

QUALITY FOR AFRICA



PAN-AFRICAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

SPS Stocktaking Document
– 2022 –

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FOREWORD

As part of its efforts to contribute to the development of quality infrastructure (QI) in Africa, the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) Institutions have instituted programmes to continuously assess QI developments in Africa with a view to identifying where critical gaps exist and facilitating capacity building as necessary. To date, three cycles of assessment of the QI elements including Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation have been carried out and a fourth round of assessment is envisioned in 2023. Likewise, the second cycle of assessment of thematic areas of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) which covers Food Safety, Plant Health and Animal Health was carried out with a view to identifying where critical gaps exist and facilitating capacity building as needed. This Stocktaking report provides the results of the SPS survey of 41 African countries who were able to submit information on the status of development of their SPS systems.

Stocktaking information in QI and SPS is important in the facilitation of trade and achievement of industrial and agricultural development goals. The information gathered during stocktaking will assist Policy makers to easily identify where there are weaknesses and to take corrective measures as necessary. Benchmarking against global trends is also made possible with this Stocktaking information. This report will also help Member States to grasp a few good practices that exist to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC-DARBE	AUC Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
AUC-ETIM	AUC Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry & Minerals
AU-IAPSC	African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
NTBs	Non-tariff barriers to trade
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PACA	Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
PAQI	Pan-African Quality Infrastructure
QI	Quality Infrastructure
REC	Regional Economic Community
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
WHO	World Health Organisation

INTRODUCTION

Trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, (AfCFTA) began on 1 January 2021 following the coming into force of the AfCFTA Agreement in May 2019. In light of the broadened free market, success of Africa's trade in agricultural products will greatly rely on elimination of agricultural and food non-tariff barriers. The ability of Member States to meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures for the assurance of food safety, plant and animal life or health, as well as market access should therefore be prioritized and enhanced. The AfCFTA contains specific provisions for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in Annex 7 of the AfCFTA Agreement's Protocol on Trade in Goods which AU Member States are expected to comply with. In 2019 the African Union Commission (AUC) and Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) Institutions undertook the first SPS stocktaking exercise to assess the level of development and implementation of SPS systems in AU Member States. The results of the exercise were published in the 2019 SPS Stocktaking Document (www.paqi.org). In keeping with the resolution to update the Stocktaking Document approximately every two years, this second edition of the SPS Stocktaking Document has been published. It is important to note that the same indicators and criteria were used as those for the 2019 Stocktaking Document in order to provide a base for comparative analysis and better observe the changes in the development of SPS systems in AU Member States over time.

Thus, the 2022 Stocktaking Document presents the status in the development and implementation of SPS systems and clearly indicates the areas where further investments should be made for the continent to reach acceptable levels that can provide adequate protection to plants, animals, public health and the environment. It is also important to note that the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) adopted The AU SPS Policy Framework in October 2019 which was subsequently endorsed by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in 2020. The key objective of the AU SPS Policy Framework is to coordinate Member States efforts towards a modern, coherent, and integrated SPS system supportive of food security, shared prosperity and health for all Africans. The PAQI 2019 SPS Stocktaking Document contributed to the data used

for reporting on the decision on SPS Framework during the 3rd Biannual Review Report (BRR).

The AUC is working on a composite SPS Index required to adequately report and monitor progress on all three SPS fields namely food safety, animal health, and plant health and the 2019 SPS Stocktaking Document has been a useful resource in that process. The AU SPS Index once published will be used to monitor the development and implementation of SPS systems in the AU Member States.

The 2022 Stocktaking Document gives a summarized framework to understand the picture of where AU Member States stand in terms of their capacity to implement SPS measures for safety, agricultural and industrial development, and trade. Further, the publication will enable policy makers to see at a glance where SPS capacity gaps exist and to strategically direct investments to achieve the necessary corrective capacity developmental measures.

In this 2022 stocktaking survey, a total of 41 countries submitted responses compared to 43 in 2019. Fully completed response questionnaires were received from 22 countries compared to 38 in 2019. It should be noted that the call for submission of information was undertaken at a time when the Covid 19 pandemic was still rife and operations were affected due to, among others, absence of designated officials to respond. Nonetheless, the information collected enabled the PAQI Secretariat to draw a picture of the SPS capacity status in Africa albeit with limited information.

Currently the SPS architecture of Africa at continental level comprises organisations working in the thematic areas as follows:

- **Food Safety:** African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (DARBE), Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), CODEX Africa, RECs;
- **Plant Health:** African Union Inter-Africa Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC), RECs;
- **Animal Health:** African Union Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU – IBAR), RECs.

All these institutions coordinate and collaborate to ensure trade in safe food is enhanced.

