



AFRICAN UNION  
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



# “CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICAN BLUE ECONOMY”

## REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP



8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
Naivasha, Kenya

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# Acronyms

ABES	Africa Blue Economy Strategy
AU	African Union
AU MS	African Union Member States
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AUDA-NEPAD	Africa Union Development Agency
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
BCLME	Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCLME	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GCLME	Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem
IPIECA	International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association
IMO	International Marine Organization
IOC	International Oceanographic Commission
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MSC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
PRNFAA	Policy Research network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFB	Regional Fishery Body
RSCs	Regional Sea Conventions
RFO	Regional Fisheries Organizations
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SWaM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (
UMA	Arab-Maghreb Union
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WBC	Water-basin commission
WI	Wetlands International
WIO	West Indian Ocean
WHC	World Heritage Convention

# Summary

An Inception Workshop to launch the Project on ‘Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy’ as well as to create awareness amongst the potential beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project for collaboration, synergy and lesson learning was organized by the African Union- Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with support from the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) from 8 to 10 December 2021 in Naivasha, Kenya.

The overall objective of the inception workshop was to create awareness on the project, solicit stakeholders’ views, and provide opportunity to the stakeholders and beneficiaries to review the project objectives, activities, and implementation mechanisms. Other objectives were to inform the stakeholders about issues in the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and the importance of conserving biodiversity and generate recommendations for effective project management and implementation.

The participants comprised of representatives of AU Member States from relevant institutions (e.g. departments in charge of environment and biodiversity, tourism industry, mining, and other selected blue economy sectors). The regional economic communities, specialized regional institutions (including Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs), Water-basin commission (WBCs) authorities, Large marine ecosystems (LME)-based institutions), AU Centres of Excellence in fisheries and aquaculture related disciplines, development and technical partners, non-state actors including women, youth and the private sector, lastly AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD staff members were present.

The opening session was heralded by statements from the Acting Director of AU-IBAR, representatives of AUDA-NEPAD, SIDA and the Government of Kenya. The workshop facilitation was led by the Professor Eyiunmi Falaye of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The programme was capped by expert presentations, elaborating on the project ‘conserving aquatic biodiversity in the African blue economy’ and sharing experiences on best practices on various aspects on conservation of aquatic biodiversity based on the workshop objectives.

The participants were assigned into four Breakout Working Groups in line with the four Strategic Objectives of the Project. The rationale was to solicit views of the participants on the activities proposed under each workshop and proffer suggestions for improvement:

1. Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)
2. Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes
3. Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment
4. Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

The working Groups analysed and provided recommendations on the current project framework, the outlined expected results and the activities.

Based on the outcomes of the sessions, the meeting provided conclusions, outcomes, recommendations, and way forward. The communique was developed in English, translated into French language and shared with the participants after the meetings for review and adoption; few inputs were received. The final communique was posted on the AU website.

# I Introduction

An inception workshop for the project ‘Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy’ was organised by the African Union- Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The workshop held in the Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha, Kenya from 8 – 10 December, 2021 to appraise and raise awareness among the stakeholders on the rationale for the project, objectives, activities and the implementation mechanism.

The SIDA is supporting the implementation of a 3-year project on “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy” whose overall objective is to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU member states and regional economic communities to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

## 1.1 Background

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) was endorsed in February 2020 at the highest political level of the continent. The Strategy incorporates key critical vectors for promoting blue economy development on the continent, including fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystem conservation; shipping, maritime safety and trade; climate change, environmental sustainability and ecotourism; sustainable energy and extractive mineral resources; governance, institutions and job creation.

The objective of the ABES is to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, marine ecosystem utilization, management and conservation and carbon sequestration, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other marine resources.

The ABES is consolidated based on the following five thematic technical areas:

- Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems;
- Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement;
- Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, marine ecosystem, environment, infrastructure;
- Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries; and,
- Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing.

The AU-IBAR, a specialized technical office of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission (AUC), is mandated to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union. The Vision of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is an Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace. AU-IBAR’s intervention in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is guided

by the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) which is aimed at improving governance of the sector for increased sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. Also within the framework of the African Union's Agenda 2063, Goal 7: Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth, environs the Africa Blue Economy Strategy to guide an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth.

## 1.2 Rationale:

The African continent is adjacent to highly productive marine ecosystems including the seven African Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) viz., Agulhas Current LME, Benguela Current LME, Guinea Current LME, Canary current LME, Mediterranean Sea LME, Red Sea LME and Somali Current LME. The continent is also endowed with networks of rivers and lakes. The seas, oceans, lakes and rivers inhabit significant number of biodiversity and the ecosystems provide sources of livelihoods, food security and wealth.

These African aquatic ecosystems inhabit living and non-living resources; however, the unsustainable exploitation of these resources is threatening the biodiversity, resources and environmental sustainability. Several factors are threatening aquatic biodiversity in Africa aquatic ecosystems. These include overexploitation of living species, pollutions from several sources (land-based municipal and agricultural activities), uncontrolled introduction of exotic species in aquaculture systems, effluents from mining activities. Consequently, important aquatic resources are becoming increasingly susceptible to both natural and artificial environmental changes. Thus, conservation strategies to protect and conserve aquatic life are necessary to maintain the balance of nature and support the availability of resources for future generations.

Consequently, AU-IBAR, with support from the SIDA, is implementing a 3-year project on "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy" whose overall objective of the project is to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU member states and regional economic communities to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)
2. Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes
3. Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment.
4. Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

In advance of full implementation of the project, it was critical to organize an inception workshop to appraise and raise awareness among the stakeholders on rationale for the project, the objectives, activities and the implementation mechanism of the project.

### 1.3 Mode of Workshop Operation

The workshop was conducted in dual modes, with live participation by physically present members and live streaming virtually with on-line participation.

### 1.4 Participation at the Workshop

The workshop was attended by 66 participants including representatives from **4 Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) , Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD ) , Arab Maghreb Union (UMA ) and East African Community (EAC ); **22 African Union Member States (AU MS)** those that were physically present (Kenya, Gabon, Eswatini, Chad, Niger, Senegal, Djibouti, Tunisia, Somali, Mali, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Benin, Cote D'ivoire, Mauritania, South Sudan, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Togo, Central Africa Republic); **Specialized Regional Institutions**: Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Fisheries Committee For West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), and Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), UNEP (Abidjan Convention), **Non-State Actors (NSA) Platforms**: African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET), Eastern African Regional NSA Platform (EARFISH); **African Union Centre of Excellence**: National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), Uganda; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Cape Coast, Ghana **NGOs in Blue Economy, Environmental and Biodiversity conservation**: African Women in Maritime (WIMAFRICA), African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative (AFMESI), **Private sector representative** from Mali; **Experts** including representatives from the University of Sierra Leone, University of Ibadan, the Bureau of Environmental analysis (BEA); representative of the **Media**; lastly AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD staff members were present.

**Online participants**: included AU member states, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management (SWAM); the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC); The University of Cape Coast, Ghana; the FAO Project Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystems (CCLME); the Benguela Current Commission (BCC); Blue Governance Unit of the University of Portsmouth, UK; the Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT); the representative of Youth and member of the Policy Research network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA) and AUDA-NEPAD.



**Figure 1:** Meeting participants during the plenary

## 2 OPENING SESSION

The Moderator of the opening ceremony, Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management Expert of AU-IBAR set the opening session in motion by announcing the various speakers in the order of the agenda arrangements.

