

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP

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Libya's fisheries and aquaculture regulatory environment and alignment with regional and international instruments

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**ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: A PROGRAMME
FOR ACCELERATED REFORM OF THE SECTOR
FISHERIES GOVERNANCE PROJECT PHASE 2 (FISHGOV 2)**

**STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE
STATE OF LIBYA for the
Review of National Policies in African Union Member States and Make
Specific Recommendations for Alignment and Domestication of Global
Instruments**

**Assessment of The Alignment of National Fisheries–Aquaculture
Strategies and The National Agricultural Investment Plans to The Policy
Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
and Climate–Change Adaptation**



Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive evaluation of Libya's fisheries and aquaculture regulatory landscape, focusing on its alignment with regional and international frameworks, particularly the African Union's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS). Despite its rich marine resources and economic potential, Libya's sector faces major hurdles, including outdated laws, weak institutional coordination, and limited integration with global standards. Drawing on successful reform models from other African nations, the report underscores the need for legal and policy harmonization to modernize governance, attract investment, and ensure sustainable sector development..

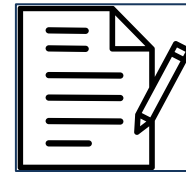


The objective of this report is to provide an analysis of Libya's current regulatory environment in fisheries and aquaculture, and to propose actionable pathways for alignment with regional and international instruments. Main international instruments were examined, their objectives, and the situation of Libya regarding ratification and domestication. The report also draws on comparative experiences from African countries that have demonstrated success in reforming their fisheries sectors.



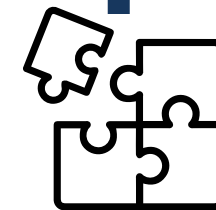
Purpose of the report

Methodology



Document Review:

A review of key regional and international instruments relevant to fisheries and aquaculture governance, including the PFRS, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Each instrument's objectives were evaluated against Libya's level of ratification, domestication, and implementation.



Gap and Alignment Assessment:

Libya's national policies, laws, and institutions were assessed for consistency with the identified international frameworks. Areas of misalignment, underperformance, and potential opportunity were mapped to develop a clear set of policy intervention points..

General view of the main instruments on fisheries and aquaculture:

Key binding international agreements once ratified by countries :

01

UNCLOS

Libya is a signatory to UNCLOS, which provides the overarching legal framework for ocean governance, including rights and responsibilities over territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). However, Libya's existing marine laws (e.g., Law No. 14 of 1989) do not fully align with UNCLOS obligations, especially those under Part XII concerning marine environmental protection and conservation of living resources.



02

UNFSA

Libya has not ratified the 1995 UNFSA, which builds on UNCLOS to ensure the sustainable use of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. This limits Libya's ability to participate effectively in regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and to enforce sustainable high seas fisheries governance.



03

PSMA

Although Libya signed the FAO PSMA, national implementation is weak due to institutional fragmentation, lack of designated ports, limited inspection capacity, outdated laws, poor interagency coordination, and no access to IUU blacklists or risk assessment tools.



04

BBNJ

Libya has not ratified the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement. Key challenges include legal and institutional gaps in managing high seas resources, absence of capacity in marine research and monitoring, and minimal financial investment in ocean governance.



05

ICCAT

While Libya complies with ICCAT's regulations and reporting requirements, challenges remain in fully implementing all conservation measures due to limited resources and institutional capacity. Strengthening Libya's engagement with ICCAT offers an important opportunity to enhance sustainable fisheries management.



General view of the main instruments on fisheries and aquaculture:

Voluntary instruments supporting legal and policy implementation include:

→ Generally Libya supports these guidelines in principle, and they have influenced national policy discussions, though full integration into domestic frameworks is still underway.

01

VG-SSF

Although Libya has not formally adopted the VG-SSF, small-scale fisheries account for the majority of national production. Integrating these guidelines into Libya's legal and policy frameworks presents an opportunity to strengthen participatory governance, empower coastal communities, and align with regional efforts like the GFCM SSF Regional Plan of Action.



02

TG- RFAD

While Libya has not formally adopted these guidelines, it has engaged in technical cooperation with FAO through initiatives like MedSudMed and the National Project for Aquaculture (NPA). Embracing these guidelines would support Libya in modernizing its regulatory frameworks, enhancing environmental sustainability, and building institutional capacity for responsible aquaculture development..



