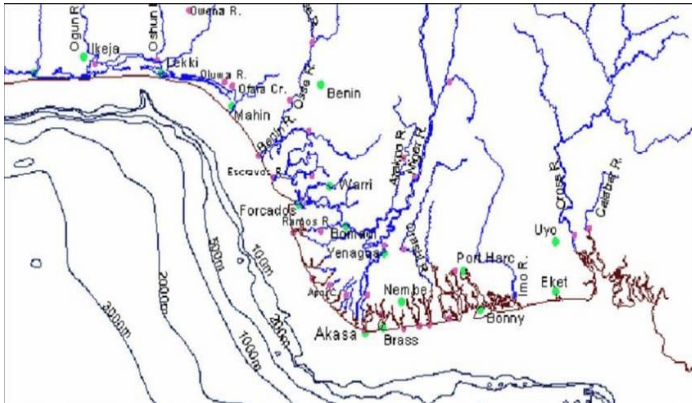




Nigeria Presentation on Progress and Challenges of the Implementation of the PSMA
 Accession, legal, institutional and operational arrangements, challenges and capacity needs, proposals of actions for the effective implementation of PSMA By
Mr Umegbo Chijoke Elijah

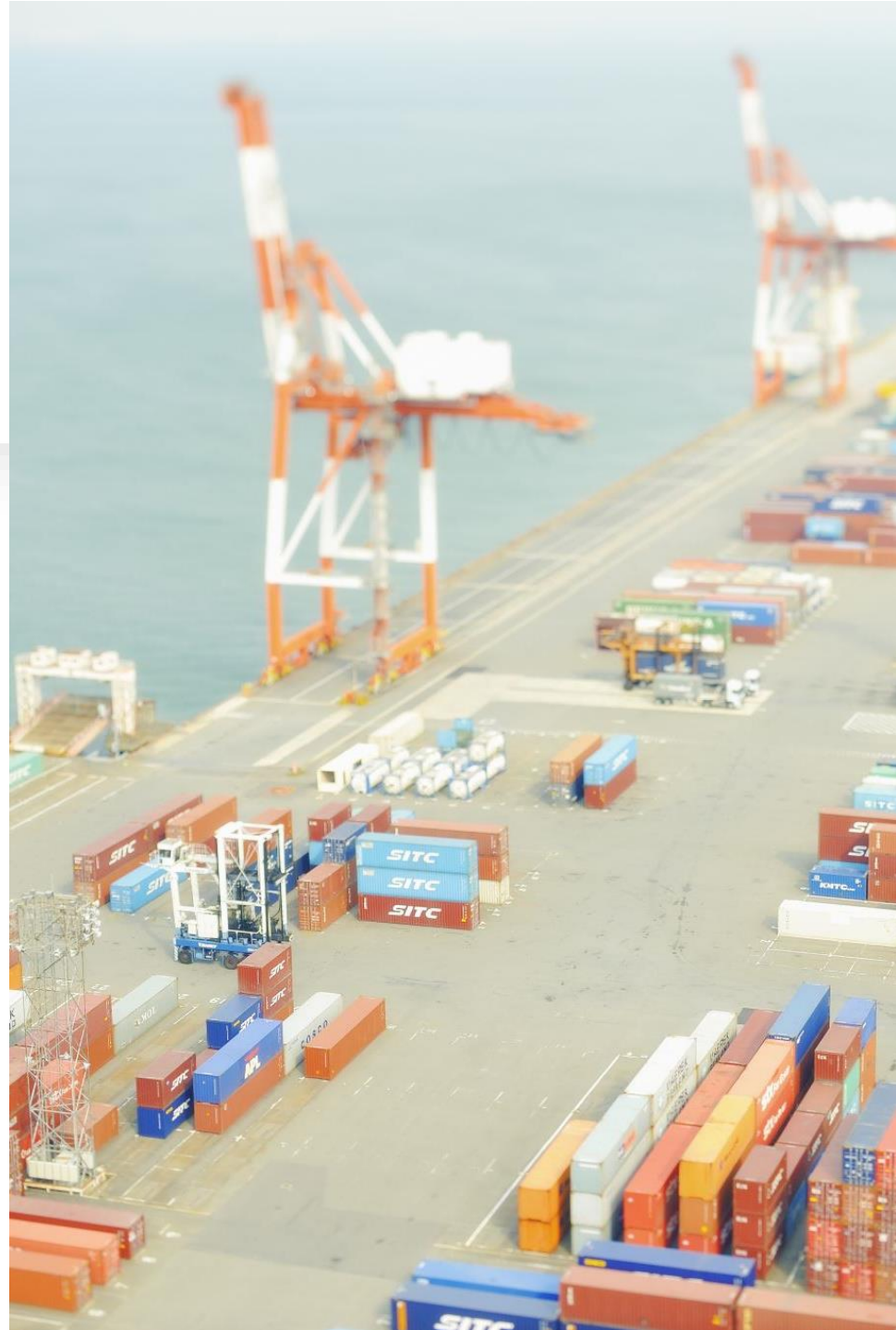
Date: 23-24th June 2025

Introduction

Nigeria's context

Length of Coastline - 853 Kilometers

- **Surface Area of Nigerians Continental Shelf** -37,934 sq Km
- **Exclusive Economic Zone** – 200 N M
- ❖ Nigeria Ratified the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in October 2022 to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
- ❖ Focus: Prevent IUU vessels from using ports, deny landing/catch handling



Legal and Policy Framework

Current Status:

- Sea Fisheries Act (1992)
- 2022 draft fisheries bill undergoing Legislative process
- Establishment of Vessel Monitoring System VMS
- Enforcement of By-Catch Reduction (BRDs) and Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)

Challenges:

- Weak enforcement capacity due to outdated fisheries laws and lack of harmonised policies.
- Funding and resource constraints
- Regional and International collaboration gaps
- Stakeholders awareness and compliance

Recommendations:

- Expedite passage of new Fisheries Act
- Enforce interim PSMA-aligned guidelines (e.g., advanced port entry requests)