METHODOLOGY

In the preparation of the 2022 SPS Stocktaking Document, the indicators and criteria (questionnaire) used to collect information on the status of SPS Systems in the AU Member States was developed based on the requirements from the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Goods Annex 7 on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures. It is important to note that the same indicators and criteria were used in the publication of the first SPS Stocktaking Document in 2019. However, for this publication, an additional area was included to assess the availability and capacity of National Enquiry Points in the AU Member States. This approach was taken to establish a solid baseline on the status of development and implementation of SPS systems in the AU Member States. In addition, the approach provides for a comparative analysis to better observe the changes in the development of SPS systems in the AU Member States.

A set of pre-determined indicators was used to assess and score the AU Member States' capacity to meet the SPS Measures annex requirements. The questionnaires (available in English & French) were sent out to the respective structures in the Member States. The prescribed answers ("yes", "no", "limited", or "under development") were transferred into a scoring system. Four categories for the classification of the status were chosen and are presented as follows for the different thematic areas:

a) Notification Authorities: (range 0 to 40 points)

- The score 0 to 11 reflects a status with no or very limited capacity (red).
- The score 12 to 18 is interpreted with a partially developed capacity but still with the need to develop further (yellow).
- The score 19 to 25 reflects an already reasonably developed capacity (light green).
- The score 26 to 40 indicates that the capacity is considered to be well developed (green).

b) Food Safety, Animal Health and Plant Health: (range 0 to 14 points).

- The score 0 to 3 reflects a status with no or very limited capacity (red).
- The score 4 to 7 shows a partially developed capacity but still with the need to develop further (yellow)
- The score 8 to 11 reflects an already reasonably developed capacity (light green)
- The score 12 to 14 indicates that the capacity is considered to be well developed (green).

c) Overall SPS status:

The overall status of SPS in a member state is calculated by agglomerating the scores of the four thematic areas; (range 0 to 82 points).

- The score 0 to 20 reflects no or limited overall SPS capacity (red),
- The score 21 to 39 reflects limited or partially developed capacity (yellow),
- The score 40 to 58 reflects reasonably developed capacity (light green)
- The score 59 to 82 reflects well-developed SPS capacity in the member state (green).

It should be noted that a low aggregate score might arise because the Member State is developed in only some and not all SPS thematic areas. For example, a Member State can be very well developed in their Food Safety capacity (Green), but present as lowly developed overall (red or yellow) simply because they have no or lowly developed capacity in Animal Health and Plant Health.

1 STATUS OF SPS DEVELOPMENT IN AFCFTA STATE PARTIES

The AfCFTA Agreement was operationalized 1st January 2021. According to the AfCFTA website (www.au-afcfta.org), the total number of countries that have ratified the Agreement currently stands at 47 out of 55 countries in Africa. The results of this survey indicate that out of the 22 AU Member States that responded to the survey with complete information, 19 are AfCFTA State Parties of which 10 have well-developed SPS systems. These are: Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. The complete list of all AU Member States including State Parties is in Annex A.

2 NOTIFICATION AUTHORITY

Under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, each Member of the WTO has obligations relating to “transparency”. Under this obligation, Members are required to provide prior “notification” of proposed SPS

measures. The notification system facilitates trade by allowing some lead time before new measures must be complied with (a “no surprises” approach). For instance, countries are required to publish all SPS measures and “notify” any contemplated changes to SPS measures to their

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
Well developed	- Guiding principles established (i.e. SPS legislative framework, national SPS committee, Participation in the WTO SPS Committee) • Capacity to implement the concept of regionalization (Presence of disease or pest free areas, Zoning and compartmentalization based on scientific evidence, sufficient technical and human resource capacity to carry out disease or pest surveillance) - Equivalence developed based on those developed by the WTO SPS committee - Audit and verification procedures in place based on principles and guidelines established by international standards bodies - Availability of risk-based inspection based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations - Availability of National SPS Focal point and Notification Authority and documented notifications - Emergency procedure in place
Reasonably developed	- Guiding principles established - Reasonable capacity to implement the concept of regionalization - Equivalence developed based on those developed by the WTO SPS committee - Audit and verification procedures in place based on principles and guidelines established by international standards bodies - Adequate availability of risk-based inspection based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations - Availability of National SPS Focal point and Notification Authority and documented notifications - Emergency procedure in place or under development
Limited to partially developed	- Not all guiding principles established - Limited capacity to implement the concept of regionalization - Equivalence partially developed based on those developed by the WTO SPS committee - Audit and verification procedures in place based on principles and guidelines established by international standards bodies only partially - Limited availability of risk-based inspection based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations - Limited availability of National SPS Focal point and Notification Authority and documented notifications - Emergency procedure not in place or under development
Not or very limited developed	- Not all guiding principles established - No or very limited capacity to implement the concept of regionalization - Equivalence not or only partially developed based on those developed by the WTO SPS committee - No audit and verification procedures in place based on principles and guidelines established by international standards bodies - No or very limited availability of risk-based inspection based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations - No or very limited availability of National SPS Focal point and Notification Authority and documented notifications - Emergency procedure not in place

