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Oceans economy and trade:
Sustainable fisheries, transport and tourism



**Market access for Small-Scale Artisanal Fishers:
Bilateral and Regional Developments in COMESA**

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Outline of the Presentation

- Background of COMESA
- Market Access (MA) under the COMESA FTA
 - Simplified Trade Regime (STR)
 - MA for Small-Scale Artisanal Fishers under the COMESA STR.
 - Intra-COMESA trade in fish and fish products
- Opportunities and challenges
- Emerging policy issues consideration

19 COMESA Member States

1. Burundi 
2. Comoros 
3. D R Congo 
4. Djibouti 
5. Egypt 
6. Eritrea 
7. Ethiopia 
8. Kenya 
9. Libya 
10. Madagascar 
11. Malawi 
12. Mauritius 
13. Rwanda 
14. Seychelles 
15. Sudan 
16. Swaziland 
17. Uganda 
18. Zambia 
19. Zimbabwe 

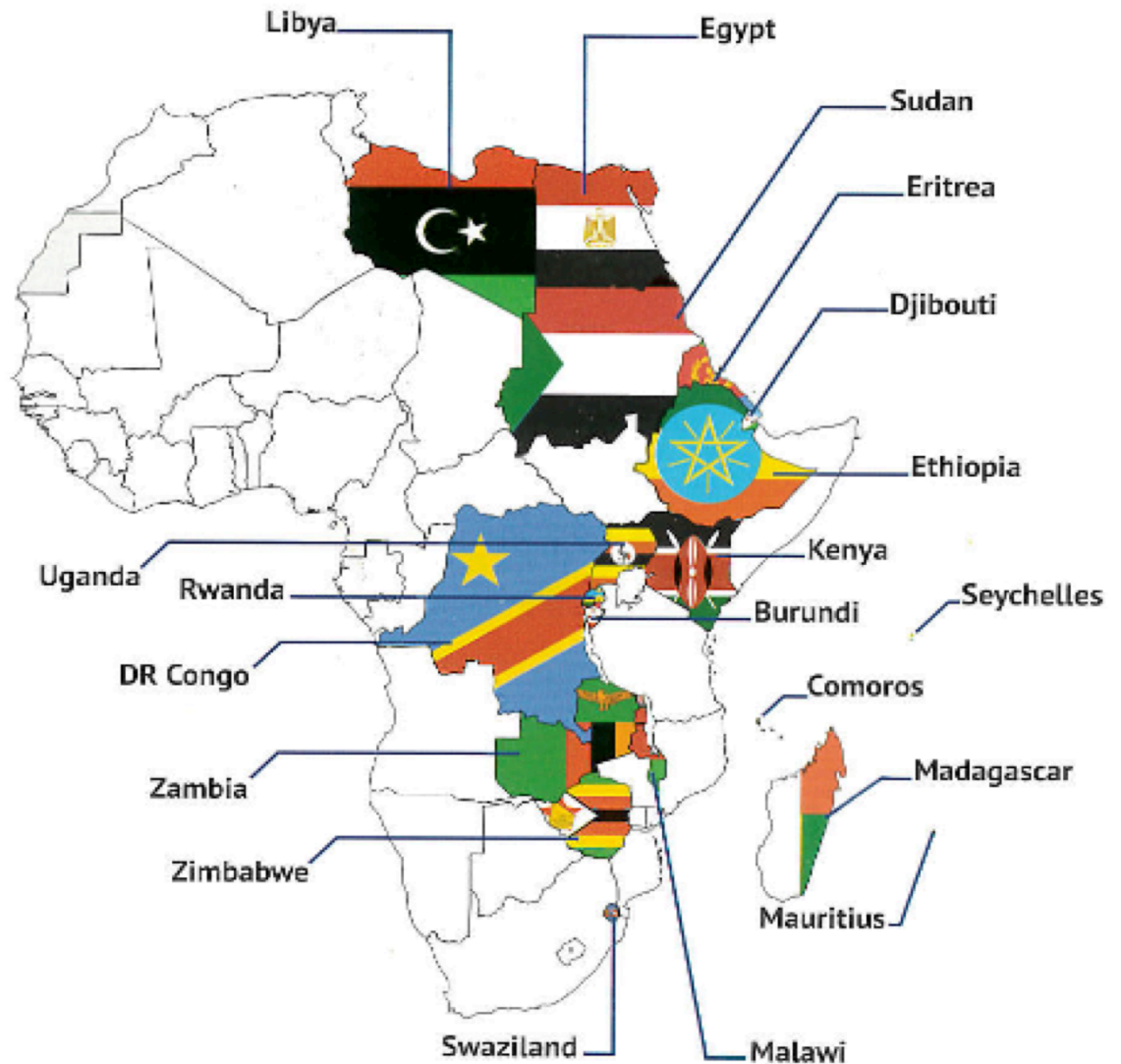
COMESA MAP

Size: 11.6 Million sq. km

Population: 492.4 million

GDP: US\$ 352.8 billion

Intra-Exports: US\$ 10.5 billion



Market Access (MA) under the COMESA FTA

- FTA was launched on 31st October 2000 after 16 years of intra-COMESA tariff liberalisation under the PTA. COMESA FTA is 100% trade liberalisation. 15 Member States are currently implementing the FTA.
- A special bilateral arrangement for small-scale cross border traders (SCBTs) - Simplified Trade Regime (STR)).
- The goal is to help SCBTs formalise - instruments and mechanisms which fits within requirements of SCBTs.
- STR - implemented by 7 Member States.