03

CCRF

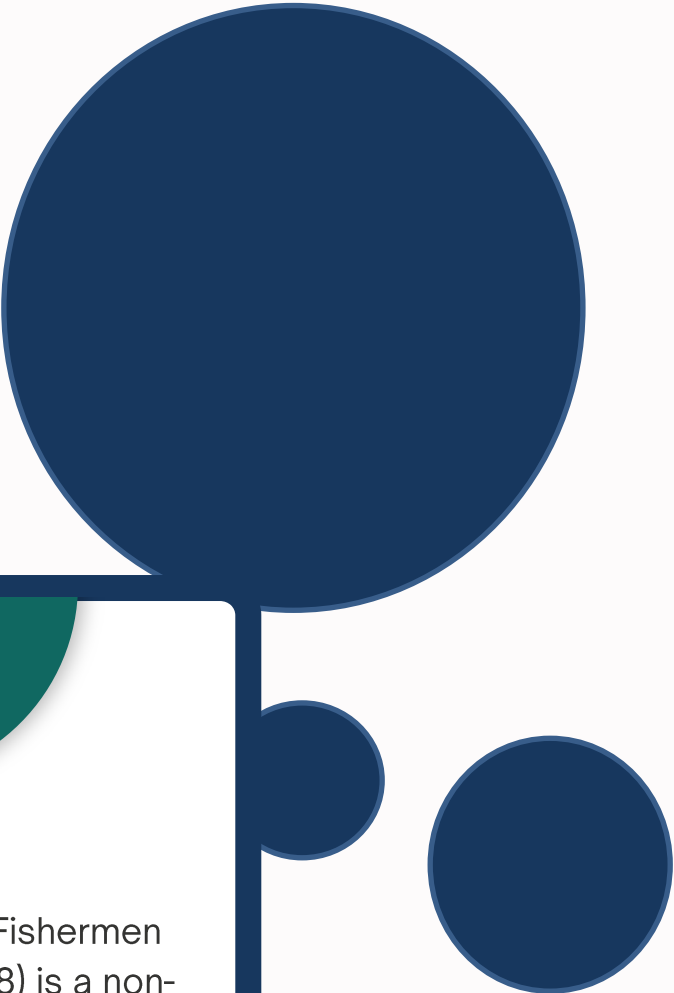
As FAO member, Libya is expected to align with the CCRF, which has already guided various FAO-supported interventions in the country. Fully integrating the CCRF into Libya's national laws and operational policies would improve sustainability, support EU market compliance, and enhance the conservation of marine resources.



04

CSFFV

The Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels (1968) is a non-binding international guideline developed collaboratively by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



General view of the main instruments on fisheries and aquaculture:

Other key relevant international instruments and conventions:

→ *Cross-sectoral environmental and biodiversity agreements ratified by Libya*

01

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

Ratified in 2001. Obligates Libya to conserve marine biodiversity and integrate ecosystem-based management approaches.



02

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under CBD)

Ratified 2005. Addresses genetic resource safety, relevant to aquaculture and biotechnology..



03

RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands

Ratified 2000. Libya has designated wetlands of international importance, with relevance to coastal aquaculture and habitat conservation



04

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Ratified 2003. Controls the trade of endangered aquatic species such as sharks and marine mammals.



General view of the main instruments on fisheries and aquaculture:

Other key relevant international instruments and conventions:

→ *Climate change and marine environmental instruments ratified:*

01

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

Ratified in 1999. Libya submitted its first draft of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement in 2021.



02

Paris Agreement (2015):

Ratified in 2016. Libya has committed to climate adaptation in fisheries and coastal zones.



03

Barcelona Convention

Libya is a contracting party. Includes protocols for pollution control, biodiversity conservation, and coastal zone management.



04

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

Ratified in 1976. Libya is a party to (MARPOL), which is the primary international agreement aimed at minimizing pollution of the oceans and seas, including dumping, oil, and exhaust pollution from ships.



General view of the main instruments on fisheries and aquaculture:

Other key relevant international instruments and conventions:

→ *Labor, safety, and trade-related instruments relevant but variably implemented:*

01

Some ILO Conventions:

Libya has not ratified key (ILO) conventions related to marine safety and work at sea, however, it has ratified other ILO conventions (29 Conventions). Several maritime and fisheries-related conventions have been proposed but remain unratified or pending formal submission by Libya:



02

Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS):

Libya is a party to the (SOLAS). According to the United Nations Treaty Collection, Libya acceded to SOLAS on 2 July 1981, and the convention entered into force for Libya on 2 October 1981.