Table 2.1: Classification Criteria for National Notification Authorities

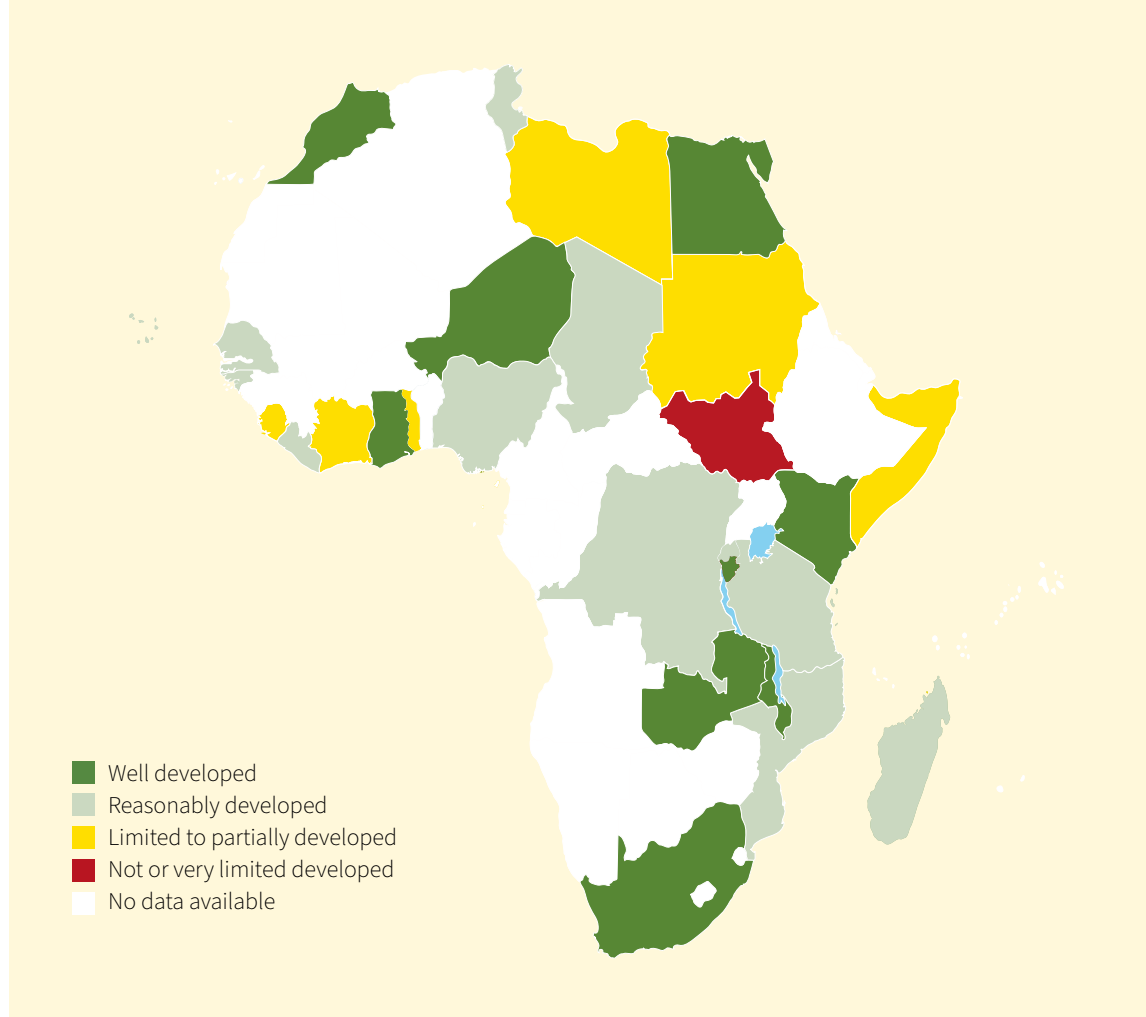


Figure 1: Notification authorities stocktaking

trading partners. In implementing the agreement, countries are required to identify a single central government authority to be responsible for the notification requirements of the SPS Agreement (the Notification Authority). An important element of the notification system is that it allows other countries to comment on proposed measures being planned by other Members particularly their trading partners. Transparency creates a predictable trading environment. To fulfil transparency obligations, countries are

also required to establish an “enquiry point” responsible for answering questions from other countries about SPS measures and related issues. Most African countries have established their SPS Notification authorities within the Ministries dealing with agriculture. Table 2.1 provides classification criteria used in this survey for National Notification Authorities and Table 2.2 shows the Classification of capabilities in Notification Authorities. Figure 1 presents SPS information on National Notification Authority.

