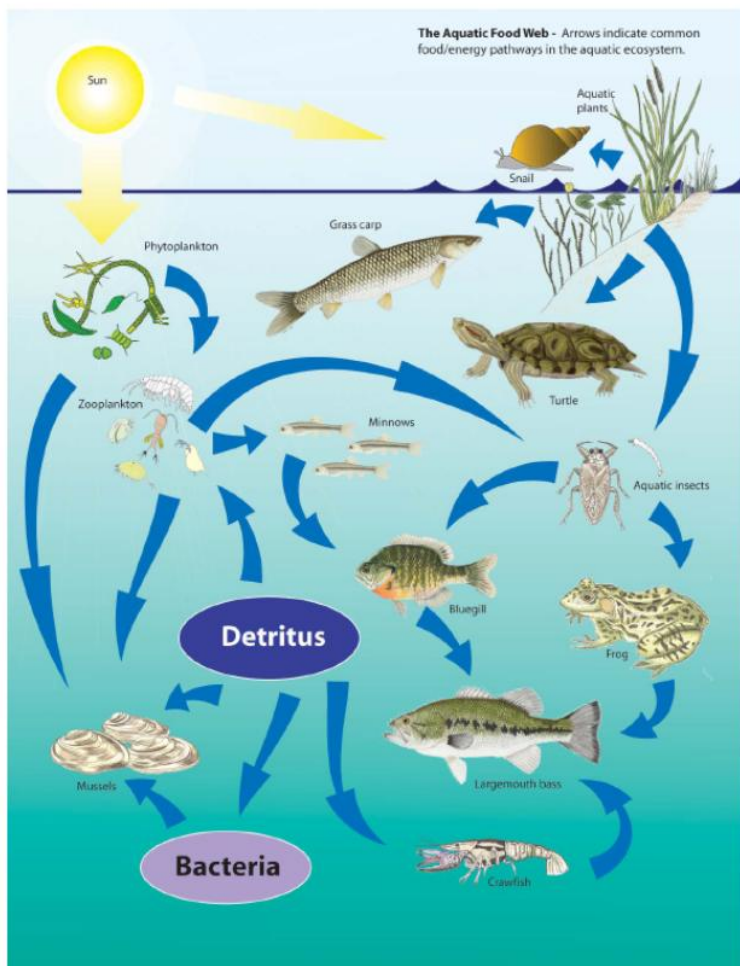
The PFRS safeguards our envi

<https://en.wikipedia.org>



The PFRS and AFRM: *Anchors for the health and welfare of Africa's aquatic animals, and safety of Africa's aquatic animal products*

Aquatic Ecology

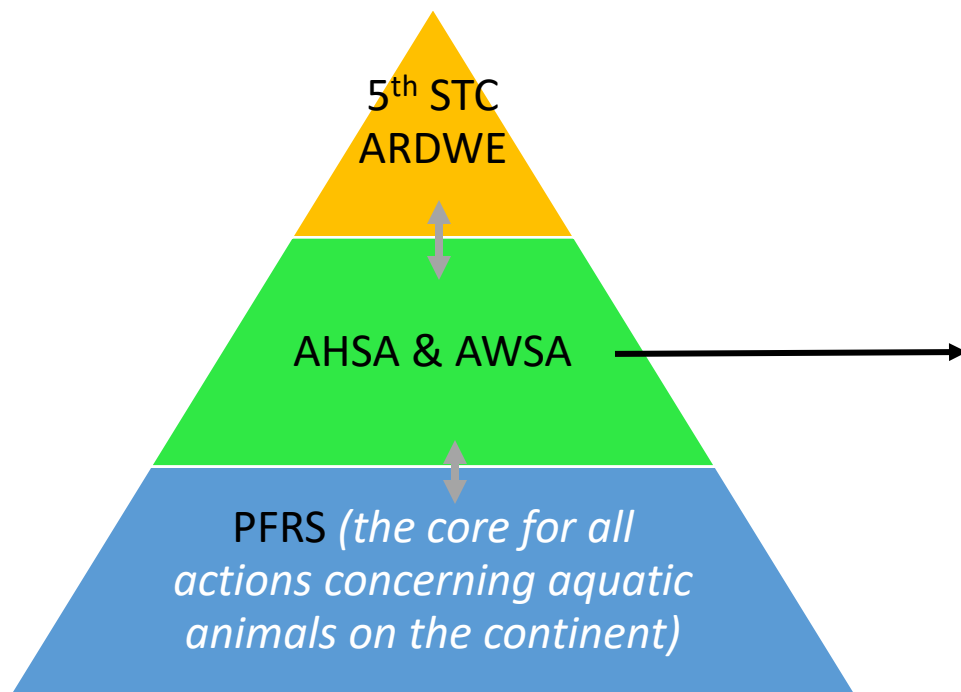


<https://agrilife.org/fisheries/files/2013/10/Aquatic-Ecology-And-The-Food-Web.pdf>

The PFRS adopts the ecosystem approach:

- *interconnectedness between the animal, human and environment => One Health and One Welfare*
 - *aquatic ecosystem integrity and health to protect and support the wellbeing of aquatic living resources sustainably while fostering equitable benefit sharing.*
 - *Its seven policy pillars provides the continental framework and strategy for achieving the 5 freedoms in all Africa's aquatic animal productive systems (fisheries, aquaculture, biodiversity conservation & BE)*
1. freedom from hunger and thirst,
 2. freedom from discomfort,
 3. freedom from pain, injury, and disease,
 4. freedom to express normal behavior,
 5. freedom from fear and distress

Africa's continental approach to aquatic animal welfare



CAMFA emphasized coherent transboundary ecosystem management as the preferred transformative approach to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the sector. **Therefore** the 'aquatic elements pertaining to the environment & animals innate nature and needs take precedence in the AHSA & AWSA).