- Bridging the gaps of regional and International cooperation through joint/active participation
- Launch public awareness campaigns to educate port operators, vessel agents, and the fishing industry about PSMA obligations
- Creation of a PSMA Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track implementation progress and report annually

Institutional Arrangements

Status:

- National Working Group (NWG) exists.

Challenges:

- There is delay in developing SOP for agency roles
- Delay in establishment of a dedicated fishery Harbour

Recommendations:

- Fund the NWG
- Initiate stakeholders' engagement of relevant agencies to develop SOP

Port Operational Arrangements

Designated
Ports:

- Lagos (Apapa) and Port Harcourt

Current
Gaps:

- No fisheries zones

Recommendations:

- Establish dedicated fisheries zones
- Integrate risk analysis tools (e.g., Vessel Viewer)

Inspection and Reporting Mechanisms

Status:

~50 inspections
per year

Multi-agency
teams operate
without SOPs

Reports non-
compliant with
PSMA

Challenges:

No formal SOPs

Poor pre-
inspection
preparation

Recommendations:

Develop SOPs
aligned with
PSMA

Train inspectors
on AIS/VMS use

Digitize
inspection
reports

Coordination and Information Exchange

Current Status:

- Informal national data exchange
- Regional collaboration via FCWC WATF
- Engagement with FAO GIES