CATEGORY	COUNTRY
Well developed	Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, South Africa, Zambia
Reasonably developed	Cape Verde, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia
Limited to partially developed	Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Togo
Not or very limited development	South Sudan

Table 2.2: Classification of capabilities in Notification Authorities

3 FOOD SAFETY

The AfCFTA and its corresponding activities provide new opportunities in trade including increased access to affordable food and market for the African population. It is, however, important that Food traded in the AfCFTA is safe and meets the required quality and nutritional levels for human consumption. Food Safety is critical for economic development, trade and the international reputation of a country as it contributes to alleviating poverty and enhancing food security among other attributes.

The realisation of the importance of food safety, food quality and nutrition and the impact on trade has led to a fresh focus and prioritization to support fulfilment of these considerations by investing in capacity building activities including

developing functional SPS systems among others. At continental level, the African Union Commission, (AUC), is working towards establishing the African Food Safety Agency that will be responsible for coordinating and enhancing food safety in Africa. In addition, the AUC launched the development of the Africa Food Safety Strategy (AFSS) [2022-2036]. The AFSS focuses on African domestic and traditional markets which cater for the majority of food in the continent. It is envisaged that the development and implementation of the AFSS would empower all AU Member States to attain an acceptable threshold of capacity to effectively address food safety challenges. The capacity developed would in turn contribute to building consumer trust, facilitate intra-African trade in food and boost confidence in the AfCFTA.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
Well developed	• Full Capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on human health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports • Full capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. Participation in the work of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), available national coordination mechanism for participation in CAC work) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Reasonably developed	• Reasonable capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on human health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports • Reasonable capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. Participation in the work of CAC, available national coordination mechanism for participation in CAC work) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Limited to partially developed	• Limited capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on human health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, limited availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports • Limited capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. limited participation in the work of CAC, ational coordination mechanism for participation in CAC work under development) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Not or very limited developed	• No or very limited capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on human health for setting or updating SPS measures (no institution undertaking risk assessment, limited or no availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports • No or very limited capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. limited participation in the work of CAC, no national coordination mechanism for participation in CAC work under development) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, other national measures not supported by scientific justification

