



**Republic of South Sudan**

**MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES**

**NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY**

*November 2020*



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
<b>ARCRSS</b>	Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
<b>CAMP</b>	Comprehensive Agricultural Development Master Plan
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CPA</b>	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
<b>FBOs</b>	Faith Based Organizations
<b>FP</b>	Fisheries Policy
<b>GiZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit Gmbh
<b>GRSS</b>	Government of the Republic of South Sudan
<b>HIV and AIDS</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome
<b>IAA</b>	Integrated aqua-agriculture
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, Unauthorized and Unregulated (fishing)
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MLF</b>	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
<b>MSY</b>	MSY or the “maximum sustainable yield” or is the largest amount of fish you can take out of the water, while still leaving enough to ensure sustainability
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>RSS</b>	Republic of South Sudan
<b>SMARF</b>	State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
<b>SSV</b>	South Sudan Vision:2040
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
<b>TGoNU</b>	Transitional Government of National Unity
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## DEFINITION OF TERMS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The Policy adopts the following definitions:

<b>Aquaculture (= Fish farming)</b>	The farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants with some intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators. Farming also implies individual or corporate <u>ownership</u> of the stock being cultivated.
<b>Capture or wild fisheries</b>	The sum or range of all activities to harvest in a given fishery resource. It may refer to the location (e.g. floodplain, reservoirs, lakes swamps or rivers), the target species, the technology used (e.g. cast nets, gill nets, hook and line), the social characteristics (artisanal, industrial), the purpose (e.g. commercial, subsistence or recreational) as well as the season.
<b>Catch</b>	= Harvest. The total number (or weight) of fish caught by fishing operations. Catch includes all fish killed by the act of fishing, not just those landed.
<b>Commercial fishing</b>	Activity undertaken for monetary gain and with the objective to sell the bulk of the harvest on the market, through direct contracts, or other forms of trade.
<b>Co-management</b>	A process of management in which government shares power with resource users, with each given specific rights and responsibilities relating to information and decision making.
<b>Culture-based fisheries</b>	The practice of stocking fingerlings from hatcheries or capturing or collecting live material from the wild and its subsequent direct use in aquaculture. The fingerlings are owned by the stockists thereby classing this activity as a form of aquaculture.
<b>Ecosystem health</b>	Refers to the condition the aquatic habitats, level of pollution and habitat degradation, waste management and protecting endangered species to secure productivity for present and future generations.
<b>Fingerlings/juvenile</b>	A pre-adult fish, about the size of a human finger.

<b>Fish</b>	Used as a collective term that includes finfish, molluscs, crustaceans and their life stages and or animal that is harvested.
<b>Fish utilisation</b>	An alternative term used in this document for capture or wild fisheries.
<b>Fishing</b>	Activity of catching, taking or killing fish, by any method.
<b>Fish hatcheries</b>	An indoor or outdoor facility for breeding fish artificial or naturally and rearing the hatching through the early life stages.
<b>Fishery</b>	Without prejudice to indigenous or international definitions: <b>Fisheries</b> refers to capture or wild fisheries, aquaculture and aquarium fisheries.
<b>Fishery(ies)</b>	A unit(s) determined by an authority or other entity that is engaged in activities for raising (aquaculture) and/or harvesting wild fish (capture fisheries).
<b>Fisher/fisher folk</b>	An individual or group who catches fish and other aquatic animals from a water body for a living.
<b>Man-made water harvesting structures (hafirs)</b>	Reservoir or depressions constructed or modified for storing rain water carried by streams or runoff and used for domestic water supply as well as for agricultural purposes in rural areas.
<b>Integrated Agriculture-Aquaculture</b>	Combining of fish farming with other forms of traditional farming activities such as agriculture and livestock in such a manner that by-products from one farming activity supports another to raise productivity and reduce cost.
<b>Multi-species fishery</b>	A fishery in which more than one species is caught at the same time. The term is often used to refer to fisheries where more than one species is intentionally sought and retained.
<b>Recreational fisheries</b>	Fishing of aquatic animals that do not constitute the individual's primary resource to meet nutritional needs and are not generally sold or traded in any market. Sport fishing and tournament fishing are included in the term recreational fisheries.
<b>Stock assessment</b>	A series of studies aimed at collecting relevant data on species to understand its biological status and estimate its tonnage through mathematical means for the purposes of managing its sustainable utilization.

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<b>Subsistence fishing</b>	Activity undertaken where the fish caught are shared and consumed directly by the families, relatives and friends of the fishers. This also includes fish that may be bartered or sold for other goods or services.
<b>Sustainable</b>	Activities that do not cause or lead to significant undesirable changes in the biological and economic productivity, biological diversity, or ecosystem structure and functioning from one human generation to the next.
<b>User rights</b>	The rights held by individual fishers, fishing groups, fishing communities or companies to have access to a fishery and use the resources.
<b>Sudd</b>	The Sudd swamps (between Malakal and Bor) are a wetland area with a maximum water surface area in excess of 30 000 km <sup>2</sup> during the rainy season.
<b>States</b>	Refers to the 32 States of South Sudan under a decentralized system of government.
<b>Seeds</b>	A general term that refers to larvae, post-larvae, fry, fingerlings and juveniles used for grow-out to marketable or consumable size. Wild seed refers to seed caught from the wild, as opposed to those produced in a hatchery.



## FOREWORD

The Republic of South Sudan is a new country endowed with abundant natural resources, among them, the fisheries resources which are currently underutilized. The government is committed to steer and expand the fisheries sector over the coming years such that it makes a significant contribution to the nation's future prosperity. A pragmatic fisheries policy which encompasses **both capture or wild fisheries and aquaculture or fish farming**, will be the cornerstone to direct the development of a dynamic fisheries sector contributing to national economy and tackling food insecurity as well as unemployment and poverty, particularly in rural areas.