How the STR works?

- COMESA Member States bilaterally agree on a list of originating products to be traded across borders.
- Member States that share territorial borders.
- With EU support the information desks were established at border posts to guide SCBTs.
- Member States implementing the STR are: DRC, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The value threshold rose from US\$ 500 to US\$ 2000 for some Member States. For example, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia

COMESA Member States Implementing the Simplified Trade Regime (STR)

Country	STR Value	Common list	No of STR Border points	Average No of STR Transactions per month*	When STR started
Burundi	\$2,000	Yes	1	40	2008
Kenya	\$2,000	Yes	4	160	2008
Malawi	\$1,000	Yes	3	120	2010
Rwanda	\$2,000	Yes	5	650	2008
Uganda	\$2,000	Yes	3	300	2008
Zambia	\$2,000	Yes	8	400	2010
Zimbabwe	\$1,000	Yes	4	-	2010

**The statistics presented are averages based on data collected by TIDOs and/or customs authorities in respective Member States (CBT 2013)*

Note: By 2013, there were about 10,970 traders utilizing the STR of which 5,926 were Female and 5,044 were Male While in 2011 the total number of traders was 1,507.

MA for Small-Scale Artisanal Fishers (SCAFs) under the COMESA STR

- COMESA STR is the only simplified MA avenue for cross-border trade for SCAFs. Simplified Customs Declaration forms for others member states and Simplified RoO Cert. applies for EAC countries.



MINISTERS OF TRADE FOR MALAWI AND ZAMBIA) LAUNCH STR AT MWAMI/MCHINJI BORDER POST MALAWI AND ZAMBIA IN 2010.



CROSS BORDER TRADERS ASSOCIATION (CBTA) – APEX BODY OF SMALL-SCALE CROSS BORDER TRADERS



**SELF-SUSTAINED TRADE
INFORMATION DESK (TID) MALABA
BORDER POST - UGANDA**



**ICBT – FEMALE DOMINATED SECTOR
BY OVER 70%**

Fish Product Lines Agreed Member States							
	0301.19.00	0302.69.	0302.79.00	0305.39	0305.49	0305.59	Total No. of Agreed Products HS 8 Digit
	<i>Other</i>	<i>Fresh Fish (not live)</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Dry Fish</i>	<i>Salted Fish but not dried</i>	
DRC - Zambia							161
DRC- Rwanda	Whole Chapter 3 - Fish						168
DRC-Uganda	None						48
Mal-Zambia							124
Mal-Zimbabwe							
Zam-Zimbabwe							

Intra-COMESA trade in fish and fish products (US\$ '000)

Code	Description	2011	2012	2013
0301	Live fish	76	30	298
0302	Fish, fresh or chilled	636	950	1,728
0303	Frozen fish	4,241	7,214	8,757
0304	Fish fillets and other fish meat	4,520	2,051	2,625
0305	Fish dried, salted or in brine; smoked fish,	2,752	1,905	1,386
0306	Crustaceans	1,155	1,012	1,103
0307	Molluscs,	3,178	934	1,574
0308	Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	..	2	1
	Total Value (US\$ '000)	16,559	14,097	17,471

Source: COMESA COMSTAT Database

Opportunities

- The STR provides a window for a large growing number of unemployed youth to earn an income.
- An avenue to increase the volume and value of intra-regional trade (COMESA standing at US\$ 10.1 Billion in 2014 and US\$ 17.5 Million in 2013 for Fish and fish products, COMSTAT, 2015 and).
- Breaks the barriers associated with cross-border trade especially for Small-scale traders.
- Expanding the Common List of originating goods (Uganda-DRC).
- Expand STR even to countries without territorial borders.

Challenges

- **High level of illiteracy among the small-scale traders making it hard for them to familiarize with customs clearing documents and regulations.**
- **Costs associated with SPS inspections and certification and distances to such offices, which are in most cases located in capitals.**
- **Internal taxes:**
 - **Zambia still charges US \$10 for all transactions captured under ASYCUDA.**
 - **Excise, VAT (ranging between a maximum of 16% and 19%),**
 - **Presumptive tax (6% in Zimbabwe),**
- **Restrictive STR Common List of products which has not been reviewed since the launch of the STR.**
- **Variance in national laws governing fish sizes eligible for catch/trade-Uganda mesh size below 5 and 4 inches is illegal.**
- **Difficulty of rolling out STR to Island COMESA Countries.**

Emerging Policy issues consideration

- Decentralisation of SPS inspection and certification.
- Expansion of the Common List of products to cover all fish and fish related products (Uganda-DRC, Zimbabwe-Zambia, Malawi-Zimbabwe).
- Increase the threshold value of goods to US\$ 3000.
- Provision of infrastructure for trade information desks at border and increase sensitisation of small-scale cross-border traders on STR.
- Harmonise national laws/regulations governing fish sizes eligible for catch/trade across borders.