- i. Welcome remarks by Representative of Director AU-IBAR
- ii. Statement by AUDA-NEPAD
- iii. Representative of SIDA
- iv. Opening Statement by Government of Kenya
- v. Objectives of the workshop by Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama

### *2.1 Welcome remarks by representative of the Acting Director, AU-IBAR*

The welcome remarks were made by Mrs Francisca Gonah representing, the Ag. Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Nick Nwankpa.

On behalf of the Ag. Director, Mrs. Gonah conveyed warm greetings from Her Excellency Ambassador Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) and her appreciation to the Government of Sweden for the support to the project ‘Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy’ towards Africa blue economy development and to the Government of Kenya for hosting AU-IBAR and the unrelenting collaboration of the Kenyan Government in animal resources development. She also seized the opportunity to express gratitude to the Kingdom of Norway for their support in initiating the implementation of the African Blue Economy Strategy and the ongoing rolling out of the Strategy among AU member states and RECs. She further thanked the

European Union (EU) for support to the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, particularly supporting AU-IBAR for the ongoing project on enhancing governance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. She was enthusiastic that the inception workshop will go a long way in enhancing implementation of the activities of the project. She expressed profound gratitude for high level attendance despite challenges and wished participants fruitful deliberations.



**Figure 2:** Ms. Francisca Gonah giving a welcoming speech on behalf of Acting Director AU-IBAR, Dr Nick Nwankpa

## 2.2 Statement by AUDA-NEPAD

**Dr. Clement Adjorlolo on behalf of Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, the CEO of the AUDA-NEPAD made a welcome speech**

He extended warm greetings from the CEO and acknowledged and commended the constant commitment of delegates to the improvement of the African Blue Economy. He provided a brief context to the AUDA-NEPAD and the reforms which are driven by the need to improve the implementation of the directives of the Heads of State and Government. Dr. Clement conveyed a sincere appreciation to AU-IBAR for playing a critical role of Coordinating the Blue Economy especially the Thematic Area I of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy on Fishery and Aquaculture. He re-affirmed that AUDA-NEPAD is fully committed to collaborating with all partners in this direction. He expressed appreciation to the delegate for being available despite busy schedules indicating the importance attached to the Project and wished them fruitful deliberations.

## 2.3 *Statement by Embassy of Sweden to the African Union*

***Mrs Senait Regassa made a statement on behalf of Madam Ulla Andrén, Head of the Swedish Regional Development Cooperation for Sub-Saharan Africa.***

She expressed the pleasure of Sweden to partner with the AU-IBAR on Blue Economy development in Africa. She mentioned that Sweden is placing emphasis on Blue Economy because it provides livelihoods for millions of poor and vulnerable people globally and if harnessed well in Africa can be a sustainable source of economic growth. She took the opportunity to inform delegates that the Government of Sweden together with the Government of Kenya will host a high-level UN meeting in June 2022 to commemorate the fiftieth year's anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment – The 1972 Stockholm Conference. In concluding she reiterated Sweden's commitment to work with AU-IBAR, national governments and other stakeholders in the endeavour to bring about a vibrant and sustainable Blue Economy sector in Africa. She congratulated all delegates for making the day's event a reality and wished them successful deliberations.

## 2.4 *Opening Statement by the Government of Kenya*

Hon. Lawrence Omuhaka, Chief Administration Secretary (Deputy Cabinet Secretary in charge of Agriculture, fisheries and blue economy) on behalf of the Government of Kenya, and representing Hon. Peter Munya, Egh Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-Operatives provided an opening statement

He extended warm greetings from the Minister. He opined that Blue Economy resources have attracted great attention globally in the recent past and continues to be endorsed as “humanity's last frontier for development” He urged delegates to take cognizant of the following key issues in their deliberations: (i) Addressing unavailability of critical information to help progress towards international targets for biodiversity conservation (ii) Coherent and integrated policy, legal and institutional capacities and capabilities, adequate human and financial resources as well evidence based research to assure sustainable development and management (iii) Realization that majority of African countries are sea blind and heavily relied on green economy to grow their GDPs (iv) Sustainable Blue Economy requires multidisciplinary approach to achieve effectiveness and efficiency (v) Urgent coordinated actions including increased investment are needed to restore and sustain the health of Africa's Blue Economy. He reconfirmed commitment to collaborate with partners, specifically the AU-IBAR towards the successful implementation of the Project. He expressed appreciation to delegates for being available and declared the Meeting Open.



**Figure 3:** Hon. Lawrence Omuhaka, Chief Administration Secretary (Deputy Cabinet Secretary in charge of Agriculture, fisheries and blue economy in Kenya; he is flanked by Ag. Director, AU-IBAR

The Ag. Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa, joined the meeting from another meeting to make brief welcome and good will remarks appreciating the support by and collaboration of the Government of Sweden with AU-IBAR in strengthening institutional capacity for sustainably conserving aquatic biodiversity within the African blue economy. He expressed gratitude to the delegates for their honour bestowed upon AU-IBAR by accepting the invitation to participate in this very important project despite the threat of coronavirus pandemic. He expressed hope that the project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, would contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in the territorial waters in Africa for the benefits of Africa in supporting food security, livelihoods and income.



**Figure 4:** The Ag. Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa welcoming participants

## 2.5 Objectives of the meeting

Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama, the Fisheries Officer at AU-IBAR gave a presentation highlighting the background, rationale and objectives of the workshop as follows:

The overall objective of the inception workshop is to create awareness on the project, solicit stakeholders' views, and provide opportunity to the stakeholders and beneficiaries to review the proposed project objectives, activities, and implementation mechanisms. The stakeholders would also be informed of issues in the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and the importance of conserving biodiversity by expert presentations.



**Figure 5:** Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama, the Fisheries Officer at AU-IBAR

These were the expected results/ outcomes of the inception workshop:

- Stakeholders are informed of the objectives, activities and implementation mechanisms
- The views of stakeholders are solicited and activities are reviewed, refined
- The roles of the stakeholders are highlighted in the project
- Awareness is enhanced among stakeholders on issues and importance of conserving aquatic biodiversity and Ecosystems in the context of Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

## 2.6 Official launching ceremony

Official launching was climaxed by traditional dancing illustrating aspects of Kenyan tradition and hospitality, where the Ag. Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa, underscored the need for effective integration of women and youth in the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management. Representatives from Niger, Col Malick Ibrahim Abdou and WIMAAFRICA Mrs Rollens Macfoy provided words of appreciation on behalf of participants.



**Figure 6:** The Ag. Director addressing traditional dancers heralding the Inception workshop event.

### 3 Technical Sessions

The Facilitator of the Technical Session, Professor Eyiunmi Falaye, of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria opened the session with remarks on the importance of the segment in the workshop. He stated that the Technical sessions are of utmost importance and critical to the overall success of the entire project. This is where we discuss the main subject matter in details and harvest the results and way forward in the project implementation.

He subsequently set the opening session in motion by announcing the various speakers in the order of the agenda arrangements.