The Fisheries Policy of 2017 is a revised edition of the 2012 policy which was developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders with support from the European Union Act Fish II Project. outcome of extensive stakeholder consultations between the technical team at the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture development, stakeholders in the capture fisheries and aquaculture sector, government bodies, NGOs and development partners and was supported by the European Union ACP Fish II project. In the light of the new Transitional Constitution and recent national challenges, the Fisheries Policy of 2012 was updated and streamlined following several consultative workshops between the Directorate of Fisheries Development and stakeholders with support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). This revised document was validated in December 2017. The revised policy is a simpler, clearer and shorter standalone document focused on prioritized policy objectives for developing the fisheries sector. The policy will be followed by a separate comprehensive strategy and an action plan for the fisheries sector.

This revised policy responds to several key technical and socio-economic challenges that have contributed to the gross underutilization of the fisheries resources, and provides a clear direction for the sustainable development and management of the fisheries sector based on sound fisheries co-management principles. The policy acknowledges that aquaculture has received even less attention than capture fisheries, despite the country having vast areas suitable for its development. Further, the economic value and quality of fisheries products are reduced due to limited emphasis on post-harvest issues. The policy recognizes that the existing data on which to develop and base management decisions in fisheries is very weak. Catch statistics for capture fisheries are uncertain, and required biological data on many species for farming are unavailable. At the same time it is acknowledged that the institutional capacity of the national and state governments is weak, and it is a priority to strengthen their capacity to be able to administer and manage the sector very well.

The policy takes cognizance of the several regional and international agreements such as the Maputo Protocol and the Malabo Declaration and protocols of relevance to South Sudan to which GRSS is a signatory; it will adopt those guidelines deemed relevant to promote the productive objectives of this policy which targets national food insecurity and economic growth.

The responsibility for managing the nation's fisheries will be a shared task. The fishing community, the commercial and subsistence fishers, fish farmers, development partners and national and state governments all have their parts to play to maximize the economic value of the sector. For sector growth the national and states' governments will create the enabling environment for the private sector to be the engine for growth.

The policy has identified partnerships, relationships, knowledge requirements and institutional and human capacity needs in the sector, and charts the path forward. We recognize the scale of the challenges ahead. It is now the responsibility of our Ministry and its Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to put this Fisheries Policy into practice and work with all stakeholders to make it a success.

Signed

**H.E Hon. Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec**

Minister of Livestock and Fisheries,

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## **PREAMBLE**

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan (hereinafter referred to as the ‘GRSS’), hereby represented by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries:

**Working** in collaboration with other stakeholders: bilateral and multilateral development partners, NGOs, academia, national think tanks, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, community representatives and eminent personalities;

**Acknowledging** that the National Fisheries Policy which encompasses capture or wild fisheries and aquaculture or fish farming will be a people-centered and pro-poor policy that considers local, regional and international standards and best practices that reduce the burden to promote fisheries development;

**Committed** to timely response to the needs and expectations of the people of South Sudan enshrined in national legal instruments;

**Determined** to offer quality services to its citizens through people-centered governance and institutional reforms despite the myriad of challenges beforehand hereto;

**Unreservedly commits** to secure required resources to implement and enforce compliance with the prescribed policy.

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Context Analysis

### 1.1.1 A brief history of the country

The Republic of South Sudan, which is the world's newest state, is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa.

The country gained its independence from Sudan, on July 9, 2011. After its independence, South Sudan became a member state of the United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community, and of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In July 2012, South Sudan signed the Geneva Conventions.

However, in December 2013, South Sudan slipped into a civil war which caused a lot of suffering to its people, destroyed much of the fisheries infrastructure and halted its steady progress in development.

In an attempt to restore peace and tranquility, mediated by IGAD and other members of the international community such as the EU and the Troika, South Sudan formed an 18-month Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) in July 2016 with a reform agenda to promote good governance following the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCRSS) by its warring parties in August 2015. Chapter 5 (4) of the agreement advocates for reforms in governance of resources, economy, and public finances as well as enactment of policies and legislations in order to prevent a relapse into war. Whilst section 7 of Chapter 4 of the agreement strongly urges the TGoNU to establish an enterprise development funds for youth and women, with the view to bring more youth into economic growth and development, and to provide subsidized credit for women-based enterprise development and capacity building of women entrepreneurs. These funds could be used to boost production in the fisheries sector.

Therefore the focus of this policy will be to create an enabling environment for capture fisheries & aquaculture development and secure funds from the **enterprise development fund** for private sector led and gender sensitive initiatives to boost rural community development and income generation.

### 1.1.2 Poverty profile<sup>1</sup>

Available data on the Poverty Profile of South Sudan indicate that:

- I. The population of South Sudan is very young with 72 percent below the age of 30 years;
- II. 84 percent of South Sudan's estimated population on 8.6 million lives in rural areas;

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<sup>1</sup>Population census, National Bureau of Statistics, 2008.

- III. 51 percent of the population lives below the poverty line – 24 percent for urban areas and 55 percent for rural areas;
- IV. The average household is 7 members;
- V. The average consumption of the poor is 39 SSP per person per month compared with 163 SSP per person per month for the non-poor;
- VI. 73 percent of the adult population is illiterate;
- VII. The literacy rates of males over the age of 15 years is 40 percent compared with 16 percent for females;
- VIII. Three out of four household heads have completed no formal education. Poverty rates are highest for those households whose head has no education or only some primary education;
- IX. The main source for livelihoods is farming and raising livestock. Of the poorest 20 percent of the population 83 percent live in households that are chiefly occupied in agriculture and or animal husbandry;
- X. The common shocks reported by households are drought, flood, crop disease, pests and the death or theft of livestock;
- XI. Child mortality rates are high and vary considerably by state; and
- XII. 53 percent of the working populations are unpaid family workers and only 12 percent are paid employees.

Therefore, the policy will also be pro-poor and community centered taking cognizance of and integrating health and education into policy directives and promoting cross cutting collaboration between ministries.

### **1.1.3 Youth employment**

A research conducted by the World Bank<sup>2</sup> on youth employment indicates that South Sudan has a high rate of youth unemployment. The causes of youth unemployment are: insufficient labour demand, lack of skilled labour supply, an absence of a coherent government policy on youth employment, lack of a sound legal and regulatory framework and there is a widely held perception that government is the only employer and someone engaged in blue-collar-jobs or in business is not employed. Additionally, in the pre-Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) period commercial activities were dominated by northern Sudanese, while in the post-CPA period the business sector has been dominated by businessmen and women from East Africa. South Sudanese businessmen and women remain marginal.