Table 3.1: Classification Criteria for Food Safety

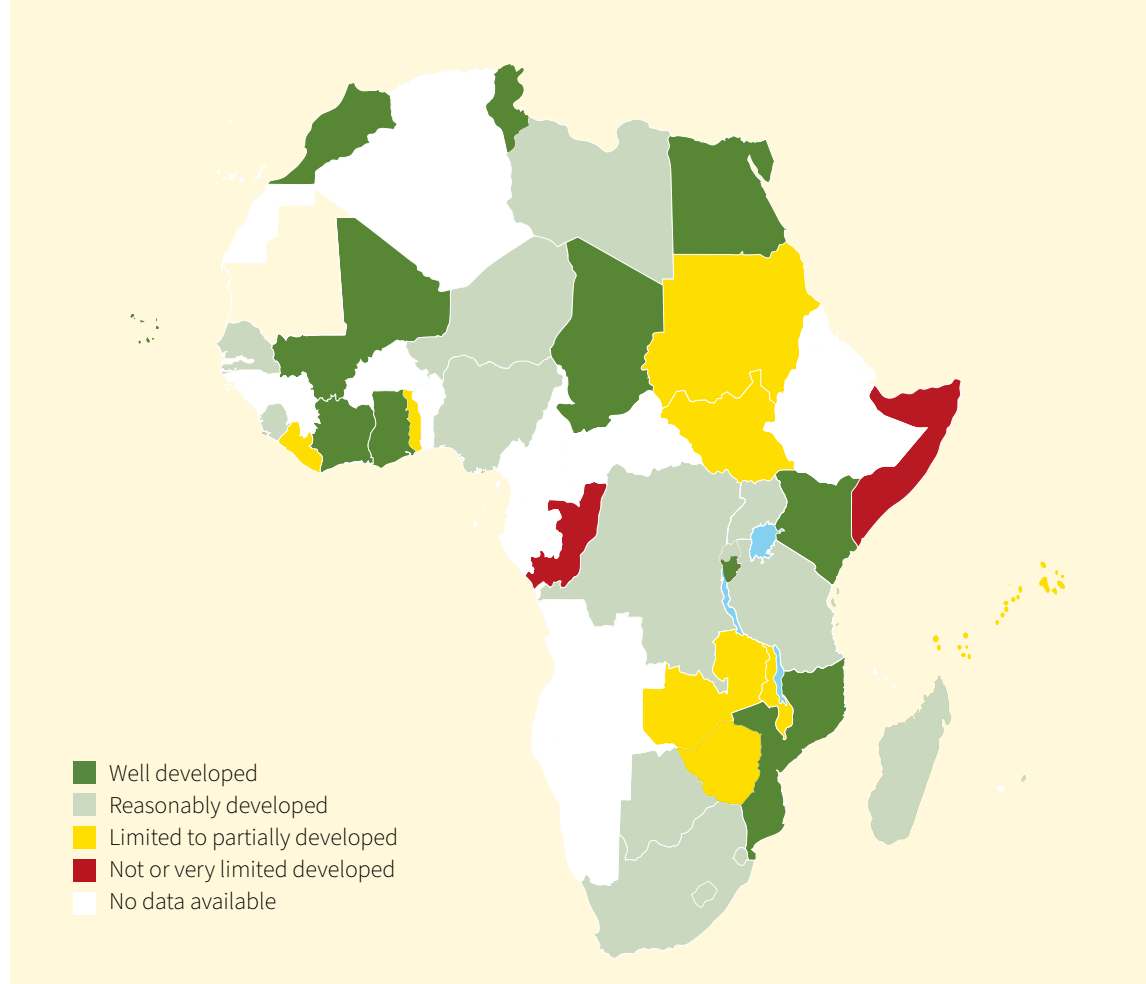


Figure 2: SPS Information on Food Safety

Food Safety is a collaborative initiative where various stakeholders are required to play a role throughout the value chain starting with primary production at the farm till the food is ready to be consumed i.e. “Farm to Fork” concept. The following initiatives and organisations play a critical role in ensuring food safety:

- Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), CODEXAfrica, and ARSO, with linkages to national and REC SPS Committees, CODEX committees and National Standards Bodies that work to ensure the availability and implementation of food safety standards on the continent.

- African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, (AU-IAPSC) and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources and animal health (AUIBAR) which are responsible for plant health and animal health respectively.

To enhance the efforts the AUC attaches to Food Safety and the need to raise awareness on the importance of Food Safety, the AUC commemorates the World Food Safety Day on 7 June annually. Food safety is not only important for the well-being of human health but also enhancement of trade. Table 3.1 provides classification criteria used in this survey for Food Safety and Table 3.2 shows the Classification of capabilities in Food safety. Figure 2 presents SPS information on Food safety.

CATEGORY	COUNTRY
Well developed	Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Tunisia
Reasonably developed	Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Niger, Nigerian, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda
Limited to partially developed	Liberia, Malawi, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Not or very limited development	Congo, Somalia

Table 3.2- Classification of capabilities in Food safety

4 ANIMAL HEALTH

Africa's livestock accounts for one-third of the global livestock population (AU-IBAR, 2016) and about 40% of agricultural GDP in Africa, ranging from 10% to 80% in individual countries. Livestock is an important element in nutrition as a source of protein and demand continues to increase due to population growth, increased incomes and urbanisation in Africa. In this regard, animal health is important to human health and well-being considering that if not well taken care of, animals can transmit zoonotic diseases (*i.e. infectious diseases that are transmitted between species from animals to humans (or from humans to animals)*). Thus, healthy livestock are essential for a safe food supply hence capacity building in

the proper management of livestock is of utmost importance.

In Africa, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) established in 1951 is responsible for animal resource development including management and control of animal diseases. AU-IBAR is required to support and coordinate the improved utilization of animals (livestock, fisheries, and wildlife) as a resource for human well-being in the Member States of the African Union (AU), and to contribute to economic development, particularly in rural areas.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
Well developed	- Full capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on animal health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) - Full capacity regarding harmonization (<i>i.e.</i>, Participation in the work of OIE, available national coordination mechanism for participation in OIE work) - National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Reasonably developed	- Reasonable capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on animal health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) - Reasonable capacity regarding harmonization (<i>i.e.</i>, Participation in the work of OIE, available national coordination mechanism for participation in OIE work) - National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Limited to partially developed	- Limited capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on animal health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, limited availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) - Limited capacity regarding harmonization (<i>i.e.</i> limited participation in the work of OIE, national coordination mechanism for participation in OIE work under development) - National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Not or very limited developed	- No or very limited capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on animal health for setting or updating SPS measures (no institution undertaking risk assessment, limited or no availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) - No or very limited capacity regarding harmonization (<i>i.e.</i> limited participation in the work of OIE, no national coordination mechanism for participation in OIE work under development) - National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, other national measures not supported by scientific justification

