



**MERCATOR
OCEAN**
INTERNATIONAL

Information Session

Project OPERA - Ocean Prediction Enhancement in Regions of Africa

14 May 2025 | Online | 10-12h30 UTC+2



 **Ocean
Prediction** | UN DECADE
COLLABORATIVE
CENTRE



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX)

[About ArcX](#) | [Africa Knowledge Platform](#)

Catherine Ghyoot

European Commission
DG International Partnerships

Science, Technology and Innovation



Institutional and policy context

- [Global Gateway Strategy](#)
- AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue for Science, Technology and Innovation
- AU-EU Innovation Agenda
- Agenda 2063
- STISA 2034

Regional programmes

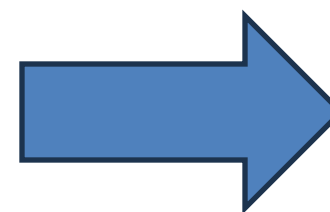
Regional Indicative Programme (2021 -2027):

Priority Area 4: Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation

Specific objective 1: Support an inclusive and human-centric Digital transformation in Africa.

Specific objective 2: Enhance the effective use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development in Africa.

- A scientific knowledge-based and innovation-led society is enhanced in Africa
- Africa cross-sectorial development is improved by making effective use of STI and data driven services
- Effective STI governance in Africa is promoted



Actions:

- Africa Regional Centres of Excellence related to green transition programme (ArcX)
- Africa-EU Space partnership programme
- PanAfGeo+: support to geoscientific partnership
- ARISE: Africa Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence

Aim

- at the forefront of Africa's sustainable development, driven by a **collaborative effort between Africa and Europe**
- strengthen the **Africa-EU partnership** aligning with African and European policies and strategies
- advancing STI to meet the challenges of the green transition
- improving **cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination** and strategic steering of the Regional Centres of Excellence
- increasing STI capacities of RCoEs in **thematic areas** related to the green transition.
- improving the RCoEs' contributions to **policy and decision-making processes, innovation ecosystems, business development** as well as provide support to their relevant stakeholders through tailored services.

Targeted centres

- be a scientific, technical and/or research observatory, institute, university, association, public authority, inter-governmental organisation, NGO, or network of one or several types of the aforementioned actors,
- have a **regional and/or multi-country anchor and coverage** in Sub-Saharan Africa, is Africa-based and Africa-led.
- be known for being a competence and capacity development centre, have the capacity for providing leadership in scientific processes (including science-policy-practice interface) and knowledge creation (i.e. carrying out activities of high quality, pushing for science and technology community building, providing technological and scientific outputs to a network of actors that in turn will benefit of it, being involved in new developments in a specific sector or topic, etc.).

Objectives and structure

Specific
Objective 1

Cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering

Specific
Objective 2

Thematic support

**Data / information
collection, access,
sharing and
processing**

**Knowledge
generation &
management**

**Support to
practitioners,
scientists & policy
makers**

Regional Centres of Excellence

Key points

- **Diverse sectors** involved, requiring developing cross-sectors coordination mechanisms;
- **High number of stakeholders** (European and African bodies, Intermediary Organizations and Centres) with varied interests and expectations;
- **A Programme still under development**, with different implementation processes and evolving goals;
- **Historical background** (e.g. ACEWATER, BIOPAMA, GMES&Africa) with already established “modus operandi” and governance structures.