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank: South Sudan-2012-Youth Unemployment Briefing available at [www.africaeconomicoutlook.org](http://www.africaeconomicoutlook.org)

Government's growth strategy and Vision 2040 emphasises the need to encourage and nurture local entrepreneurship in order to broaden growth and employment opportunities and to also encourage educated youth to move away from the perception that the public sector is the only employer. However, this vision has not been implemented yet.

Therefore the policy will harness the enterprise development fund for youth and women established under the TGoNU agreement to promote youth employment.

#### **1.1.4 Businesses**

All formal businesses in South Sudan are small and medium-sized enterprises but private sector development is constrained by a myriad of factors, including but not limited to: political insecurity, weak government institutions, weak rule of law and corruption, lack of physical infrastructure, limited access to land and finance, multiplicity of taxes, lack of input and output markets and a lack of skilled workers and well-educated managers<sup>3</sup>. Further, the micro economy is dominated by informal traders who are also similarly constrained.

Therefore, the Fisheries Policy will emphasize the need for good governance and essential infrastructure.

#### **1.1.5 The financial sector**

There are very few banks in South Sudan. By 2012, there were only 8 commercial banks in the country, including one national bank – the Agricultural Bank of South Sudan.

The available banking services are limited to foreign exchange, savings accounts, bank transfers and remittance services. Non-banks that offer loans are even scarcer and limited number of banks that provides loans or trade finance<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, these financial institutions do not have in-house expertise in fisheries and the sector is considered too high a risk. Therefore small-scale fisher folks and fish farmers do not have access to funds and continue to remain poor due to the absence of loans and credits facilities rendering the sector ineffective.

Therefore the policy will target financial institutes to encourage them to offer microfinance and credit lines to boost the sector investment growth.

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<sup>3</sup> World Bank: South Sudan-2012-Youth Unemployment Briefing available at [www.africaeconomicoutlook.org](http://www.africaeconomicoutlook.org)

<sup>4</sup> World Bank: South Sudan-2012-Youth Unemployment Briefing available at [www.africaeconomicoutlook.org](http://www.africaeconomicoutlook.org)

# CHAPTER 2: STATUS OF CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

## 2.1 Overview

### Opportunities

South Sudan has an estimated total water surface area of at least 70 000 km<sup>2</sup> which includes the vast swamp region of the Sudd, formed by the White Nile and known locally as the Bahr al Jabal. The Sudd region comprises 30 000 km<sup>2</sup> for the Sudd region and adjacent areas, another 40 000 km<sup>2</sup> for the River Nile, lakes, tributaries and other floodplains.

From these waters, it is estimated that approximately 143 000 tonnes/year of fish are harvested valued at USD 510 million, two-thirds of which are harvested during the peak fishing season of April to

September (CAMP, 2013)<sup>5</sup>. The peak fishing period occurs during the rainy season when the water

bodies are full, however, accessibility is poorest thus reducing potential harvest. Following the rainy season substantial fishing also takes place in the so-called “toic” floodplains which have sufficient water retention in the dry season for livestock pasture (CAMP 2013).

The country had traded in fish and fish products with Sudan before its separation in 2011 but this ceased when the borders were closed. Further, in 2013 when the civil crisis in South Sudan started, traders could not venture into certain fishing areas.

The South Sudan’s fisheries sector is grappling with a number of challenges. In this revised policy we have presented below the key challenges hindering the development of the sector and these shortcomings calls for an updated fisheries policy, whose rationale is articulated in Chapter 3 with key policy issues crystalized for redress in Chapter 4 under each policy area each with policy goals and objectives.

## 2.1 Capture Fisheries (Wild fish utilization)

### Challenges

- I. A lack of any meaningful data to manage capture fisheries: The capture fishery sector in South Sudan lacks data for planning purposes. The sector has been neglected for many years and as such there is no routine catch data collection at state levels. Few publications from the colonial era exist but any published data are poor estimates and widely acknowledged to be inaccurate.

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<sup>5</sup> CAMP (2013). The comprehensive agricultural development master plan of the Republic of South Sudan.

- II. **There are no reliable estimates and knowledge of the wild fisheries resources of South Sudan:** The fishery is a multi-species one with a high biodiversity. Over 100 species of fish have been reported in the Sudd wetlands, of which *Distichodus spp.*, *Gymnachus spp.*, *Heterotis spp.*, *Citharinus spp.*, *Clarias spp.*, *Lates niloticus*, tilapias and other catfishes form the bulk of the catches. The biology of many fish in the catch is unknown or poorly understood and indigenous knowledge undocumented. Despite this abundance there are no reliable estimates of the wild fisheries resources of South Sudan though some figures are circulated.
- III. **Available data on the nation's potential fisheries is conflicting and contradictory compromising its management:** In 2006, FAO estimated fisheries potential from the Sudd region and adjacent areas in South Sudan as 75 000 to 140 000 tonnes/year, whereas CAMP (2013) states that potential yield may be in the order of 200 000 tonnes while FAO (2012) States yields of 350 000 to 450 000 tonnes.

- IV. **Good estimates of annual amount of fish harvested are unavailable compromising management:** Available data vary widely ranging from 30 000 tonnes to 140 000 tonnes. A recent assessment by CAMP (2013) using extrapolated National Bureau of Statistics' 2009 data on fish consumption suggests that live weight of fish production could be in excess of 143 000 tonnes.
- V. **Consequently, the sector lacks the required information to estimate potential of wild fish stocks. Therefore, sustainable harvestable yields to inform the management of capture fisheries are unavailable:** This will be given high priority in this policy as it is central to fisheries management and making of regulations.
- VI. **The number of fishers in the country are unknown:** Figures available in the DoFAD suggest between 10 000 and 15 000 fishers in the country. Using secondary data sources CAMP (2013) suggest that over 220 000 people could be engaged in some form of fishing activity. This makes it difficult to determine the kind of support the fishers may need.
- VII. **Post-harvest losses are unacceptably high due to poor storage and transport conditions and value addition to fish is very limited:** Further, due to lack of ice and a cold value chain, fish that cannot be sold fresh on the day are typically processed in fishing camps by smoking or sun drying under poor conditions to prolong shelf-life. Fish products are consumed locally and exports are negligible.
- VIII. **The consumption of fish by the South Sudanese people is unknown, affecting planning:** The GiZ estimates per capita consumption at around 3 to 3.5 kg/year whereas other estimates vary between 7-17 kg/capita/year (CAMP, 2013). Macro- economic planning requires reliable information.