03

World Trade Organization (WTO):

Libya is an observer. Libya is not yet a full member of the WTO. It applied for accession in 2004, but the process remains incomplete due to political and institutional challenges.



04

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Instruments)

Ratified several IMO standards applicable to fishing vessels and maritime safety, security, and environmental protection since 1970, . .



Opportunities arising from the domestication of regional, international and global instruments:



Conclusion:

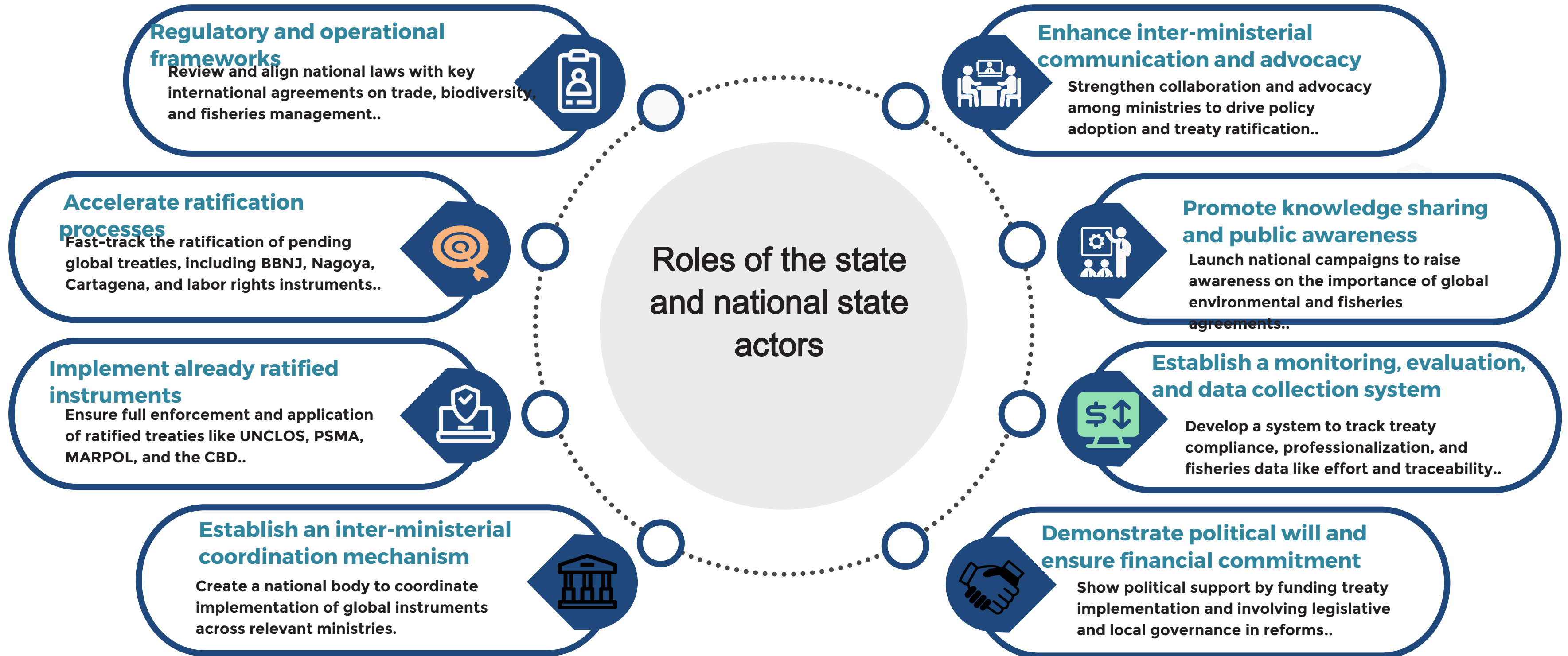
Libya's current fisheries and aquaculture regulatory environment demonstrates a foundational commitment to international cooperation and sectoral development, as evidenced by its ratification of key international agreements such as UNCLOS, CBD, PSMA, MARPOL, and the Barcelona Convention. However, the country remains only partially aligned with the broader spectrum of regional and global frameworks, notably those outlined in the African Union's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS).