#### 3.1 Session 1: Setting the Scene Presentation on Awareness Enhancing on Africa Blue Economy Strategy and Implementations

The following presentations were delivered to set the scene for the Meeting:

- i. Mr Kennedy Oroko, Planning Expert of AU-IBAR provided presentation on the Theory of Change for the Project
- ii. Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management expert, AU-IBAR, made a presentation on Overview of the Aquatic Biodiversity Project, activities and implementation and sustainability mechanisms
- iii. Project Budget overview by Ms Catherine Oduor, Senior Finance Officer, AU-IBAR
- iv. Project Yearly Workplan was also presented by Mr Kennedy Oroko

### **3.1.1 Theory of Change**

by Mr Kennedy Oroko, Planning Expert at AU-IBAR

Mr. Kennedy Oroko presented the project's theory of change, beginning by analysing the effects and consequences of the livelihoods for aquatic-resource dependent populations threatened by over-exploitation of fisheries and other aquatic resources for food, livelihoods, and income, resulting in environmental degradation and loss of aquatic biodiversity. He went on to say that the project's goal is to improve the policy, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacities of AU member states and regional economic communities in order to sustainably utilize, conserve, and protect aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. The main issues raised were unsustainable use, conservation, and protection of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems in AU Member States and RECs. As a result, the impact is the long-term conservation and use of aquatic biodiversity and marine environments for food, as well as improved livelihoods and income through improved policy, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacities.

The noted contributing factors highlighted are: weak and incoherent policies and regulations for sustainable conservation of biodiversity; weak institutions; limited human and institutional capacities to sustainably conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, including inability to deal with IUU incidences; weak partnerships, coordination, collaboration and stakeholder engagement at national, regional and continental levels; limited development, uptake and use of appropriate technologies.

Anticipated outcomes of the intervention:

- Improved ratification and alignment of relevant policies and regulations to relevant international and / regional instruments related to protection and conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improved capacities for sustainable management, utilization, protection and conservation of living aquatic resources and related ecosystems
- Measures for mitigation impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment strengthened
- Improved participation and engagement of women and youth in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

#### *3.1.1.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendations*

Discussions centred on:

- Tangible support to AU MS in implementing conventions and agreements related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity from perspectives of ABES thematic areas
- Consideration and visibility of women and youth across Strategic Objectives 1,2,3 and 4.
- Institutionalization of BE and measures to conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems at continental, regional and national levels

### **3.1.2 Overview of the Aquatic Biodiversity Project, activities and implementation**

by Dr. Mohamed Seisay

In the presentation of an overview of the Aquatic Biodiversity Project, Dr. Mohamed Seisay provided contextual information on the scheme. He stressed that the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) identified environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection as key strategic goal for health ecosystems and sustainable blue economy development. The project is therefore supporting the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. The AU-IBAR, with funding support from the SIDA, is implementing a project on “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy”, for a period of three years (October 2021 – October 2024). The total budget is approximately USD 5.5 million.

This project sets out an agenda for action to “Enhance institutional capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities on the utilization, conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy

He gave a synopsis of the project, overall and specific objectives, result areas, implementation mechanisms and sustainability mechanism.

Strategic objectives (SO) and outputs were described as follows:

SO 1: Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to Africa Blue Economy Strategic Areas (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)

*Output 1.1* Mechanisms for active participation of MSs in regional and global initiatives related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental regimes (ABNJ, CITES, COP meeting relating to CC, BRS, etc) developed.

*Output 1.2.* Ratification and implementation of conventions and agreements related to conservation of biodiversity in AU MSs and RECs supported

SO 2: Optimizing conservation and sustainable biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among users of blue economy resources.

*Output 2.1:* Enforceable Regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional MCS systems developed.

*Output 2.2.* A framework for establishing national, regional and transboundary cooperation on Africa Blue Economy Strategy Thematic Areas established

*Output 2.3.* Capacities for restoring and conserving threatened aquatic biodiversity and environment strengthened.

SO 3. Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment.

*Output 3.1* Measures for minimizing the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and environment strengthened and implemented

*Output 3.2.* Strategies for an integrated strategic framework for sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining developed.

SO 4: Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

*Output 4.1* Continental strategy for gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity and environmental management developed

*3.1.2.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendation*

- To what an extent has the Theory of Change considered safety at sea for the small scale fisherfolk?
- The project should consider Impact of IUU fishing and climate change on fisheries resources as well as pollution on environment and aquatic ecosystems
- Consideration be given to aquaculture particularly cage culture
- The need for inclusion of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the project

Recommendations

- Ensure participation of landlocked countries in project activities and implementation
- Institutionalization of Blue economy and aquatic biodiversity conservation measures at continental, regional and national levels
- Encouraging sustainable financing mechanisms and strong participation of NGOs, private sector in trade related issues
- In-build Sustainability measures beyond the project lifespan
- Harmonization of legislation on Marine protected Areas
- Strengthening capacity of AU MS to participate in global regimes

### 3.1.3 Presentation of project budget

by Mrs. Catherine Oduor, Senior Finance Officer AU-IBAR



**Figure 7:** Mrs. Catherine Oduor, Senior Finance Officer, AU-IBAR

The presentation informed then participants that the total budget of the project was meeting was USD 5,496,119. The presentation outlined the annual budget allocations as follows:

- a. Budget allocated to the Four Result Areas
- b. Outputs under each result areas
- c. Project staff
- d. Missions (Management, M&E, Coordination including SC meetings)
- e. Communication and Visibility
- f. Support services
- g. Annual audit and
- h. Evaluation

#### 3.1.3.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendations

- Discussions focused on the limited budget for the project and staffing situation
- The need to explore possibilities of increasing the project budget for maximum impact across the continent

### **3.1.4 Project yearly workplan**

by Mr Kennedy Oroko, Planning Expert

He informed the participants that the activities were structured to ensure all studies were conducted in the first year of project implementation. The studies would be followed by validation workshops mainly in the second year that would involve inputs from the stakeholders and piloting the outcomes of the studies in the second and third years of project implementation.

#### **3.1.4.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendations**

- The meeting requested clarifications on countries to be supported
- What is the component of knowledge management?
- The project consider Nagoya protocol on access benefit and sharing- Payment for ecosystem services

## **3.2 Session 2: Elaborating the Project**

The following Presentations were made in this session:

- Highlighting the role RECs, Specialized Regional Institutions, AU Member states and other stakeholders in supporting project implementation by Mrs Hellen Moepi-Guevara
- Communication, visibility and knowledge management by Mrs. Patricia Lumba
- Monitoring, Evaluation, logframe, collection baseline information on indicators by Mr. Admore Chakadenga

### **3.2.1 Highlighting the role RECs, Specialized Regional Institutions, AU MS and other stakeholders in supporting project implementation**

by Mrs Hellen Moepi-Guebama

Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama began her presentation on the role of RECs by providing background information on RECs and specialized regional institutions. She went on to emphasize the role of RECs and specialized regional institutions, implementation mechanisms (RECs and SRIs), areas of collaboration with RECs and SRIs, the role of the AU MS, and the role of other stakeholders.

The presentation highlights the following areas of collaboration with RECs and Specialized regional institutions:

- i. Formulation of regional aquatic biodiversity strategy
- ii. Support to regional institutions would go towards strengthening (2) regional MCS Centres or initiatives;
- iii. Strategy for sustainable (cost-effective) financing of MCS and support to implementation of the strategy; regional frameworks for aquatic biodiversity in transboundary context;
- iv. Support to strengthening and/or establishing identified Transboundary MSP initiatives;
- v. Support to strengthening and/or establishing identified Transboundary MPA initiatives;
- vi. Development of regional mechanism and guidelines (e.g. coastal and marine tourisms;
- vii. Formulation of regional strategies on women empowerment and effective engagement in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation (Gender inclusivity) and regional environmental monitoring programmes.