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<sup>6</sup> FAO (2012). Country Report Juba. South Sudan. Regional Trade on Fish and Fish Products. Project. TCP/RAF/3308.

- IX. **The potential economic value of the wild fisheries to the nation is unclear, compromising potential tax revenue earnings:** According to best data available the present fish catch may be as much as 143 000 tonnes, worth at least US\$ 510 million at 2013 retail prices (CAMP, 2013). Such a revenue generating proposition cannot be ignored by government and justifies the injection of national financial and human resources to underpin its institutions to develop and sustainably manage its wild fisheries and to develop aquaculture.

## 2.2 Aquaculture (Fish farming)

- I. **Fish farming is also a fishery subsector that has been ignored, depriving household the opportunities to diversify income opportunities and mitigate food insecurity:** The country is well- endowed with areas suitable for fish farming. There are huge tracts of land and diverse water bodies, large amount of low-lying wetlands, water harvesting structures (hafirs) and permanent year round water supply that can be developed for fish farming using appropriate technologies.
- II. **States that are mandated to develop fish farming opportunities have limited capacity to support the private sector:** There is large potential for aquaculture

development in the States of Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Northern Bahar el Ghazal, Western Bahar el Ghazal and Warrap, but the DoFAD's and States capacity to assist the private sector needs urgent upgrading.

- III. **Lack of support for aquaculture:**\_There has not been any sustained aquaculture development effort ever undertaken anywhere in the country. A few attempts have been made by development partners and NGOs but these were under the auspices of humanitarian aid and have all failed due to sporadic interventions and often inappropriate technical support provided and lack of appropriate expertise and technologies.
- IV. **Risk management strategies of beneficiaries are poorly understood or considered in aquaculture interventions:**\_Many of these initiatives did not adequately consider beneficiary risk strategies or provide support services and had no built-in ownership mechanism to foster sustainability.
- V. **The most appropriate fish farming production systems are not given due critical consideration for local conditions:**\_A range of aquaculture production systems are available to suit the many aquatic resource types and input levels in South Sudan but again there has been no applied research conducted in the country to develop these systems. Appropriate technologies matching available resources, facilities and skills must be developed to maximize fish farming.

- XIII. **The knowledge to best harness aquaculture opportunities is lacking:** There are no research centers or support services within government or universities dedicated to promoting aquaculture development. The country lacks any private or government hatcheries to provide fingerlings and there are very few trained individuals with required skills and fish feed unavailable in the country.
- XIV. **An enabling environment required to promote commercial-scale aquaculture is lacking in South Sudan:** Access to land and securing tenure of community owned land, costs of inputs, limited technical skills and competition from wild fisheries and imports and poor infrastructure are challenges that need to be overcome if commercial aquaculture is to take root.
- XV. **Financial institutions currently do not support or recognize fish farming as a food production activity:** The capital and operating costs for commercial aquaculture are high. To promote commercial aquaculture financial support from the banks will be required. These institutions are currently poorly positioned and risks are considered too high to support commercial aquaculture.
- XVI. **Opportunities to use fish farming to increase food production, production efficiency and healthy diets are not optimized.** Conditions in many states are conducive for sustainable integrated aqua-agri (IAA) aquaculture development, with suitable land and permanent water supply allowing for gravity fed ponds. Furthermore, the two key farmed species in Africa, the African” catfish (*Clarius garipinus*) and Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) are both indigenous to South Sudan.
- XVII. **Doable entry points to promote fish farming are not focused on:** Developing technology systems and potential water harvesting structures (hafirs) provides a practical and doable entry point for aquaculture development to raise fresh fish for consumption, thus building resilience whilst researching and developing other options.

## 2.3 Post-harvest and Fish Processing

- I. **A cold value chain does not exist in South Sudan for any fresh produce, including fish:** The lack of a cold value chain reduces dramatically the shelf-life and quality. The availability of ice is very limited and inaccessible to fishing communities. Modern and traditional methods have to be evaluated to reduce spoilage. The value of the catch and income derived by fisher folk can be increased easily if the fish can be cooled even a few degrees to below ambient temperatures or chilled on ice instead of smoking and sun drying which adds additional costs.
- II. **Prolonged transport of fresh fish from harvest sites to landing sites or markets adds to spoilage:** Fish are collected on ice by a few fish traders in steel hulled boats, and transported to large towns hotels and restaurants. The volume of ice used is small and the quality of fish is compromised leading to losses.
- III. **Value adding through fish processing is limited, reducing income potential:** The majority of the fish catch is smoked or sun dried at fishing camps as a means of preservation. Where firewood is available the fish tends to be smoked, and where there is no firewood the fish is sun dried, both under poor conditions, particularly in the Sudd. This dried and smoked fish is transported to markets in Juba and the large towns where it is wholesaled to retailers who sell them in local markets.
- IV. **There are no reliable estimates or well-planned studies to investigate the seriousness of this problem along the value chain:** Estimates for post-harvest losses vary widely. The dried fish offered for sale is often of very poor quality due to insect infestation and losses from physical breakages, as high as 60-75%, are reported while some reports only cite losses of around 20%.

## 2.4 Marketing and Trade

- I. **The knowledge base of actors along the fisheries value chain is suboptimal, reducing income potential:** Fish products are traded along a simple national value chain consisting of fisher folk, fish collectors, wholesalers and retailers and consumers. Relevant training is required for all these actors.
- II. **Transport of produce to markets is a challenge:** Roads are very basic and often impassable. Fish plus other Fisheries products are transported under poor conditions, generally in boxes or sacks loaded onto motor bikes or by small river barges.

- III. **Due to poor data collection, the volumes of fish traded is uncertain:** The required information is unavailable compromising planning for infrastructure and services.
- IV. **Infrastructure for marketing fish in the country are substandard, compromising hygiene standards, decreasing fish quality and potential income of traders:** Most fish produced in the country is consumed locally. All markets in South Sudan lack basic facilities and amenities to display, sell and store fish in hygienic conditions.