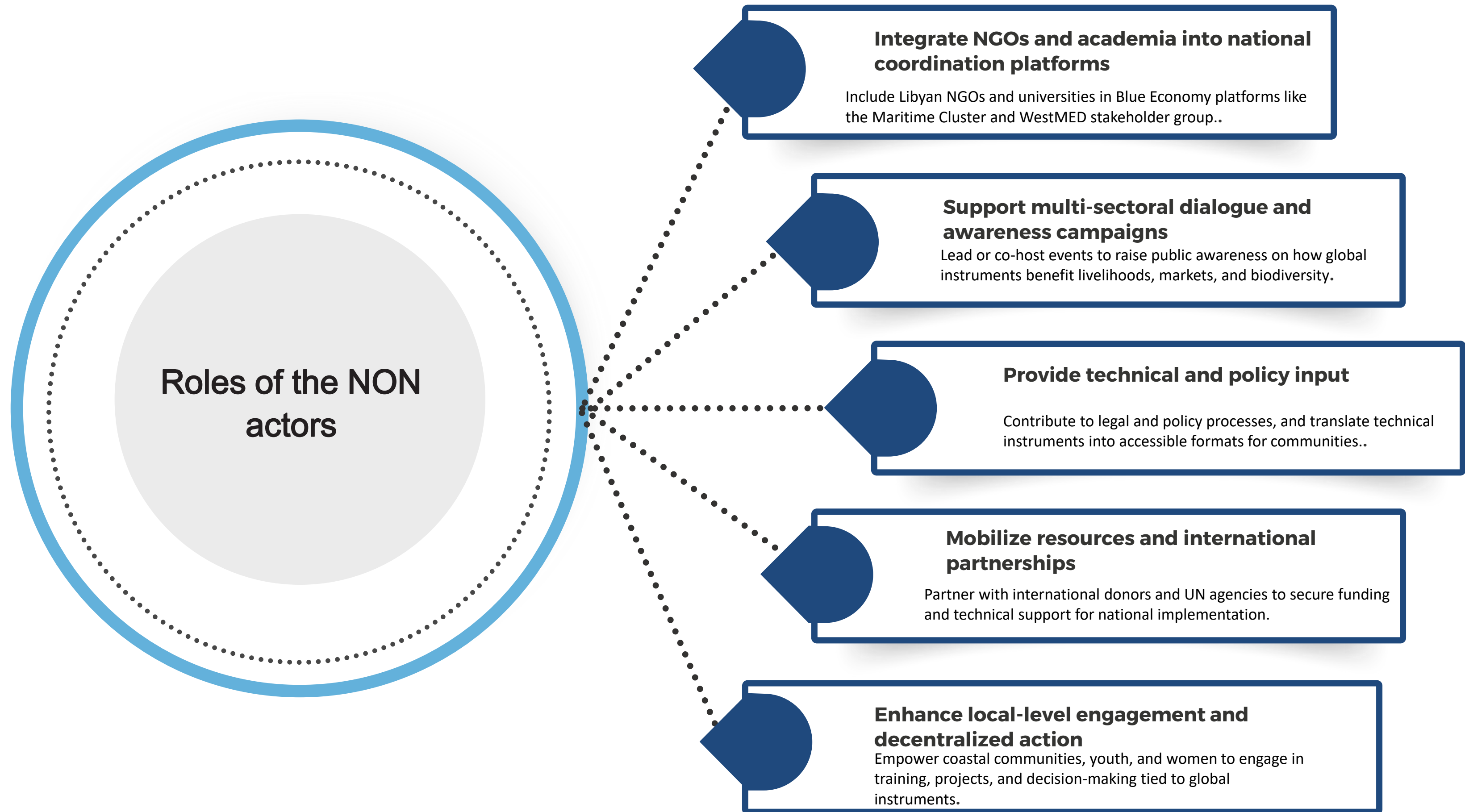
The domestication and implementation of ratified instruments are significantly limited by outdated legislation, institutional fragmentation, and capacity constraints. Moreover, many relevant conventions and protocols remain either unratified or only partially integrated, such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), BBNJ Treaty, Nagoya Protocol, and key ILO maritime labor conventions, limiting Libya's ability to fully benefit from international support, trade opportunities, and sustainability protocols.

Libya's path forward must focus on legal modernization, institutional coordination, and cross-sector integration, especially in relation to climate adaptation, blue economy development, and labor rights in the fisheries sector.



Recommendation







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WATCHING THIS
PRESENTATION**