Table 4.1: Classification criteria for Animal Health

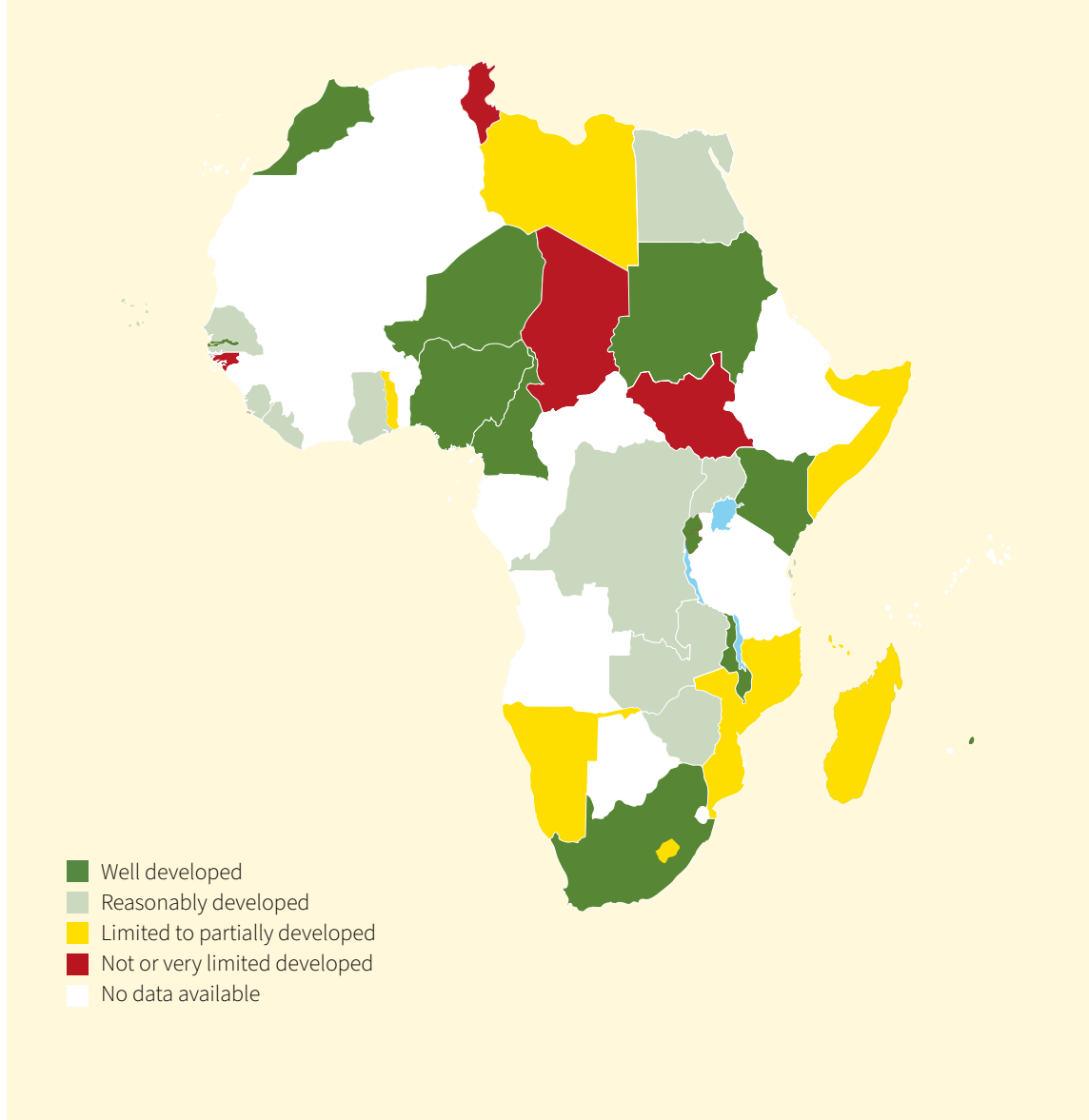


Figure 4: SPS information on Animal Health

The efficient management of Animal Health is a collaborative initiative and requires involvement of stakeholders. In this regard, AU-IBAR works closely with RECs, AUC-DARBE, AU-IAPSC, ARSO, CODEX Africa and represents African interests at the World Organisation of Animal Health, the OIE.

Table 4.1 provides classification criteria used in this survey for Animal Health and Table 4.2 shows the Classification of capabilities in Animal Health. Figure 4 presents SPS information on Animal Health.

CATEGORY	COUNTRY
Well developed	Burundi, Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan
Reasonably developed	Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Limited to partially developed	Comoros, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, Togo
Not or very limited development	Chad, Guinea Bissau, South Sudan, Tunisia

Table 4.2- Classification of capabilities in Animal Health

5 PLANT HEALTH

The introduction and spread of plant pests is a serious threat that can have far-reaching economic, social and environmental consequences. Plant pests are often introduced to areas previously unaffected through importation of plants and agricultural products. To manage pest risks and facilitate safe trade globally, countries are called upon to implement recommendations developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) including the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) which are recognized by the World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

In Africa, the regional body responsible for the development, promotion and coordination of sustainable Plant Health Systems is the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC). The AU-IAPSC's mandate is to coordinate and provide support to the protection of plant resources for the welfare and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU). The key stakeholders of (AU-IAPSC include; AU Member States through their National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), RECs, International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) among many others.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
Well developed	• Full Capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on plant health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) • Full capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. Participation in the work of IPPC, available national coordination mechanism for participation in IPPC work) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Reasonably developed	• Reasonable capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on plant health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) • Reasonable capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. Participation in the work of IPPC, available national coordination mechanism for participation in IPPC work) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Limited to partially developed	• Limited capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on plant health for setting or updating SPS measures (Availability of institution undertaking risk assessment, limited availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) • Limited capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. limited participation in the work of IPPC, national coordination mechanism for participation in IPPC work under development) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other national measures supported by scientific justification
Not or very limited developed	• No or very limited capacity to conduct Risk Assessment on plant health for setting or updating SPS measures (no institution undertaking risk assessment, limited or no availability of human, financial and material capacity to undertake risk assessment and risk assessment reports) • No or very limited capacity regarding harmonization (i.e. limited participation in the work of IPPC, no national coordination mechanism for participation in IPPC work under development) • National measures are based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, other national measures not supported by scientific justification