## 2.5 Research, Development and Training

- I. **There are no dedicated research centres or adequate funding for it in South Sudan:** Hence no research has been carried out on the wild fisheries or aquaculture, for many years. Until this is rectified DoFAD and universities have virtually no capacity to undertake this kind of work.
- II. **The current structure of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) has compromised the research and development capacity of DoFAD:** Under the current ministry structure of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), any research units established will be attached to the Directorate of Training, Research and Extension, and not under DoFAD. This is not ideal, and would lead to division of responsibilities between Directorates and so should be avoided. Ideally, if nationally funded, any fisheries research facilities in aquaculture or capture fisheries should be under the direct control and management of DoFAD or in consortium with relevant institutions to foster sustainability.
- III. **The curriculum for fisheries courses at all levels of training are inadequate to equip staff and students to address current needs for fisheries development and requires updating:** There are several universities in South Sudan and various courses in fisheries are offered, up to BSc level. The courses offered, however, do not include much practical work and are mostly theoretical and requires curriculum updating. Further, much needed vocational training programmes to provide the skills needed in capture fisheries and aquaculture are lacking.
- IV. **There is currently no staff development plan for DoFAD or the State government:** The knowledge of capture fisheries and aquaculture for extension officers and fisheries staff are outdated compromising the implementation of this policy and subsequent legislation.

## 2.6 Current Legislation

- I. **The current fisheries legal instruments are irrelevant to the new formed Government of South Sudan and required rewriting:** The fisheries law dates from the 1950s before the creation of the RSS. It is contained in the Freshwater Fisheries Act 1954 of Sudan which encompassed all freshwater rivers and lakes in RSS. It included various clauses including the introduction of non-indigenous species, permissible use of fishing gear, licensing for boats and fishing licenses, regulation making powers of the Minister and offences. A set of regulations was also promulgated under this Act, but this 1954 Act and regulations are now obsolete in the Republic of South Sudan.
- II. **The Fisheries Bill (2006) drafted after the Peace Accord Agreement in 2005, is also obsolete.** This bill does not consider the new directions and paradigms set in the transitional constitutional of RSS and requires rewriting as a homegrown document. A new fisheries law and associated regulations that are harmonized across national and state governments is required.

This new Act and its subsequent promulgated regulations will enshrine the principles of co-management of fisheries and direct the development of an inclusive co-management strategy and funding mechanism to manage the national fishery resources, including aquaculture.

## 2.7 Institutional Arrangements

- III. The Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (DoFAD), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, is the mandated directorate to manage the fisheries sector.
- IV. The ministry was reorganized during post-independence and is now composed of the following directorates:
  - ✓ Directorate of Planning, Investment and Marketing;
  - ✓ Directorate of Veterinary Services;
  - ✓ Directorate of Animal Production and Range Management;
  - ✓ Directorate of Training, Research and Extension;
  - ✓ Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development;
  - ✓ Directorate of Administration and Finance; and
  - ✓ Directorate of Special Projects.

- V. **The revised structure of DoFAD resulted in the loss of direct control and management of several important fisheries line functions:** The revised structure has a fundamental bearing on the way and speed that capture fisheries and aquaculture are developed and managed. This is detrimental to the sector.
- VI. **Inter-directorate collaboration and cooperation within MLF is very poor, compromising delivery:** There is no doubt that the supporting directorates in MLF do not interact nor communicate sufficiently with DoFAD, even though they share the same physical premises. The current system does not work well. There is considerable room for improved cross-directorate cooperation in MLF related to fisheries.

## 2.8 States

**The constitutional obligation of the states to develop the fisheries resources under their jurisdiction is hampered by limited capacity:** The Republic of South Sudan operates a decentralized system of government with the former ten constituent states increased to 32. The state governments are semi- autonomous with their own executive, legislature and judiciary and constitutional powers to develop and manage the fisheries resources under their jurisdiction. These need strengthening.

- I. **The fisheries directorates in the states are generally neglected and are subordinate in relation to the dominant animal resources:** Most directorates of fisheries in the states are seated in the State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (SMARF). Resources allocated for fisheries are negligible.
- II. **Communication, trust and collaboration needed between states and national fisheries department is broken and must be rectified:** There is poor cooperation, unclear mandates and a lack of harmonization of activities between national and state governments which is exasperated by a lack of a national postal or telecommunication system and unreliable internet service.
- III. **Line functions in fisheries state offices are not being undertaken:** The ability of many of the state's fisheries departments to carry out their functions is constrained by a lack of resources, equipment, infrastructure, trained staff and shortage of skills.

# **CHAPTER 3: POLICY RATIONALE, GOALS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND OUTCOMES**

## **3.1 Rationale**

- I. The Republic of South Sudan (RSS) is a new nation with a new constitution and all government sectors are undergoing a transition, including the fisheries sector. There is need for a new and very different updated Fisheries Policy. The new fisheries laws are also in the process of being developed and together, this should lead to a solid legal foundation for future implementation.
- II. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries had a Southern Sudan Fisheries Policy produced in 2006. This policy was never comprehensively implemented for a variety of reasons, including a lack of capacity in Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the overly ambitious nature of the document, civil conflict and insufficient financial and institutional resources being placed at the disposal of DoFAD.
- III. After five years the 2006-2011 Fisheries Policy updated and modified to take into account its new constitution and post- independence political and institutional restructuring into 2011v- 2016 Fisheries policy.
- IV. The new constitution emphasizes decentralization of power and decision making to the states and down to the lowest levels of the administration and to the people, and the management of natural resources by the people. These principles of decentralized powers is not adequately incorporated in the 2006-11 Fisheries Policy and impacts the ways the strategies contained within it would be implemented.
- V. The 2011-2016 Fisheries Policy also placed inadequate emphasis on co- management as the key to management of capture and culture-based fisheries, underplays the potential role aquaculture in food security and income generation and failed to place the private sector squarely as the main engine for growth in the sector.
- VI. The 2011-2016 fisheries policy did not recognize youth and women as drivers of change.

