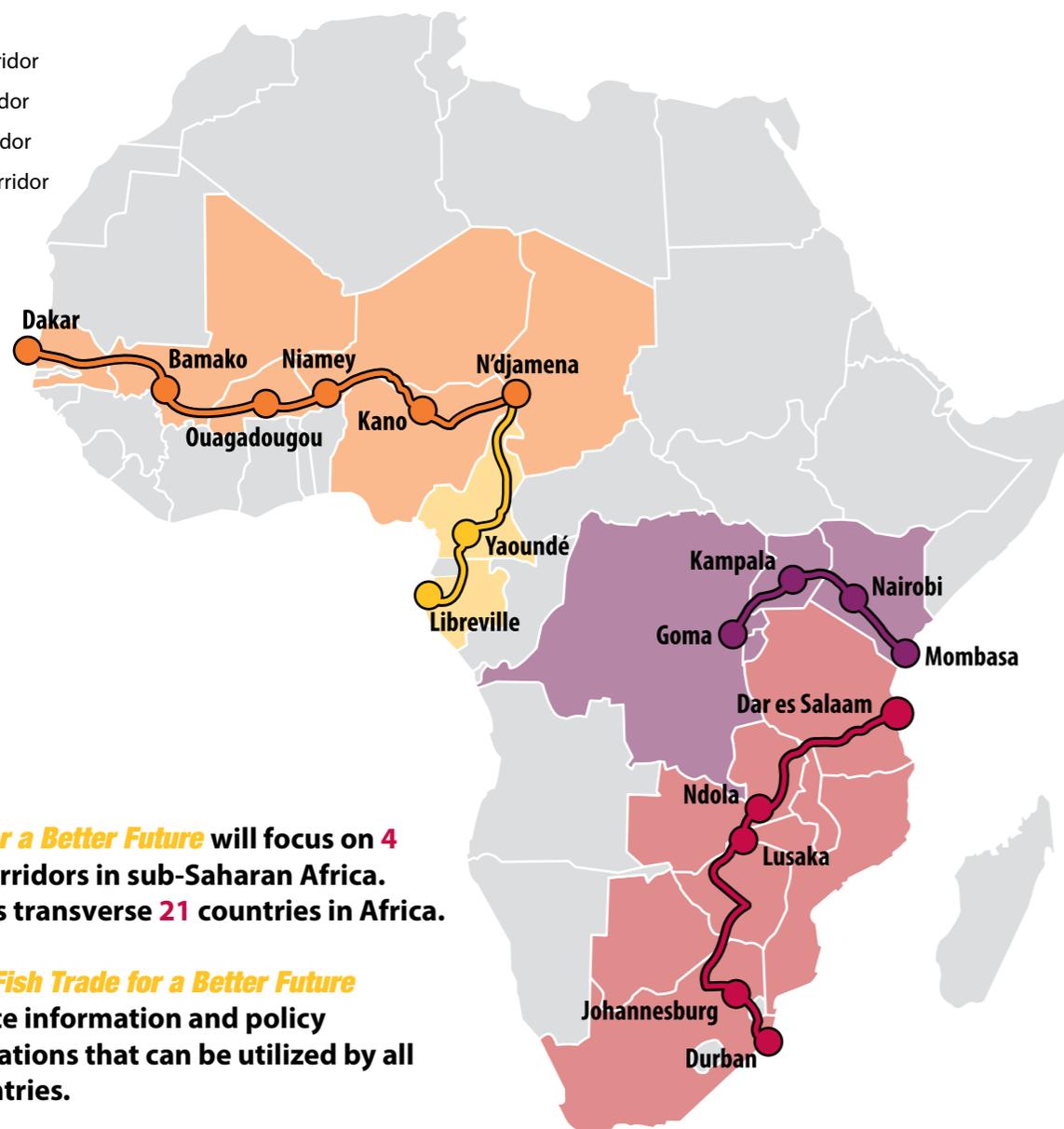


**Legend**

- Western corridor
- Central corridor
- Eastern corridor
- Southern corridor



**Fish Trade for a Better Future** will focus on 4 fish trade corridors in sub-Saharan Africa. These routes transverse 21 countries in Africa.

The goal of **Fish Trade for a Better Future** is to generate information and policy recommendations that can be utilized by all African countries.

## Partner with us

**Fish Trade for a Better Future**, funded by the European Union, is a partnership between the African Union Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and WorldFish. We welcome enquires from organizations working in fisheries, fish trade policy or fish value chain analysis.