The roles of the AU MS in related to the project implementation were stated to include:

- i. Strengthening capacity for ratification and implementation of conventions and agreements related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity from perspectives of ABES thematic areas; review and align national policies and instruments with relevant regional and global instruments;
- ii. Support to participation in relevant aquatic biodiversity and environmental fora for strengthening coherent Africa or common African positions on biodiversity, environmental management;
- iii. build capacity in fisheries management approaches or tools and aquaculture practices policy briefs, advocacy notes, access to quality data and information and foresight studies;
- iv. actualization or practical demonstration of projects' recommendations such as MSP, MPAS, climate change mitigation strategies; implement regional strategy for enhancing the role of women and youth in aquatic biodiversity and integrated environmental management;
- v. build capacities on conservation and utilization of aquatic biodiversity (MPAs, MSPs, AU Centres of excellence);
- vi. pilot recommendations on mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and pilot guidelines on sustainable marine and coastal tourisms to ensure biodiversity and environmental conservation.

The role of other stakeholders in the project implementation were also discussed and the areas of collaboration; these include environmental based NGOs supporting conservation efforts at the regional level; supporting the implementation of activities, particularly at the regional level; mainstreaming gender sensitive (women and youth) work-plans in biodiversity protection and environmental governance (particularly NSAs, CSOs), and the private sector. While experts are to include African experts trained in negotiation skills and techniques, a mechanism for providing technical support to AU MS for effective participation in these global fora is to be established.

#### *3.2.1.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendations*

- Is AU-IBAR going to make provide necessary support to AU MS:
- How role of women and youth going to be supported and enhanced
- The project to leverage on IMO and IPECA and put global initiatives for the west central countries in Abidjan Convention
- Incorporate research and development pertaining to the four thematic areas
- How is project going to be coordinated with other initiatives – important to conduct mapping of ongoing studies and institutional assessments
- Role of regional NSAs (Non-State Actors) - is key in project implementation and crucially important in working with RECs and the newly established continental NSA platform
- Role of coastal communities- recommend use of coastal communities in the plan

Expanded outlook- working with political actors to ratify these global conventions (AFMESI have regional MPAs policies)

### **3.2.2 Communication, visibility and knowledge management**

by Mrs. Patricia Lumba, Senior Knowledge Management Officer

Mrs. Patricia Lumba presented the Project communication, visibility, and knowledge management activities. She noted that the aims of the communication, visibility plan are as follows: (1) to improve the policy environment, (2) regulatory frameworks, (3) institutional capacities of the AU, and (4) member states and regional economic communities to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. With the goal of increasing public awareness of the importance of aquatic biodiversity by providing action perspectives to societal stakeholders, as well as increasing coherence and cooperation on continent-wide biodiversity initiatives and evidence-based outputs through knowledge sharing.

The specific objectives are to:

- i. profile of the need to conserve and protect aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy among government and industry stakeholders, the marine research community, and the general public;
- ii. courage, enable and build the capacity of Science Communicators; partners and the general public to participate in communication activities;
- iii. promote aquatic biodiversity research, achievements, and policies to governments around African Union member states, industry stakeholders, the marine research community, and the general public;
- iv. promote networking and knowledge sharing among stakeholders as multipliers for disseminating information;
- v. align information needs and tools for stakeholder use Identify.

The implementation actions were stated follows:

- Identify, develop and use the right mix of communication channels and tools to promote advocacy surrounding aquatic biodiversity issues
- Develop communication products that promote upscaling best practices on aquatic biodiversity issues
- Development and implement capacity building and awareness to media partners and stakeholders on issues surrounding aquatic biodiversity
- Strengthen networking and knowledge management among networks and stakeholders to ensure better collaboration of aquatic biodiversity issues
- Review communication plan annually

#### *3.2.2.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendations*

- Establish and /or enhance communication channel among stakeholders and the project
- Important for Knowledge sharing at RECs level

### **3.2.3 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Logframe, Collection baseline information on indicators**

- By Mr Admore Chakadenga, M&E Officer

Mr. Admore Chakadenga noted that the reason for the M&E framework was to outline M&E processes and procedures, collate tools and templates and promote accountability, learning, adaptation and transparency.

## Role of Stakeholders in M&E:

- Continental Level
  - Design, Role out and Oversee the M&E system
  - Development of tools/ templates to be used for data collection, analysis and reporting
  - Ensure data quality
  - Sharing Knowledge, best practices and Lessons
  - Coordination and collaboration
- Regional Level
  - Development / Adaptation of M&E tools and data collection templates
  - Coordinate data collection and analysis
  - Regional Level Feedback and reporting
- National Level
  - Development/ Adaptation of M&E tools to context
  - Data collection/ collation
  - Feedback and reporting
  - Sharing knowledge, best practices and lessons

The M&E would ensure continuous feedback, learning and adaptation and to:

- Establish if products/ services/ results are delivered timely in right quantities and quality as planned
- Establish if the services/ products / results are being used by beneficiaries
- Improve project programme quality

## Monitoring tools and Processes

- Indicator tracking table
- Monitoring Checklist
- Online surveys
- Field missions
- Studies

Monitoring reports – to be produced when monitoring activities are carried out and consolidated annually.

Evaluation done to:

- To obtain feedback, learn and adapt
- Express an independent opinion on project quality
- Is usually external for independence

### 3.2.3.1 Ensuing Discussions and recommendations

- M&E inclusivity- leaving no one behind (People with special needs and elderly)

## Recommendations

- Creation of continental platform for Blue Economy
- A need to harmonise and coordinate governance structure at national level
- Involve political leaders during the global fora preparations and meetings
- Foster strong partnership and linkages between RECs and project implementation

## 4 Working Group Sessions

During the Working Group Sessions, four Breakout Working Groups were formed in line with the four Strategic Objectives. Each group was tasked to review and discuss the outputs with a view to enriching the activities that would achieve the Strategic Objectives and outputs.



**Figure 8:** Working Groups in progress

The Working Group session was facilitated by Mr. Obinna Anozie.

Mr. Anozie explained the objectives of the working session and the methodology to be adopted within the each working group. The main objective of the working group session was to solicit views from stakeholders on the projects' activities.