Hence stakeholders (AFRM):

- reference to the PFRS in the documents in background
- **'aquatic animal'** rather than **'fish'** as the preferred scope. For the sector restricting health and welfare to fish alone => commodity centric value chain approaches
- All actions and actors involved in aquatic animal welfare to be coordinated within the framework of AWSA and aligned to the PFRS in congruence to the AFRM (hence 5th STC ARDWE recommendation going forward)

Strengthening the capacity for aquatic biosecurity control following the Ecosystems and One Health approaches in Africa in order to:

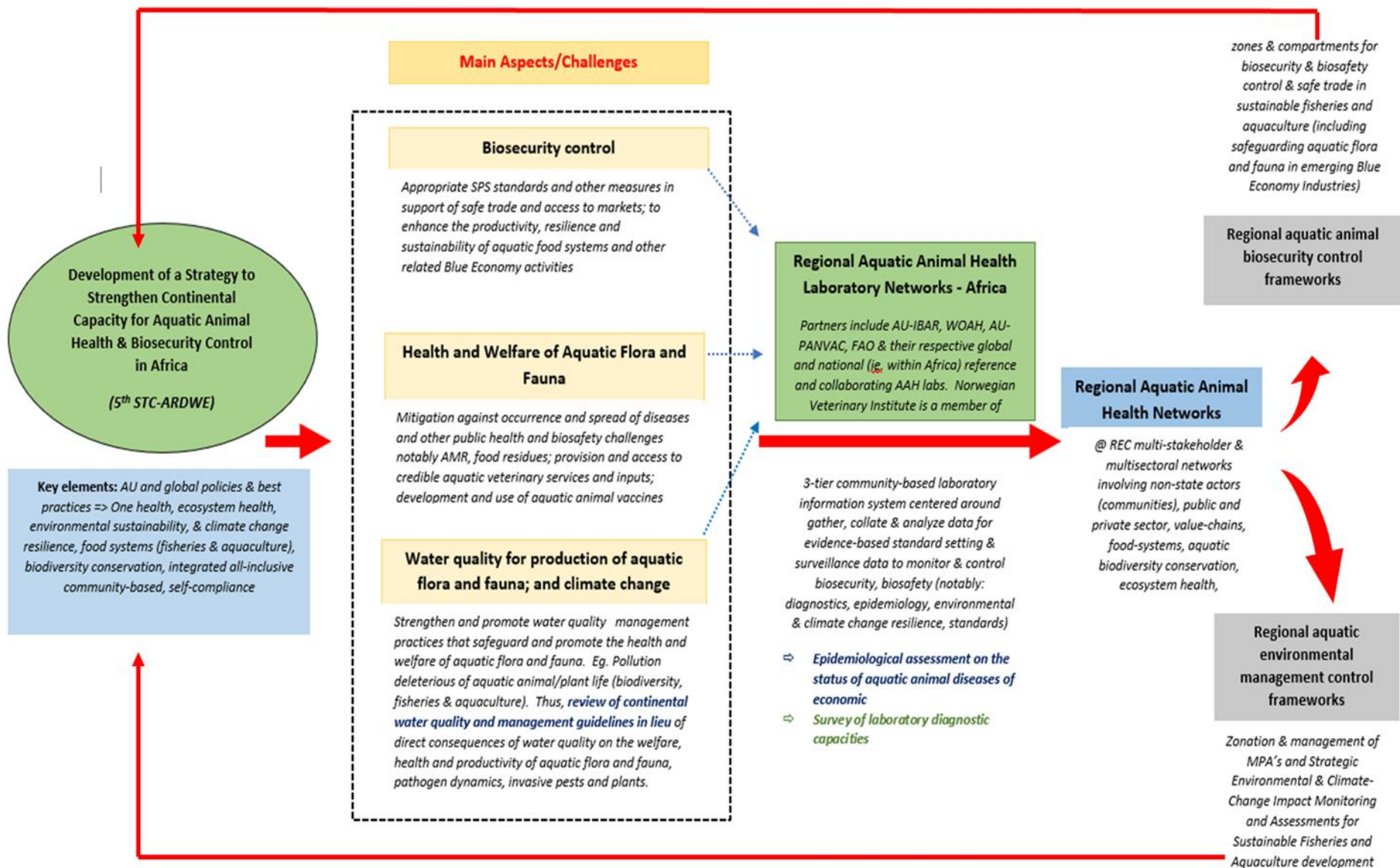
- i. Promote aquatic animal health, welfare and ecosystem health to Safeguard the sustainability and productivity of Africa's fishery, aquaculture, and aquatic biodiversity resources; as well as safety of aquatic animal produce
- ii. Curb growing trend of infectious aquatic animal disease outbreaks and recurrences on the continent
- iii. Improve access to markets by strengthening capacity for safe, free and equitable regional fish trade towards AfCTA
- iv. Control the spread of antimicrobial resistance through aquatic food value chains
- v. Enhance the potential for harnessing emerging opportunities from the sustainable management and utilization of Africa's aquatic living resources in the Blue Economy
- vi. Strengthen continental coordination to promote coherence and harmonization of holistic regionally integrated multi-sectoral approaches to strengthen the long-term resilience of Africa's transboundary aquatic resources



The way forward (2025 – 2034)

“Sustainable and Resilient Agrifood Systems for a Healthy and Prosperous Africa”

GOING FORWARD: The AU integrated approach towards promoting aquatic animal health & welfare in Africa



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