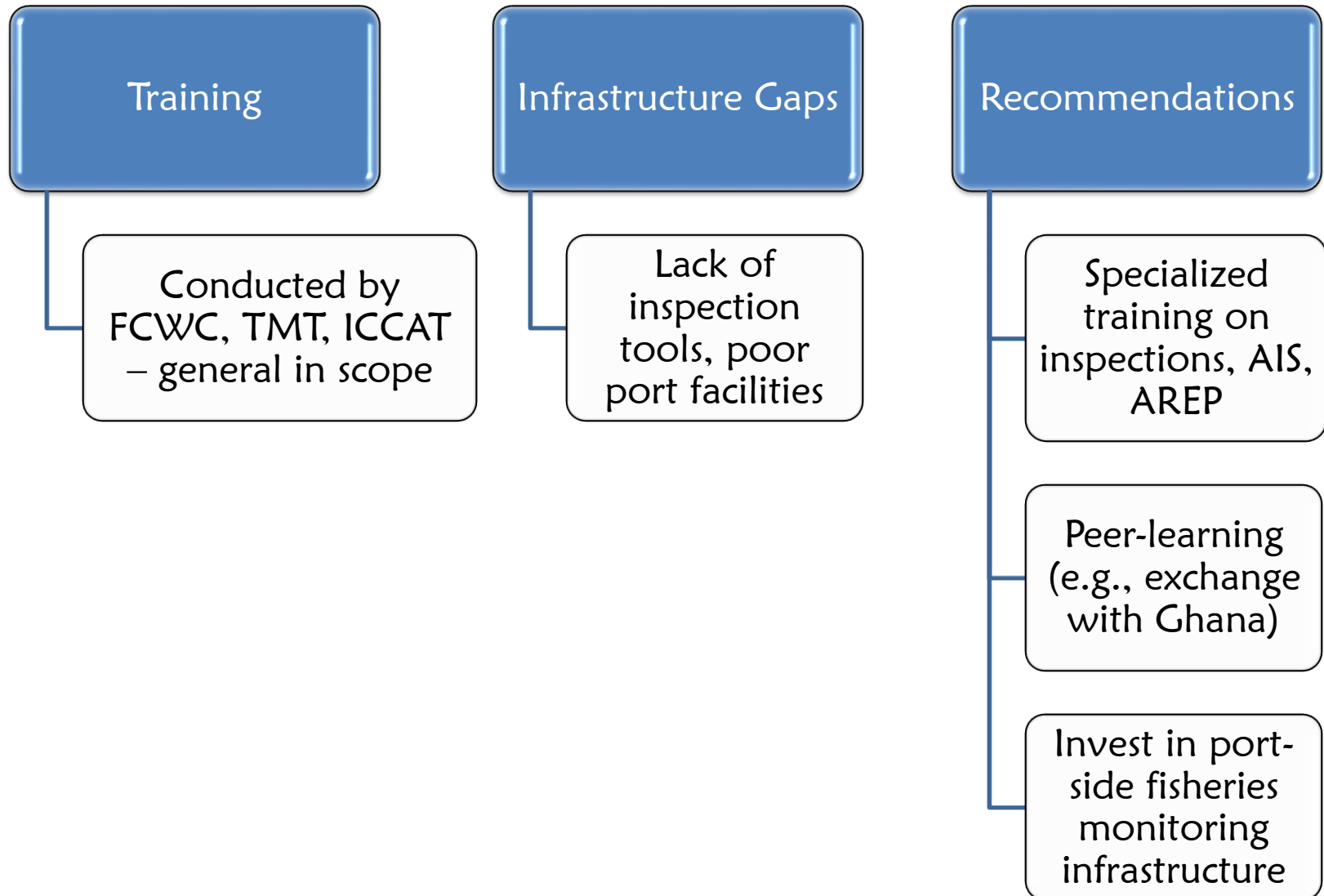
Challenges:

- No centralized national PSMA database
- Weak global data exchange

Recommendations:

- Establish central electronic PSMA database

Capacity and Infrastructure



Cross-Cutting Recommendations

Monitoring &
Evaluation: Track
AREP, inspection
rates, outcomes

Stakeholder
Engagement: Raise
awareness among
non-fisheries actors

International
Partnerships:
Leverage FAO, GFW,
FCWC support

Nigeria and the PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)



What is GIES?

A secure, FAO-managed online platform enabling PSMA parties to:

- Share vessel inspection and denial reports
- Track IUU fishing activity globally
- Access real-time data to support port state control

Nigeria's Status

- Not yet onboarded onto the GIES platform
- Missed opportunities for real-time data access and information sharing
- Limits Nigeria's ability to fully meet PSMA Article 12 obligations

Implications

- Slower response to suspicious vessels
- Weaker international coordination on IUU fishing
- Risk of port misuse by repeat IUU offenders

Recommended Actions

- Coordinate with FAO for onboarding and training
- Integrate Nigeria's future PSMA database with GIES for real-time updates

Summary of Key Challenges

Area	Key Challenges
Legal	Ongoing review of sea Fisheries Act,
Institutional	NW/G, undefined roles
Operations	No AREP, unclear inspection SOPs
Data	Poor coordination, no digital systems
Capacity	Limited training & infrastructure

Proposed Actions for Effective Implementation

Pass revised
Fisheries Bill

Launch AREP pilot
in key ports

Develop national
SOPs and database

Expand inspector
training and tools

Strengthen
regional/international
coordination

Conclusion

Nigeria's
PSMA
implementation
is progressing,
but gaps
remain

A
coordinated
legal,
operational,
and
institutional
upgrade is
essential

Full
implementation
will
solidify
Nigeria's
leadership in
regional IUU
combat and
marine
governance