The participants were allocated to each of the four projects' thematic areas as follows:

1. Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)
2. Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes
3. Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment.
4. Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

Each group was therefore tasked to review and discuss the outputs with a view to enriching the activities that would achieve effectively the Strategic Objectives and outputs for maximum impact. The working Groups analysed and provided recommendations on the current project framework, the outlined expected results and the activities. Their recommendations were presented at a plenary session for further interrogations, reviews and interventions. Synergies and other initiatives on the continent and regional level also were presented to in subsequent technical sessions.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS:**

### *4.1 Working Group 1 - Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)*

The group reviewed and discussed planned activities under the result area “enhancing effective role and participation in continental and global aquatic biodiversity and environmental related regimes” came out with then following observations by proposing amendments to the activities:

- a. To exploring mechanisms to conduct studies for enhancing effective role and participation of AU member states in regional and global biodiversity and environmental-related regimes.
- b. Organize continental validation and awareness enhancing workshop among stakeholders on the relevant provisions, challenges and mechanisms for effective role and participation in these global regimes.
- c. Conduct a workshop for identified negotiators (10) to technically support AU MSs in global negotiations e.g. CC COP meetings, CITES.
- d. Identify and conduct a workshop for 10 negotiators from each of the RECs to technically support AU MSs in global negotiations e.g. CC COP meetings, CITES etc.
- e. Support the participation of 5 AU MSs in relevant aquatic biodiversity and environmental fora and 2 selected negotiators to 2 events per year for 2 years (two selected negotiators to accompany the 5 AU MSs to provide technical guidance.
- f. Support the participation of 5 AU MSs (including relevant NSAs) from the RECs in relevant aquatic biodiversity and environmental fora and 2 selected negotiators to 2 events per year for 2 years (two selected negotiators to accompany the 5 AU MSs to provide technical guidance.

The following interventions were made after the presentations:

- a. How do we support AU MSs to fulfil their responsibilities with regards to implementation or compliance with global instruments?
- b. Consultant should synthesize the key issues relating to the conventions or instruments and AU MS will be informed of what is at stake
- c. Would IMO conventions and associated agreements considered? Examples relate to Oil and Gas institutions in the maritime environment, particularly International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA). IPIECA is the global oil and gas association for advancing environmental and social performance across the energy transition as well as international marine organization (IMO)

### **Recommendations:**

Besides proposed revisions made to the above activities, the working group made the following recommendations:

- a. On the question on ratification and implementation of conventions and agreements related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity from perspectives of ABES thematic areas in AU MSs and RECs supported,
- b. Recommendations were made to identify continental and global biodiversity and environmental instruments relevant to sustainable management of Africa blue economy resources.

## ***4.2 Working Group 2 - Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes***

On the study to assess status of Monitoring Conservation Systems, it was mapping of the BE resources base was recommended, and identification of potential areas of conflicts in BE for effective minimization of resources use.

Recommendations:

The workshop scheduled activity should be streamlined to relevant activities.

Responding to how budget should be increased to support more than two (2) transboundary aquatic ecosystems, it was recommended that:

- a. To support AU MSs in institutionalization of the developed guidelines on Marine Spatial Planning. Also, continental study should be on both Marine and Inland Protected Areas (e.g. Wetlands, Ramsar sites) in supporting implementation of marine spatial planning.
- b. It was noted that climate change issues have not been covered in the entire SO2 (thus Inland ecosystem). It was recommended that assessment on climate change mitigate and negative impacts need to be conducted on (e.g. River: Niger, Lake. Chad and some Wetlands in the River Nile system),
- c. To conduct mapping of the Blue economy (BE) resource base and identify potential areas/issues of conflict in use of BE.
- d. Based on the outcome of the studies on review of existing M&IPA initiatives, the project would provide technical and direct support to two specialized regional institutions on implementing of transboundary MPA.

### *4.3 Working Group 3 - Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep-sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment*

#### **Recommendations:**

The recommendation made on strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep-sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment were as follows:

- a. to take into account the lakes, the rivers and streams (freshwater ecosystems)
- b. conduct a strategic environmental assessment with respect to negative impacts of coastal and coastal tourisms, gas exploration and mining activities,
- c. take into account, in the impact, studies the sectors of tourism, oil, mining and gas exploitation and include the social issues in environmental impact studies.

### *4.4 Working Group 4 - Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management*

Gender inclusion was noted as a concept that transcends mere equality. It's the notion that all services, opportunities, and establishments are open to all people and that male and female stereotypes do not define societal roles and expectations.

#### **Recommendations:**

It was recommended that the strategic objective to focus on the vulnerable and marginalised groups which are the women and youth. With the aim of strengthening gender inclusivity especially the women and youth in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management and developmental strategies, the group made the following suggestions:

- a. Conduct studies to assess the status of inclusion of women and youth in Africa Blue economy management and to identify challenges (to also include mapping of ongoing environmental based NGOs focusing on conserving biodiversity and environment protection conducted).
- b. Convene an expert consultative meeting to identify priority issues and actions for enhancing the role of women and youth in ABEM.
- c. Convene a virtual continental think tank stakeholder's consultation workshop to adopt and validate strategic interventions identified.
- d. Technical support would be given to 5 AU MS (to cater for regional distribution) to develop all-inclusive and deliberate biodiversity strategies as important entry points for women and youth empowerment.
- e. Technical support to environmental based-NGOs to develop or strengthen gender-sensitive workplans to enhance the role of women and youth in biodiversity protection and environmental governance.

# 5 Information Sharing on Best Practices on Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity – Expert Presentations

The following Presentations were made in this session:

- i. A Swedish Framework for a Network of Marine Protected Areas - an inspiration towards international goals by Dr Katrin Eitrem Holmgren and Dr Jenney Hertzman of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- ii. Conservation for development in the Western Indian Ocean by Dr Katrin Eitrem Holmgren and Dr Jenney Hertzman of Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- iii. African biodiversity conservation in the climate change context by Prof. Pierre Failler, Blue Economy Consultant, University of Portsmouth, UK
- iv. Sustainable coastal and marine tourisms, mining, gas, oil exploration – mitigating the impacts of externalities by Dr. Patrick Karani, an Environmental Consultant
- v. Implementation challenges of global biodiversity and environmental related instruments in Africa by Mr. Kwame Mfodwo, a Legal expert in Public Policy and Natural Resources

## *5.1 A Swedish Framework for a Network of Marine Protected Areas - an inspiration towards international goals*

*By Dr Katrin Eitrem Holmgren and Dr Jenney Hertzman of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management*

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) is a Government agency responsible for the national management of Sweden's marine and freshwater environments including fish and fisheries management. SwAM is Commissioned to establish Sweden's marine spatial planning.

Central government expert agency mandated to provide or develop:

- guidance documents
- regulations
- environmental monitoring
- financial support to restoration of ecosystems
- fisheries monitoring control

The SwAM Operational Strategy focussed is on the following:

- Development cooperation
  - Reduce poverty through sustainable management of ocean and water
  - Developing countries (funded via aid budget (SIDA))
  - Based on Strategy for Sweden's global development cooperation
- Bilateral cooperation
  - Improve environmental and climate cooperation
  - Strategically important countries // Strategic and Emerging Economies
  - Funded via bilateral budget

- Based on bilateral strategy of Government Offices and MoU or similar, with each country
- Conventions and processes
  - Strengthen Sweden's participation
  - Global and regional
  - Funded via SwAM
  - Based on political decisions by the Government and government offices'

Sweden's international commitment is to effectively managed, ecologically representative, well-connected and functional network of formally established protected marine areas, covering at least 10% of Swedish marine waters.

Foundations of the framework: Collective understanding, shared language, definitions of key terms/criteria Components, Guiding principles. An ecologically representative, well-connected and functional network of effectively managed MPAs, covering at least 10% of Swedish marine waters.

## 5.2 Conservation for development in the Western Indian Ocean

*By Dr Katrin Eitrem Holmgren and Dr Jenney Hertzman of Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management*

It was highlighted at the presentation that SwAM Ocean is the programme for development cooperation for supporting holistic marine management and blue economy in vulnerable regions. Financed by SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency on a 4 year programme, 2019-2022 to focus on Western Indian Ocean region.