Thematic focus

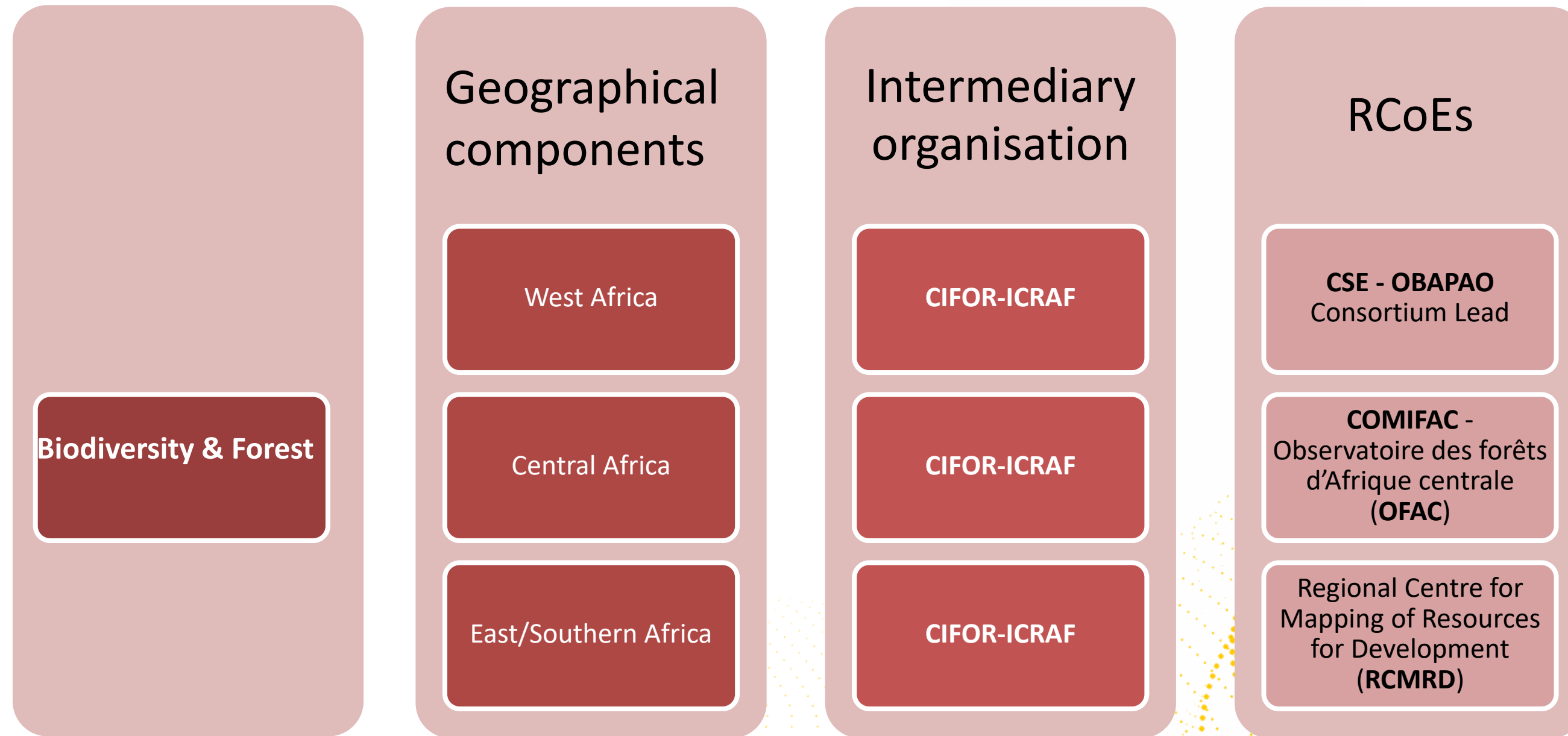
Biodiversity and
Forest

Water

Agroecology

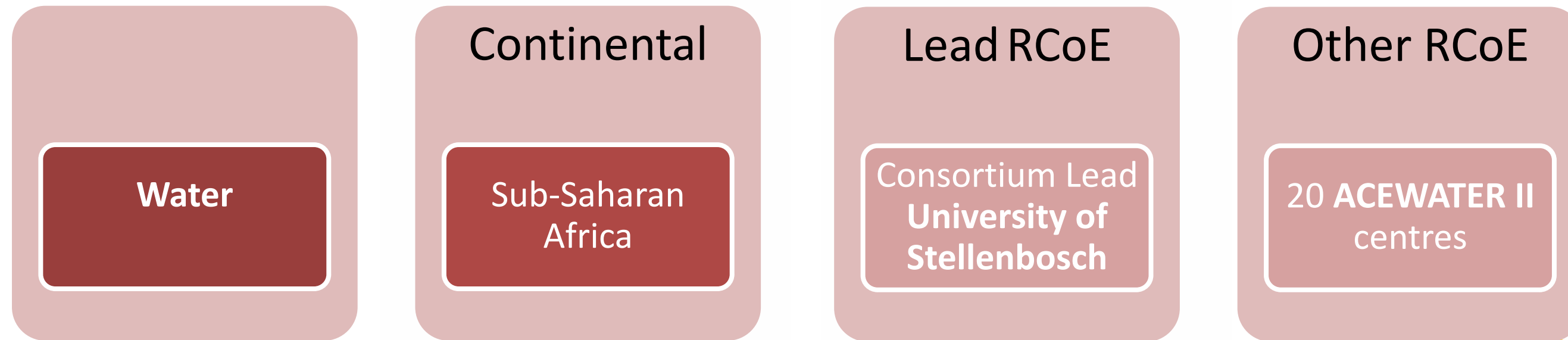
Ocean

Biodiversity and Forest



Coordination
Funds management