## **3.2 What is Unique in this Revised Fisheries Policy?**

Cognisant of the shortcomings of 2011-2016 Fisheries Policy, the revised policy:

- I. is consistent with the aims and ideals of the Transitional Constitution, including decentralization of powers and fisheries co-management and aquaculture development as a guiding theme through the whole sector;
- II. it recognizes that under the new Transitional Constitution the mandate to develop the fisheries resources lies with the states, in collaboration with National government;

- III. where relevant to national food security goals, it takes guidance from regional and international instruments for promoting capture fisheries, culture-based fisheries and aquaculture subsectors in South Sudan;
- IV. places the private sector as the engine for growth in the sector;
- V. identifies policy areas and clear objectives, which can be understood by all stakeholders from all sectors;
- VI. provides a sound basis for integration into sector wide and national planning; and
- VII. is realistic, implementable, and recognizes the role of rural communities, youth and women as drivers of change.

### **3.3 Vision**

An equitable, diverse, and viable fisheries sector that produces high quality, competitively priced fish products while ensuring the environmental services required for securing its future.

### **3.4 Mission**

To harness the nation's natural fishery resources to sustainably develop capture fisheries, culture-based fisheries and aquaculture to increase fish production and access to fish through effective devolved management to uplift South Sudanese people.

### **3.5 Overall Policy Objectives**

- I. To decentralize institutional arrangements and inclusive management approaches that fosters and promotes sustainable capture fisheries and aquaculture development
- II. To create conducive environmental and social-economic conditions that will benefit the consumer and those that depend on these activities for a livelihood.

This will be achieved through adhering to key guiding principles and through policy outcomes which are outlined below.

### 3.6 Guiding Principles

The principles by which the DoFAD will be guided in carrying out the activities of the policy are:

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Guiding Principles</b>
I. Values	DoFAD will be guided by the constitution, respecting the rule of law and discharging duties in a transparent, honest manner and in accordance with, policies legislation and directives in a non-partisan and impartial manner.
II. Co-operation	Intra and inter-directorate and ministerial co-operative governance at national and state levels will be promoted.
III. International	Obligations under international and regional agreements, protocols and treaties will be adopted or adapted as and when appropriate in a manner that promotes and not hinder SDGs and national goals.
IV. Development partners and non- state actors	DoFAD seeks genuine partnerships with all development partners to tackle the challenges facing fishery development, based on mutual respect, accountability, governance and acceptance of autonomy.
V. Resource management	Wild fishery resources are finite. The potential maximum fish yield (MSY) together with scientific information, traditional knowledge and local wisdom will be acquired for adaptive management.
VI. Monitoring and enforcement	Effective monitoring and enforcement shall be an integral part of the management measures.
VII. Empowerment	Decentralize authority to users of the resources to take greater responsibilities to manage their fishery resources in a sustainable and equitable manner in co-management arrangements with relevant tiers of government.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Guiding Principles</b>
VIII. Conflict resolution	The management measures shall be infused with mechanisms that promote conflict avoidance and resolution.
IX. Poverty reduction	Poverty reduction through bolstering the nation's food and nutritional security through increased production of affordable fish whilst putting in perspective any national obligations.
X. Private sector	The private sector, particularly the youth and women, shall be the engine for growth and will be provided with an enabling environment.
XI. Gender and rights of the child	All programmes and activities undertaken by DoFAD will be gender sensitive and gender responsive and the rights of women and children as laid down in the constitution upheld.
XII. HIV/AIDS	AIDS is a chronic, life threatening disease with significant political, social, economic and human rights implications. DoFAD commits itself to minimizing these implications within the fisheries sector through compliance with national and international HIV/AIDS policies and strategies.
XIII. Implementation	This policy will be operationalized through a dedicated strategy and action plan.

### **3.7 Expected Outcomes**

The expected policy outcomes are:

- (a) boosted institutional and human capacity to sustainably develop and manage capture fisheries and aquaculture in South Sudan;
- (b) increased and efficient production and consumption of high quality, safe and affordable fish products;
- (c) enhanced fish value chain that increases wealth, creates decent employment and economic opportunities for enterprises for all actors; and
- (d) increased revenue and income for the government and its people through increased local and regional fish trade.

## **CHAPTER 4: POLICY AREAS**

### **4.1 Key Policy Areas**

There are eight (8) key policy areas critical for the fisheries development that the government needs to address. These policy areas, their goals and objectives are presented below:

#### **4.1.1 Governance**

In this Policy, Governance refers to the authority vested in the government (at all levels) to enact, execute, supervise and monitor compliance with the policy as well as related **legislations** and **laws** as provided for by the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, 2011 and the Local Government Act, 2009.

##### ***Policy Goal***

Institutional, legal, and administrative changes for effective and efficient delivery of policy objectives in an accountable and transparent manner to benefit all stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

##### ***Policy Objectives (Policy Statement)***

- i. To empower national, states, local government and traditional leaders with effective decentralized decision making powers to legislate and enact laws, regulations, guidelines and directives as provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan and Local Government Act, 2009.
- ii. To formulate strategic plans to implement this natural fisheries policy for the period 2018–2023 based on prioritised and doable national needs and on the ease of implementation.
- iii. To enact appropriate legislation and promulgate pragmatic regulations to give effect to this policy.
- iv. To ensure transparent decision making processes and active participation of primary stakeholders in fisheries management that support community user rights for the fishery resources.
- v. To restructure line functions in Ministry of Livestock (MLF) such that the development of the fisheries sector can be fast-tracked.
- vi. To Improve cooperation between government departments and ministries on mainstreaming crosscutting issues such as land tenure, gender and youth and health to ensure inclusivity and support transparency.
- vii. To strengthen public service delivery.
- viii. To promote the economic case to treasury for greater funding for the fisheries sector and to increase revenue streams and promote regional trade.

#### **4.1.2 Institutional capacity and human resource development**

##### ***Policy Goal***

A well trained, dedicated and competent workforce and resource users with appropriate knowledge base and skills to enable better decision making regarding development and management of capture fishery resources and aquaculture.