SwAM Ocean Development cooperation:

- Humans need nature to survive. Strong, resilient ecosystems is a must for social and economic development. We work to increase the opportunities for people to get richer lives (reduce poverty) by managing marine resources in a sustainable smart way.
- We believe in strong capacity to plan the future of the ocean, to take care of the ocean and to use the ocean –for the joy and benefit of all.

Why Marine Protection?

- The ecology is the basis for social and economic development.
- Adaptive management of marine nature values/biological diversity enables the use of marine resources. Long term delivery of ecosystem services.
- International goals of 10 % strict protection and 30 % Protected areas by 2030 (CBD).
- Challenge: How will the protection be functional, dynamic

### 5.3 Sustainable coastal and marine tourisms, mining, gas, oil exploration – mitigating the impacts of externalities on

by Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental Consultant

Summary of Presentation on Impacts of Coastal and Marine Tourisms on Mining, Gas, Oil Exploration on Biodiversity and Strategy for Sustainable Tourisms or Mining, Gas and Oil Explorations builds up on the ABES five strategic thematic areas of interventions. Tourism is a fundamental factor in sources and causes of pollution. In addition exploration of oil, gas and mining that is very much connected to natural environment. Coastal and Marine pollution come from a wide variety of sources, from non-point sources (e.g., agriculture, storm water runoff) to point sources (e.g., wastewater, solid waste, fishing gear). Preventing pollution or waste from entering the oceans therefore requires a systemic approach that considers both land-based and ocean-based sources. Tourism based pollution has been mainly correlated to: Plastic bottles; plastic bags; plastic bottle caps; plastic wrappers and packaging; flip flops; and sports fishing gear. While impacts of mining, oil and gas exploration have been correlated to: Pollution impacts on communities; dangerous emissions that fuel climate change; Oil and gas development that damage wetlands ecosystems; Fossil fuel extraction that affects visitors; Drilling that disrupts wildlife habitat and biodiversity; Oil spills, gas leakage and discharge of chemicals that affect animals and biodiversity; and, Light pollution impacts on wildlife and wetlands.

However, specific factors influencing loss of biodiversity is alluded to: Deforestation, wetland degradation due to population growth and encroaching human settlements, selective tree harvesting for wood products, poaching and inappropriate fishing gears and techniques such as use of poisonous chemicals; Wide array of resource management policies put in place that have contributed to the gradual loss of indigenous knowledge, particularly in agriculture, forestry, and wildlife; Removal or introduction of organisms in ecosystems that disrupt biotic interactions or ecosystems process (invasive species); Influx of tourists; and extractive industries (mining, oil and gas exploration).

The strategy for sustainability requires innovative ideas for practical solutions. Expanding on ABES strategic interventions in the thematic areas, the following are of important considerations. Increased understanding and knowledge about the opportunities and value of environmental services made possible by conservation measures: Enhanced health and livelihood of people; and, Adoption and utilisation of skills and technologies; Improved conservation of ecosystems, especially the soil resource for Improved valuation and thus knowledge and information on the values (costs and benefits) and distribution pattern of environmental services, and Adaptation of fair and equitable system for sharing the benefits and costs among those who contribute to the realisation of environmental and ecosystem services and those who benefit; as well as Policy and Regulatory Mechanisms requiring Baseline Surveys; Environmental Monitoring Plan; EIA and SEA. These tools are necessary for Capacity for institutional abilities and human technical capabilities; Convention on Biodiversity (CBD): protection, restoration, integrated spatial management, governance, sustainable management of natural resources, reduction of local pressures; and, Alignment with Paris Agreement (Climate Change Convention—NDCs).

## 5.4 Implementation challenges of global biodiversity and environmental related instruments in Africa

by Mr. Kwame Mfodwo, Legal expert in public policy and natural resources

What is the Blue Economy?

- The World Bank (2016) defines it as “the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystems.”
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) describes a blue economy approach as one based on a vision of “improved wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities”
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) refers more broadly to an “ocean economy” that encompasses ocean-based industries, natural assets and ecosystem services, they acknowledge that the ocean’s long-term growth and job creation potential will only be fully realised if more effective steps are taken to slow deterioration of ocean health and “improve integrated ocean management – including ecosystem preservation”

General issue: International Instruments and Blue Economy

- What are international instruments and why are they hard to manage?
- What international instrument are applicable to the blue economy?
- International instruments establish implementing organisations each of which generates a national focal point and cluster of national level stakeholders
- International instruments have many overlaps and inconsistencies as well as conflicts between instruments
- Implementation of blue economy can lead to significant conflicts because relevant international instrument are not necessarily in alignment

Core Biodiversity Instruments:

- Convention on Biological Diversity and its related protocols and implementing instruments, namely The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity; The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets - All of these treaties have an oceans and maritime dimension and also apply to the lakes and rivers of the continent.
- Other biodiversity-related conventions - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats (RAMSAR); the World Heritage Convention (WHC); and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) → All of these treaties have an oceans and maritime dimension and also apply to the lakes and rivers of the continent.

#### Supporting Instruments:

- Treaties and conventions of the Law of the Sea system itself - 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and UN Fish Stocks Agreement & Emerging framework for management of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction & Regional Fisheries Management Organisation treaties – ICCAT & IOTC
- Treaties and Conventions and other instruments of the FAO system - FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA); Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record); FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication - have a strong bio-diversity protection although it is indirect. The treaties and conventions of the IMO system are also equally important as they cover marine pollution and conservation and protection of maritime resources.
- Emerging regime of treaty obligations to fight against plastic pollution
- Regional Seas Conventions applicable to the African Region, including the Abidjan Convention and the Nairobi Convention. These focus directly on marine environmental law and controls over marine pollution and related threats to the marine environment, including threats to biodiversity protection and conservation.

#### MCS in Bio-diversity and Blue Economy:

- MCS means different things within different segments of the Blue Economy
- MCS to ensure responsible long term sustainable fisheries production (MCS with respect to IUU fishing; MCS with respect to impacts on target and non-target species; MCS with respect to area based tools like marine protected areas)
- MCS to limit pollution by vessels in navigation (ballast water and bio-fouling; pollution from and by vessels)
- MCS to limit pollution from petroleum production platforms and marine mining sites

## 5.5 African biodiversity conservation in the climate change context

by Prof. Pierre Failler, Blue Economy Consultant, University of Portsmouth, UK

Prof. Pierre Failler gave a brief presentation that Funding being made available for climate change initiatives than biodiversity Nature-based solutions should not be used as a means of focusing on most profitable species.

The presentation showcased some of his recent papers on biodiversity .Marine ecosystem services working at lower levels than expected in selected African countries that he highlighted

The presentation noted that every year 1.9% of mangroves are lost, resulting in 240 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> which is the equivalent of

- a. 588 barrels of oil b. 63 coal fired power plants.
- b. In the area of seagrass, every year, 1.5% seagrasses are lost, resulting in 150 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- c. With respect to tidal marshes, 1.5% marshes are lost, resulting in 60 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

## Issues: lack of knowledge and poor health status

Table 3

Economic value of marine ecosystem services per African Large Marine Ecosystem, expressed in million USD/year, adjusted by the habitat functionality index for each LME (estimated values), and comparison with reference values.

Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) and the additional region of Africa	Mangroves	Seagrass beds	Coral reefs	Kelp forests	Total
African Islands of the Indian Ocean	31	279	57,352	–	57,662
Agulhas Current LME	32,491	30,345	242,573	–	305,408
Arabian Sea LME	41	–	10,245	–	10,286
Benguela Current LME	3459	1876	–	445	5780
Canary Current LME	18,017	19,351	–	–	37,368
Guinea Current LME	30,282	45,379	–	–	75,661
Mediterranean Sea LME	–	15,822	–	–	15,822
Red Sea LME	426	21,752	206,411	–	228,589
Somali Coastal Current LME	5813	334	71,388	–	77,535
Total (reference values)	205,422	301,602	876,615	593	1,384,233
Total (estimated values)	90,561	135,137	587,967	445	814,111
%	44%	45%	67%	75%	59%

## 5.6 Mitigating impact of climate change in marine ecosystems in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystems (BCLME)

by Mr Xolela Wellem, BCC (Benguela Current Commission), Namibia

### The BCLME Region

- Spans the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Angola, Namibia and South Africa
- Incorporates the sea, seabed and land – sea interface up to the high-water mark
- Endowed with variety of biodiversity including fish, mammals, seabirds; etc.
- Rich in non - living resources such as oil, gas, diamond, phosphate; etc.
- One of the 4 major productive current systems; Dominated by upwelling system.

### Legal Framework

- Benguela Current Convention
- The Benguela Current Convention was signed in March 2013;
- Ratified by the 3 member states by 2014
- Came into force 2015
- Registered with UN SG in July 2016

Objective of the convention is to “promote a coordinated regional approach to the long – term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME”

### Social and Economic Profile of the BCLME region

- Demographically, the BCLME has a total population of about 91 million, most of whom live in urban areas, and some are located along the coast;
- South Africa has large coastal towns, and this number is expected to grow; (Challenge)
- In Angola, the coastal population has grown tremendously more recently; due to amongst other things, to search for better economic conditions and job opportunities;
- There is a disparity in the proportion of skilled labour force, Angola accounting for just over 10% , South Africa 50% and Namibia highest at 67%;

- Angola has the lowest GDP per capita at USD 5,725, Namibia ranks 2nd at 9,898 and South Africa highest at USD 12,143
- The BCLME ecosystem goods and services can be more sustainably used and better harnessed to increase their contribution to socio-economic development and human wellbeing in the region through the blue economy;
- These goods and services are essential to the achievement of the SDGs/2030 Agenda by the three countries; (Opportunity)

### **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) - TDA/SAP: 2014-2019**

Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) provided scientific & technical input into the Strategic Action Program (SAP)

### **Strategic Action Program (SAP):**

SAP adopted and signed (2014) by sector Ministers from the countries; SAP has 8 x Thematic Areas - Living Marine Resources, Policy Action and specific activities

- New/update SAP under development
- Draft TDA 202/2021 in place
- National Action Plans (NAPs) to be developed based on the SAP
- Resource Mobilization Strategy to implement the updated SAP;
- Other sources of funding are required to implement the updated SAP
- Support from sector Department (NAPs)

### **Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System**

To build resilience and reduce the vulnerability to climate change of the marine fisheries and marine aquaculture sectors in the region” Achievements:

- Regional authorities informed of environmental vulnerabilities and CC risks in fisheries;
  - Draft Policy Briefs have been developed and circulated to the countries;
  - Aquaculture workshop – focusing on Climate Change, Covid-19 challenges and inclusiveness was conducted
- CC Adaptation policy proposals in fisheries and fisheries dependent communities are developed
  - Regional draft on Institutional arrangement and mainstreaming of fisheries VA and CC risks information
- Community-based adaptation action plans developed and piloted in 8 high-risks fisheries and fisheries-dependent communities
  - The marine and aquaculture sector adaptation plan have been produced for policy recommendation
- Strengthened institutions and frameworks for effective planning of monitoring and early warning to facilitate contingency at the regional and national levels
  - A review on existing early warning systems in the region conducted
  - A report containing recommendation on the establishment of early warning systems in the respective countries

## Opportunities and Threats

- The economic potential of marine transport, oil and gas and aquaculture has not been fully developed in some of the BCLME countries; but the exploitation of natural resources has already had some detrimental effects on the ecosystem;
- Some of these effects have been transboundary in nature and include coastal and marine habitat loss, overexploitation of living marine resources; IUU fishing; Pollution; decline of top predator populations, which has an impact on ecosystem health; etc.

## Conclusion

### Strength of the BCC

- Politically, the countries are collaborating, reached goodwill, mutual trust and ownership;
- Fully functional corporate structure (Ministerial Conference, Commission, Committees, Secretariat);
- Good corporate governance, ability to attract and manage financial resources;
- Sharing best practices, knowledge and resource amongst its member countries; etc.

### Challenges

- Financial sustainability is the challenges facing the BCC;
- Partners have provided 1/3 of funds required to implement the SAP, a substantial shortfall of about 43 million and
- The commission continues to explore for solution to resolve this financial difficulty.

## 6 Global, Continental and Regional Institutions

The following presentations were made in this session:

- i. Protecting Biodiversity and environment in the oceanic space – IOC perspectives by Dr. Mika Odido of IOC Coordinator in Africa
- ii. Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservations and Livelihood Diversification by Dr. Eshete Dejen, AG. Programme Manager IGAD
- iii. Maximizing Africa's Blue Economy Potentials: Strengthening the Regional Seaweed Value Chain by Dr. Bernice Mclean, AUDA-NEPAD
- iv. Man-made and environmental constraints to development of Africa blue economy by Dr Naji Laamrich from COMHAFAT / ATLAFCO
- v. Mitigating impact of climate change in marine ecosystems in the Benguela Current Large marine Ecosystems by Mr Xolela Wellem, BCC Namibia
- vi. FAO/CCLME Project: ongoing and planned activities on management of aquatic biodiversity and environmental sustainability by Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe CCLME Project, Senegal
- vii. The role of women in conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems by Dr. Alberta Sagoe , University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- viii. Managing the impacts of land-based pollution, shipping (and other at-sea activities) on marine biodiversity in West and Central Africa by Dr, Chiamaka Mogo, The Executive Secretary, AFMESI

ix. Mechanisms of Payments for Ecosystems Services by Prof. Andrew Baio, Marine Biology and Oceanography, University of Sierra Leone

## 6.1 *Protecting Biodiversity and environment in the oceanic space – IOC perspectives*

by Dr. Mika Odido

### **Focus Areas of IOC Africa:**

- Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management
- Ocean Science and its Application to Management
- Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology and Ocean Literacy

### **Focus areas of IOC-AFRICA**

- Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management: | Oceanographic Expeditions & Coastal Observation platforms | Climate variability and climate change (weather forecast & extreme events) | Marine Spatial Planning, Coastal/ Marine Atlases, Marine Biodiversity
- Ocean Science and its Application to Management: | Modelling and forecasts of ocean state | Assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems in Africa | Vulnerability & adaptation of marine/coastal ecosystems to climate change | Harmful Algal Bloom: Detection and Early Warning | Ocean Acidification: Observation and Research | Marine Pollution: Survey and assessment
- Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology and Ocean Literacy: | Basic training in the ocean sciences (UNESCO Chairs in Universities, Research Institutions, development of portal for training opportunities,) | Continuous Professional Development (Focused workshops,
- Regional Training Centres, Fellowships, | Ocean Literacy (Artwork/Essay competitions, exhibitions, conferences, | Partnerships and collaboration (WIOMSA, UNEP, National Institutions)

## 6.2 *Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservations and Livelihood Diversification*

by Dr. Eshete Dejen, AG. Programme Manager IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority for Development)

The IGAD has a regional blue economy strategy.