To learn more or to get involved, contact:

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### **Fish Trade for a Better Future:**

Promoting intra-regional trade and the sustainability and profitability of African fisheries and aquaculture



Funded by the European Union



## Why focus on intra-regional fish trade?

Many African countries are endowed with fish resources in oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, floodplains and fish farms, which generate a range of benefits, including food and nutrition security, livelihoods, exports, and ecological resilience. The value added by the fisheries sector as a whole in 2011 was estimated at more than US\$24 billion, representing 1.26% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of all African countries. It is estimated that the fisheries sector directly employs 12.3 million people as full-time fishers, full-time processors or part-time processors. Additionally, the livelihoods of millions more are influenced by the fisheries sector.

Globally, the fish commodity trade was valued at US\$130 billion in 2013. However, Africa's participation in the global fish trade has been limited, providing only about 4.9% of the total value traded.

Intra-regional fish trade in Africa is constrained by inadequate market and trade infrastructure and deficient policy and institutional frameworks. These lead to high transport costs, complex trade rules and inadequate market information, all of which prevent Africa from optimizing the social and economic benefits available from fish trade.

There is great potential for fisheries to generate greater food and nutrition security and help reduce poverty at both the household and national levels. Fish provide micronutrients that are essential to cognitive and physical development, especially in children, and are an important part of a healthy diet. As an affordable animal source of protein in some of the poorest countries, fish is a primary source of nutrition, creating growing demand for this staple. However, fish supplies are failing to meet demand, and there are major shortages in some critically poor countries where they are needed most.

Strengthening the management of fisheries, promoting more effective policies and expanding fish trade opportunities for fish-dependent communities, including small-scale fishers, will lead to a sustainable fish trade that improves incomes, stimulates economic growth and provides a pathway out of poverty for many fish-dependent communities across Africa.



## What is Fish Trade for a Better Future?

Over the past 5 years, fish processors and traders, along with government leaders, have begun to demand a change in the way Africa trades its fish. In May 2014, the second Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) endorsed the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, which prioritizes fish trade and aims to promote responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing by significantly harnessing the benefits of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture.

In response to this growing demand, the European Union-funded **Fish Trade for a Better Future** has been established to facilitate the development of fish trade in Africa by focusing on conducting research to generate data that will inform crucial policy decisions. The project aims to improve food security and reduce poverty through intra-regional fish trade in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Fish Trade for a Better Future** is led by WorldFish, an international research organization that harnesses the potential of fisheries and aquaculture to reduce hunger and poverty, in partnership with the African Union Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA). Regional economic communities (RECs), regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) and national governments in Africa will collaborate in the implementation of **Fish Trade for a Better Future** by promoting intra-regional trade and providing an enabling environment to make it happen.

## What will Fish Trade for a Better Future do?

**Fish Trade for a Better Future** will work in four fish corridors to generate information on how to improve intra-regional fish trade throughout Africa. Specifically, it will focus on the following:

- generating information on the structure, products and value of intra-regional fish trade
- recommending and informing policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations on intra-regional fish trade
- enhancing the capacities for trade among private sector associations, in particular of women fish processors, women traders and all aquaculture producers, to make better use of expanding trade opportunities through competitive small- and medium-scale enterprises
- facilitating adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations by key stakeholders participating in intra-regional fish trade.

To ensure that fish trade policy reforms and practice are based on sound technical advice and evidence, **Fish Trade for a Better Future** will conduct analysis on fish corridors and use the results to stimulate dialogue and debate among key national, regional and continental fish trade stakeholders in order to strengthen intra-regional trade.

In the early stages of the program, **Fish Trade for a Better Future** will generate information on the structure, products and value of intra-regional fish trade and its contribution to food security in sub-Saharan Africa. Recommendations will be prepared on policies, fish certification guidelines, and quality and safety standards, as well as regulations.

In the later stages of the program, **Fish Trade for a Better Future** will focus on strengthening the trade capacities of private sector associations, in particular of women fish processors, women traders and all aquaculture producers, in order for them to make better use of expanding trade opportunities through competitive small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Jointly with continental, regional and national stakeholders, **Fish Trade for a Better Future** will support adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, fish certification procedures, standards and regulations by key stakeholders in intra-regional trade. Information generated by the program will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders through the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) and other appropriate channels.

### Activities

- Partnerships
- Corridor analysis
- Case studies
- Capacity development

### Goals

- Policy recommendations
- Regulatory frameworks
- Strengthened trade capacities

### Outcomes

- Improved fisheries management
- Increased food and nutrition security
- National and regional economic growth