Thematic inputs

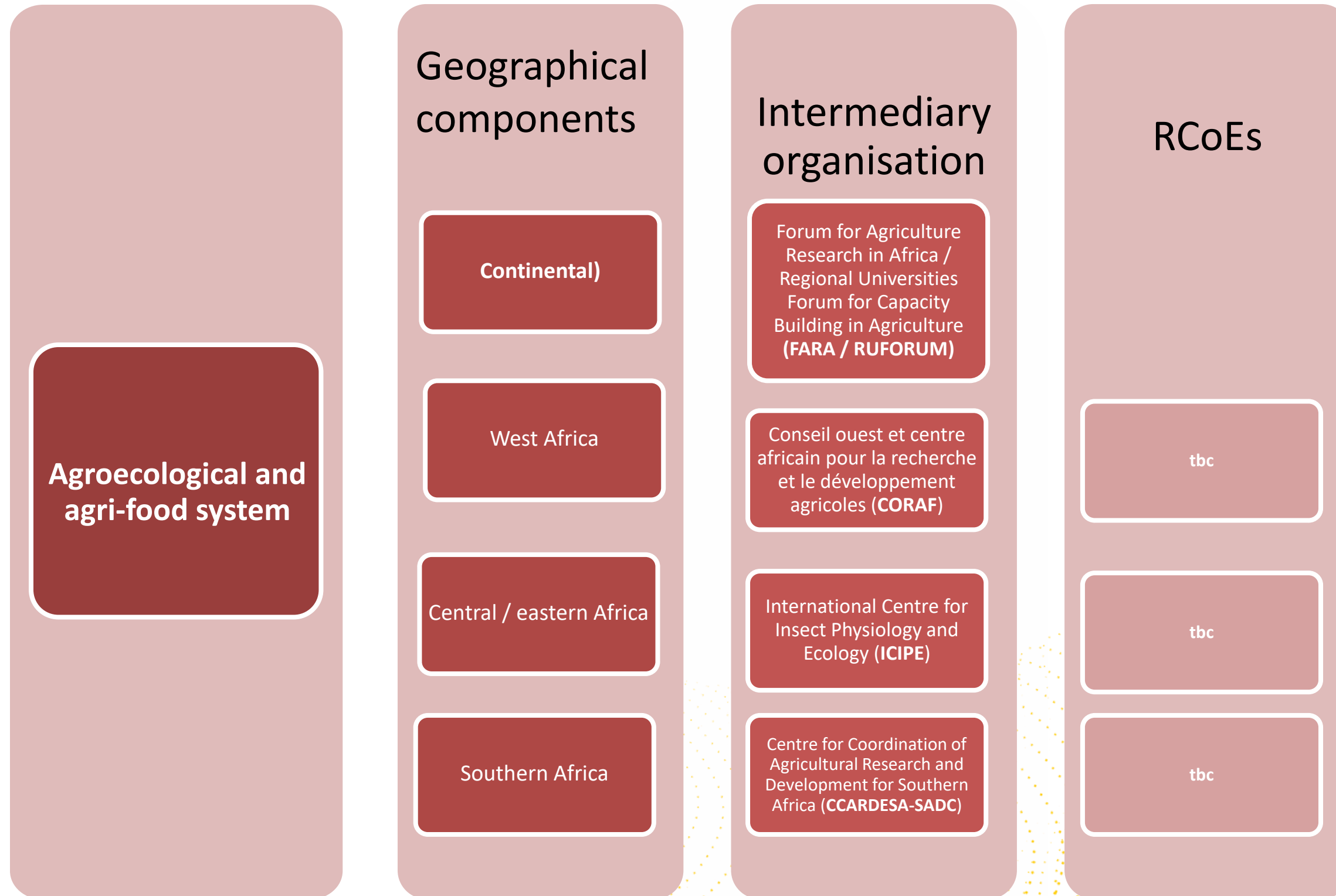
Water



Continuation of
ACEWATER II

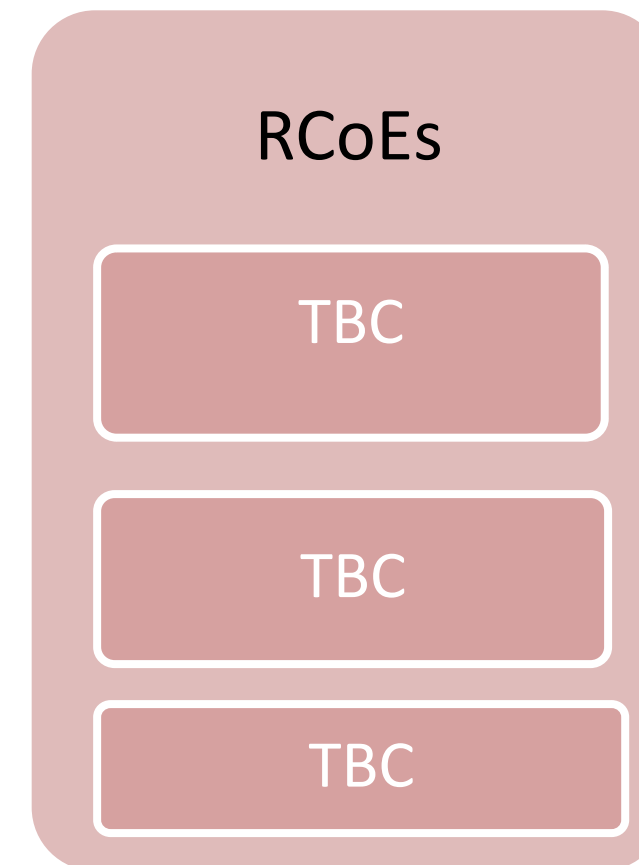
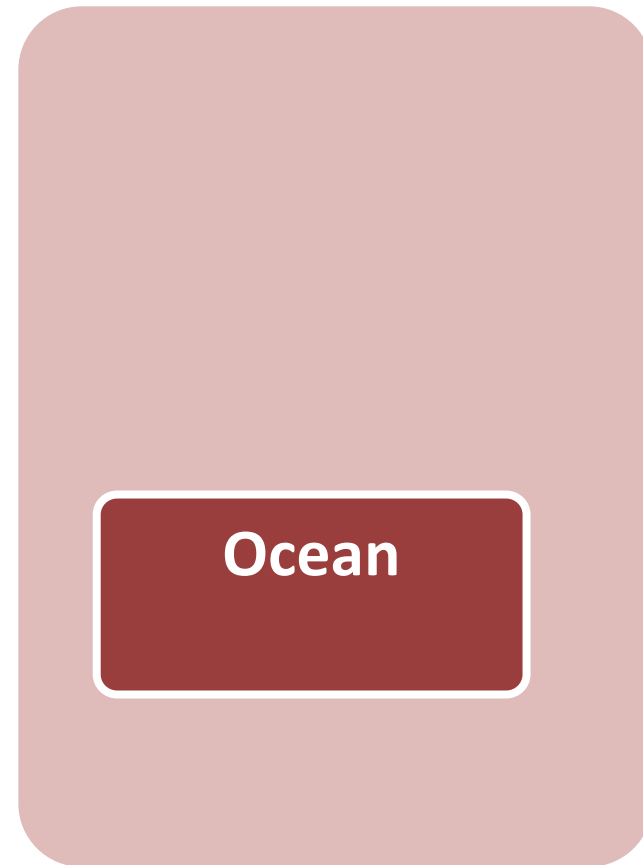
(WANWATCE +
CEANWATCE +
SANWATCE)

Agro-ecological and Sustainable Agri-food Systems



Call for interest
Selection process

Ocean



Thank you for your attention

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