Table 5.1: Classification criteria for Plant Health



Figure 5: SPS information on Plant Health

Table 5.1 provides classification criteria used in this survey for Plant Health and Table 5.2 shows the Classification of capabilities in Plant Health. Figure 5 presents SPS information on Plant Health.

CATEGORY	COUNTRY
Well developed	Burundi, Coted'voire, Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Zimbabwe
Reasonably developed	Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zambia
Limited to partially developed	Liberia, Somalia, Togo
Not or very limited development	-

Table 5.2- Classification of capabilities in Plant Health

6 SUMMARY OF THE SPS STATUS IN AFRICA

Policy makers generally have a lot of issues and decisions to make on various developmental activities in their nations. It is therefore, important to provide them with clear simplified information to assist them in their decision making. Thus this SPS Stocktaking Document is structured and presented in a way that enables the Policy Makers to see at a glance where SPS capacity gaps exist. This in turn helps them to strategically direct investments in the areas that lack capacity to achieve the necessary corrective capacity developmental measures.

In this survey, while a total of 41 (74.5%) out of 55 AU Member States responded to the survey, only 22 AU Member States returned fully completed questionnaires. The overall picture of the SPS status in AU Member States is basically as reported in the 2019 SPS Stocktaking Document. Challenges still remain in terms of non-availability of documented specific SPS related trade concerns and participation in the WTO SPS Committee activities. It is however, envisaged that the AU Member States will actively participate in the recently established AfCFTA Subcommittee on Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures (AfCFTA SC-SPS) as a statutory obligation. It is apparent from the feedback received that majority of AU Member States have Competent Authorities in place in the areas of Food safety, Animal Health and Plant Health. However, the capacity to conduct audits or verifications varies in the Member States due to the challenges regarding availability of human and financial resources to maintain and to carry out the duties as desired. The same applies to early warning and emergency procedures which are mostly not yet in place or only under development. Lack of capacity to conduct audit and verifications and the inadequate availability of early warning and emergency procedures have implications for AfCFTA State Parties in meeting various obligations in Annex 7 on SPS.

On a positive note, feedback from Member States affirms that in general the national measures in each area are based on the respective international standards, guidelines or recommendations. This is important because harmonisation of standards and /or convergence of technical regulations will be much easier to undertake in order to facilitate intra-Africa trade.

Finally, it is clear from the stocktaking that there is still a lot of capacity needs required in some AU Member States to develop fully functional SPS Systems. In the current publication, the overall status based on the 22 countries that submitted fully completed questionnaires shows that only 10 AU Member States which are AfCFTA State Parties have well developed SPS Systems and 10 have reasonably developed SPS systems. The number of countries classified as having none or very limited overall SPS capacity development are only 02 among the 22 countries that responded with complete information. The ideal situation is for Member States to endeavor to transition towards a “dark green” status to not only fulfil the SPS requirements set at international level but also those agreed upon in the AfCFTA SPS Annex.

The WTO SPS Agreement, and the AfCFTA SPS Annex for that matter, aim to protect human, animal or plant life or health through the application of necessary measures subject to the requirement that these measures are technically justified and do not pose a disguised restriction or barrier to international trade.

Table 6 shows the overall SPS Capabilities and Figure 6 presents Overall SPS information in Africa for the 22 countries that fully completed questionnaires.