##### ***Policy Objectives***

- i. To ensure National and States' Fisheries Departments are fully staffed and adequately trained and funded to deliver this policy.
- ii. To put in place measures to secure national infrastructure that is adequately equipped to manage the fisheries resources and train stakeholders.
- iii. To develop a national human capacity programme for government that it responds to prioritised needs.
- iv. To build capacity and upgrade qualifications in the private sector, fishing community, fish farmers including women and youth in delivering various services.
- v. Review and update capture fisheries, aquaculture and related curriculums in secondary and tertiary education institutions to meet national needs.
- vi. To review and strengthen extension services in capture fisheries and aquaculture in relation to other food production sectors and make relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries.
- vii. To rehabilitate and upgrade capture fisheries and aquaculture educational and research facilities.

#### **4.1.3 Research, development and resource monitoring**

##### ***Policy Goal***

Prioritized needs-driven knowledge base to drive capture fisheries, culture-based fisheries and aquaculture development and management objectives of this policy

### ***Policy Objectives***

- i. To strengthen and link relevant institutions in research and development (R&D) to provide technical support for planning, development, management, monitoring and regulating of capture fisheries and aquaculture.
- ii. To identify and develop a needs-driven and prioritised research strategy for capture fisheries and aquaculture to acquire required knowledge.
- iii. To development and promote and disseminate appropriate technology.
- iv. To develop an adequately equipped national R&D facility in collaboration with education institutions to give effect to the research strategy.
- v. To upgrade and align better national educational fisheries related learning outcomes to include policy needs.
- vi. To establish a Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring and Evaluation (FAME) unit to collect, collate and disseminate knowledge data and information on all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture throughout the country.

#### **4.1.4 Capture fisheries (Wild fish utilisation)**

##### ***Policy Goal***

Sustainable and equitable development and management of capture fisheries to increase fish production and supply.

##### ***Policy Objectives***

- i. To secure treasury budget or other mechanisms for capital and operational funds for the development and management of capture fisheries.
- ii. To develop and put in place effective and coordinated devolved organisational structures and measures for best co-management practices of capture fisheries.
- iii. To assess fishery resources fish stocks and current utilisation levels to establish opportunities and scope for sustainable fisheries expansion for local and regional trade.
- iv. To ensure an effective monitoring system to monitor fish stock status and ecosystem health is in place.
- v. To cooperate with ministries mandated to protect and conserve the environment to ensure that activities external to fisheries to not pollute or degrade the environment.
- vi. To develop the fisheries resources of the South Sudan so as to optimise efficiency and production.
- vii. To encourage the formation of fisher folk associations and strengthen their management capacities and secure provision of affordable credit.

- viii. To promote health and well-being within fishing communities, with particular reference to child nutrition and HIV and AIDs.
- ix. To improve livelihoods opportunities in fishing communities taking account the special needs and employment opportunities for women, youth and other disadvantaged groups.
- x. To develop a recreational fishery to diversify income that benefits local fishing communities.

#### **4.1.5 Aquaculture (Fish farming)**

##### ***Policy Goal***

Diverse and productive aquaculture sector targeting national food and nutritional security, secure livelihoods and socio-economic upliftment.

##### ***Policy Objectives***

- i. To promote aquaculture as an integral part of national food resilience approaches to food and nutritional security and national poverty alleviation goals.
- ii. To identify natural resources and locations best suited for the promotion of aquaculture, including culture-based fisheries.
- iii. To boost the health and well-being of the South Sudanese people through increasing the household production and consumption of nutritious fresh fish and the development of sustained and gender sensitive livelihoods, including the youth.
- iv. To promote diverse aquaculture production systems, in an incremental and responsible manner to stimulate economic activity and inward private investment, create employment opportunities and increase household incomes of rural communities.
- v. To ensure essential input services and required capacity in the public and private sector are in place to operate and manage aquaculture.
- vi. Actively promote culture-based fisheries to increase fish production in small natural and artificial water bodies.
- vii. To optimize land and water utilization and production efficiencies through appropriate technologies and adopting integrated agriculture/aquaculture approaches and safeguarding eco-system services.
- viii. To facilitate and create an enabling environment and develop institutional capability to effectively manage aquaculture development, provide the support services needed for sustainable and responsible development, and help facilitate an equitable and fair allocation of resources and distribution of benefits.

#### **4.1.6 Post-harvest and value addition**

##### ***Policy Goal***

Maximum economic realization of safe fishery products through waste reduction and increased efficiency and value addition

##### ***Policy Objectives***

- i. To establish regulations and standards governing quality control and hygiene and sanitation standards.
- ii. To innovate local technologies aimed at reducing post-harvest losses, improving shelf-life and improving product quality and safety.
- iii. To promote best practices at all stages of the value chain to enhance quality, hygiene and sanitation fish and fish products.
- iv. To work with cross cutting ministries to improve infrastructure.
- v. To improve transportation conditions of fish products to markets.
- vi. To promote the development of the necessary infrastructure required for ensuring quality of fish and fishery products at production and landing sites.
- vii. To diversify and increase the value of fisheries products along the entire fish value chain.

#### **4.1.7 Fish marketing, trade and Investment**

##### ***Policy Goal***

Increased value, quality and volume of fish marketed and traded for national consumption and export.

##### ***Policy objectives***

- i. To increase the value and volume of fish traded internally within South Sudan and the region.
- ii. To balance commercial and artisanal production so as to increase fish supply and rural incomes.
- iii. To normalise regular fish availability particularly to urban consumers and to reduce fish imports.

- iv. To promote fit-for-purpose infrastructure facilities (e.g. fish markets along the value chain) to ensure product safety and quality for consumers.
- v. To establish market information systems to facilitate stakeholder involvement in marketing and trade.
- vi. To organize informal traders into self-help groups with access to affordable microcredit.
- vii. To increase per capita fish consumption, especially fresh fish, in rural areas.
- viii. To engage with cross-cutting ministries, such as Finance and Planning, to promote investment in the sector.
- ix. To develop fish quality standards to facilitate and promote regional trade.

#### **4.1.8 Financing capture fisheries and aquaculture development**

##### ***Policy Goal***

To ensure compliance to the 2003 Maputo declaration and the Malabo Declaration to allocate at least of 10% of the annual budget to agriculture and rural development and promote inward investment.