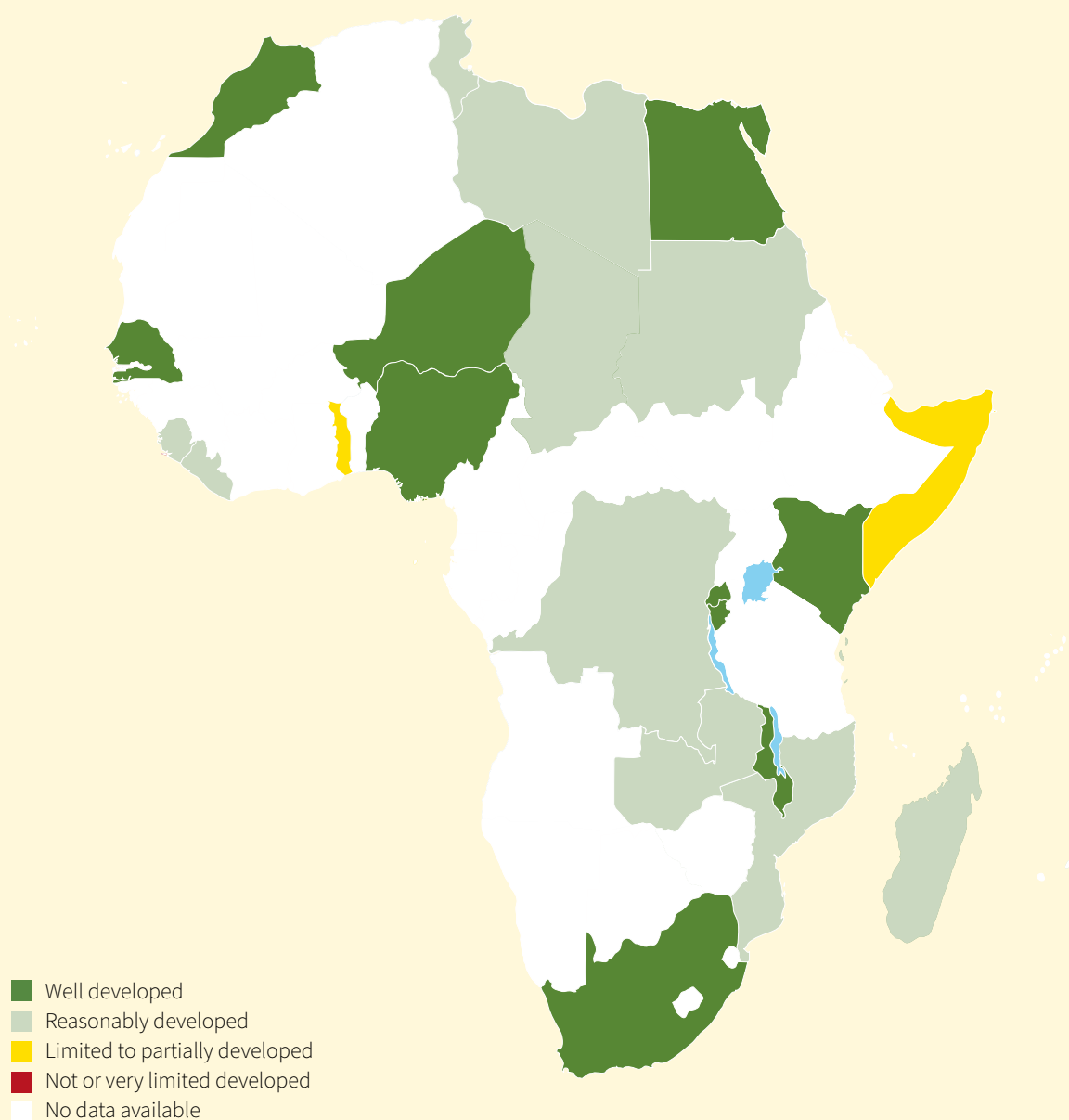


Figure 6: Overall SPS information in Africa.

CATEGORY	COUNTRY
Well developed	Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa
Reasonably developed	Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia
Limited to partially developed	Somalia, Togo
Not or very limited development	

Table 6: Overall SPS Capabilities

NO	COUNTRY	AfCFTA State Parties- SPS Stocktaking Rank 2022	AU-MS SPS Stocktaking Rank 2022	SPS Stocktaking Rank 2019
1	Algeria			
2	Angola			
3	Benin			
4	Botswana			
5	Burkina Faso			
6	Burundi			
7	Cameroon			
8	Cape Verde			
9	Central Republic of Africa			
10	Chad			
11	Comoros			
12	Congo Brazzaville			
13	Cote d'Ivoire			
14	Dem. Republic of Congo			
15	Djibouti			
16	Egypt			
17	Equatorial Guinea			
18	Eritrea			
19	Eswatini			
20	Ethiopia			
21	Gabon			
22	Gambia			
23	Ghana			
24	Guinea			
25	Guinea-Bissau			
26	Kenya			
27	Lesotho			
28	Liberia			

NO	COUNTRY	AfCFTA State Parties- SPS Stocktaking Rank 2022	AU-MS SPS Stocktaking Rank 2022	SPS Stocktaking Rank 2019
29	Libya			
30	Madagascar			
31	Malawi			
32	Mali			
33	Mauritania			
34	Mauritius			
35	Morocco			
36	Mozambique			
37	Namibia			
38	Niger			
39	Nigeria			
40	Rwanda			
41	Sahrawi Republic			
42	Sao Tome and Principe			
43	Senegal			
44	Seychelles			
45	Sierra Leone			
46	Somalia Republic			
47	South Africa			
48	South Sudan			
49	Sudan			
50	Tanzania			
51	Togo			
52	Tunisia			
53	Uganda			
54	Zambia			
55	Zimbabwe			

- Well developed
- Reasonably developed
- Limited to partially developed
- Not or very limited developed
- No data available