##### ***Policy objectives***

- i. Create awareness within government on their obligations under the AU 2003 Maputo declaration and potential income revenue streams to justify and secure annual budget for fisheries development and management.
- ii. To lobby national government to secure external funding to include: international bilateral loans; international finance institutions such as (ADB, World Bank, IMF); local loans, local microfinance institutions and credit facilities (savings institutions); grants; investors; entrepreneurs; and NGOs.
- iii. Create provisions in Fisheries Bill to establish and administer a Fisheries Development Fund to implement the fisheries management and development activities.
- iv. To promote public-private investment partnerships (PPP) that equitably benefits both fishing communities, especially the poorest and most vulnerable members of those communities, as well as the private investor.
- v. Establish cooperation with cross cutting ministries, particularly agriculture, and with development partners to include fisheries and aquaculture using a livelihood approach to development.
- vi. Collaborate with Ministry of Finance, agricultural bank and development partners to establish affordable gender neutral and youth sensitive microcredit schemes across the fisheries value chain.

# CHAPTER 5: POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

## 5.1 Policy Implementation Instruments or Tools

The implementation of the Fisheries Policy will be guided by the following instruments:

Provision of public utilities and services which the government is obliged to provide. These include: transport infrastructure (road, river, air and rail transport), scientific and technical information and services such education, health, security, law enforcement, and inputs.

Regulatory instruments such as: the formulation, endorsing and enforcement of laws, regulations, guidelines and orders on fishing, fish farming, processing, trade and investment, licenses, management plans for fishing and/or fish farming enterprises and the water bodies and land areas used, and other mechanisms.

Income and revenue generation instruments such as: taxes, user fees, and product certification and quality control standards.

Ethics and Integrity, which include: standards and indices, morals, transparency and accountability, codes of conduct, better management practices, and co-management arrangements. The ultimate aim of ethics and integrity is to combat corruption, tribalism and nepotism with respect to employment, identification and selection of beneficiaries and allocating resources for communities.

Financing instruments: These include availability, allocation and proper utilization or appropriation of operational funds from the treasury, fund raising provisions in the Fisheries Bill, development partners, public-private partnerships (PPPs) and cross-cutting ministry initiatives.

## 5.2 Policy Implementation Process

- I. The Policy shall be implemented by states in collaboration with other most relevant actors, supported by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
- II. There shall be a comprehensive multi-annual **strategic plan** of 5 years developed in collaboration with most relevant stakeholders to include a mid-term review.
- III. The strategic plan shall explicitly address the key policy issues, policy goals and policy objectives and strategies for achieving those. It will also prioritize activities based on pragmatism, achievability and sustainability of interventions.
- IV. The first strategic plan will run from 2018-2023 and will be reviewed at least 45 days before its expiry date, and will include a mid-term review. Subsequent subsidiary strategic plans and departmental operational plans will be prepared and implemented as needed, based on achievements against clear and comprehensive monitoring indicators and the results of evaluations to be conducted.

- V. A monitoring and evaluation component shall be embedded into the strategic and action plan.
- VI. Furthermore, the government shall identify and enact relevant bills, promulgate regulations, and guidelines from the policy as may be deemed necessary.

### **5.3 Policy Implementation Mechanisms**

#### **5.3.1 Coordination and collaboration**

The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries recognizes the fisheries sector is multi-disciplinary. Therefore, it will endeavor to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders for the smooth implementation of the policy areas and policy goals and objectives, whose success would be impossible without the support of other actors.

Coordination and collaboration can be in two dimensions:

- (a) Horizontal – involving inter-ministerial cooperation and cooperation between directorates and departments; coordination with commissions, public corporations and agencies, and cooperation with the private sector, NGOs, development partners, International Agencies (such as FAO, UNIDO, IGAD, AU) and inter-ministerial cooperation with other countries on technology, research, information and data sharing, human resource development and funding or financing of special projects.
- (b) Vertical – from the ministries to the local councils and vice versa.

Inter-ministerial cooperation will be very crucial with the following government institutions:

- I. Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (on how to manage the waters of the rivers, etc.)
- II. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (on best farming practices)
- III. Ministry of Environment and Forestry (on control of pollution and protection of biodiversity)
- IV. Ministry of Wildlife and Conservation (on protection of wildlife)
- V. Ministry of Health (on zoonotic diseases and control of epidemics e.g. HIV/AIDS, cholera, etc.)
- VI. Ministry of Finance (on financing)
- VII. Ministry of Interior (on security and maintenance of law and order)

### 5.3.2 Monitoring and evaluation

- I. A quarterly stakeholder coordination forum shall be initiated by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.
- II. Assessments will be carried out to ascertain that the policy and programs are implemented as planned by states.
- III. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries desires to establish an independent Review Board to conduct periodic policy reviews, studies, as well as evaluation.
- IV. A Monitoring and Evaluation Manual shall be developed by the Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders which will contain procedures on documentation and dissemination of information.

### 5.3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The government shall mainstream cross-cutting issues such as youth, gender, persons with disabilities, and HIV/AIDs into the fisheries sector.

## Policy Systems

What do you think of when you hear “food security policy?”

1. Government policies that regulate things like land tenure, input subsidies and agricultural trade, shaping both the demand for and supply of food among poor households.
2. The institutions that develop and implement policies that affect food security, such as ministries of agriculture and local governments, and how they relate to each other and the process whereby governments hold themselves accountable for commitments they've made.

Policy Agenda: Policy Area

Area	Objective
Agricultural Trade Policy	Increase efficiency, stability and transparency in domestic and cross-border trade consistent with international agreements to spur inclusive

	economic growth and foster increased private sector investment in agriculture.
Agricultural Inputs Policy	Enable the private sector to develop, commercialize and broadly disseminate improved inputs to smallholders in order to increase smallholder productivity and incomes.
Land and Natural Resources tenure, Rights and Policy	Establish effective institutional arrangements, rules and mechanisms that recognize the legitimate land and resource rights of all users, including women, pastoralists and vulnerable populations, in order to stimulate transformative and sustainable investments in both land-based and on-agricultural income-generating assets.
Resilience and Agricultural Risk Management Policy	Enable smallholders, communities and countries to mitigate and recover from risks, shocks and stresses to agriculture, in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.
Nutrition Policy	Reduce under-nutrition with a focus on women and children – in particular the 1000-day period from pregnancy to a child’s second birthday.