- IGAD acquired funding from the SIDA to support the implementation of the IGAD BE Strategy and also presenting implemented a project which is in coherence with the currently funded SIDA project for AU-IBAR; focussing on conservation of environmental, aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

The presentation noted that the IGAD BE strategy is aligned to the Africa Blue Economy strategy since the same author, Prof. Pierre Failer, coordinated both IGAD regional and AU strategies.

- IGAD is establishing a roadmap to develop financial and technical mechanism for support to development of national blue economy strategies in the IGAD region. The activity for the implementation of the IGAD regional BE strategy is piloting in coastal Marine areas with focus on combating on plastic pollution. The presentation elaborated on the concept of BE noting that BE is an approach of multi-

disciplinary and multi-institutional- put all sectors in planning to address contradiction and maximise sustainable development of biodiversity. The IGAD regional strategy will benefit all IGAD member states including landlocked countries. Dr. Eshete noted that the Kenya is the process for formulation Kenya national blue economy strategy.

- IGAD is in the process of rolling out the toolkit for blue accounting that would incorporate capacity building on utilization of the toolkit and will involve all IGAD member states. The meeting was informed that positions for Database, demonstration of women group
- Positions are advertised on website and follow IGAD procedures
- IGAD is aligned to ABES- Prof Failler developed it. AU-IBAR and AUDA contributed

### **6.3 Maximising Africa's Blue Economy Potential: Strengthening the Regional Seaweed Value Chain**

by Dr. Bernice Mclean, AUDA-NEPAD

AUDA-NEPAD Mandate:

- To coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote Regional Integration towards the accelerated implementation of Agenda 2063.
- Strengthen capacity of Member States and Regional bodies.
- Provide knowledge-based advisory support.
- Undertake the full range of resource mobilization.
- Serve as the continent's technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders.

Africa's Enabling BE Policy Framework Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

**Aspiration 1:** A Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development

ASPIRATION 6: An Africa where Development is People-Driven, Unleashing the Potential of its Women & Youth

- CAADP Malabo Declaration
- The 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMs)
- The Maritime Transport Charter
- The African Charter on Maritime Security & Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter)
- The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA); Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA); the African Mining Vision; Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT); Malabo Declaration, African Climate Change Strategy, Africa Water Vision 2025, etc...

#### **AU Blue Economy Strategy**

**Objective:** To guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the

development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea minerals and other resources.

### **Implementation Plan:**

- Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems.
- Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety & enforcement.
- Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure.
- Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries.
- Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing.

### **Strengthening the East African Regional Seaweed Value Chain**

Overall objective is to identify ways to strengthen the regional seaweed aquaculture value chain in East Africa, by facilitating discussions among key stakeholder on improved seaweed production, processing and marketing.

Specific Objectives is to (a) Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on seaweed production and the need for climate adaptive technology to enhance productivity (b) Identify opportunities for improved value addition and competitiveness along the seaweed production value chain in the region and in Zanzibar in particular (c) Identify a potential for inclusion of project activities into ongoing initiatives in the region such as the seaweed industry as a contribution to the Blue Economy, and Blue Carbon

### **Elements of the Seaweed Industry**

- Commercial seaweed Farming started over 30 yrs. ago
- Using imported strains of *Eucheuma* and *Kappaphycus* (Local variety did not grow under cultivation not commercially viable)
- Key sector of the Blue Economy: Employs ~30,000 farmers, >80% women
- In Zanzibar is the 3rd largest forex earning industry (7.6% GDP)
- Production declining (impacted by climate change, disease)
- Seaweed exported mainly to USA, Denmark, and France, others: China, Singapore, South Korea, Spain
- Small amounts (ca. 1%) used to make value add products
- Prospects for a multi-billion dollar industry

### **Opportunities for Value Chain Development**

#### **Research & Development**

- Improved agronomy, new technologies & approaches (deep water / integrated farming practices - IMTA) seed development - tissue culture & hatcheries)
- Diversification (agar producing species, edible seaweed) - Pilots on *Gracilaria* and *Caulerpa* sp on going
- Post-harvest processing, value addition, production technology, product diversification and market development
- Building the value chains and market systems

## **National & Regional Upscaling**

- Site identification and suitability mapping (integrated with MSP)
- Strengthened capacity along the value chain including governance, resilience to environmental, economic & social shocks)
- Regional / international cooperation and partnership development
- Financial resources and institutional strengthening
- Conducive enabling environment & quality infrastructure (standards development/harmonisation)

## **6.4 FAO/CCLME Project: ongoing and planned activities on management of aquatic biodiversity and environmental sustainability**

*by Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe, CCLME (Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystems) Project, Senegal*

It was recalled that the seven CCLME countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Guinea) have a combined coastline of over 5,400 km and a maritime area of over 2 million km<sup>2</sup> (EEZs), and that the majority (60%) of the 77.9 million inhabitants (UNFPA, 2021) lives in coastal areas where most of the cities and industrial infrastructure are located and where economy is most based on agriculture, fisheries and livestock. The CCLME is also known for its high biological productivity and supports important populations of small pelagic, demersal and tuna species, which together account for about 20-30% of the world's fishery production.

It has been precised that the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was the scientific basis of the CCLME's Strategic Action Program (SAP) development to address CCLME degradation caused by overfishing, habitat modification, and water quality changes. The vision of the SAP is to have and maintain "A healthy ecosystem, sustainably managed, providing services and equitable benefits for human well-being by 2030".

Ecosystem quality objectives:

- i. Sustainably manage fisheries, restore degraded fish stocks and reduce threats to vulnerable species by 2030
- ii. Rehabilitate and/or preserve critical habitats in marine and coastal areas by 2030, and
- iii. Ensure that the water quality of the CCLME is of a high standard and contributing to the good health of the ecosystem by 2030.

The CCLME's planned and ongoing activities on management of aquatic biodiversity and environmental sustainability is the implementation of the Medium Size Project (MSP): "Sustainable Management of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) - initial support to the implementation of the Strategic Action Program (PAS)" for the transition phase aiming to create favourable conditions for the effective implementation of the CCLME's SAP. This CCLME Project is unique in its strategic combination of fisheries and environmental governance frameworks and will enable the participating countries to address priority transboundary concerns on declining fisheries, biodiversity and ecosystem degradation and water quality deterioration. It will promote cooperation between the partners of the project and monitor the state of

the CCLME based on scientific results. The expected duration of this transition phase is 18 months with FAO serving as implementation agency of GEF (Global Environmental Facility).

Given above there are rooms strongly recommended to strengthen collaboration between AU-IBAR and CCLME in frame of management of aquatic biodiversity and environmental sustainability by generating complementarity and synergies in the implementation of activities in CCLME area. These activities should concern from AU-IBAR/ABES side on fisheries and aquaculture, shipping and maritime trade, energy and mining, and coastal tourism, and from CCLME the activities will concern on rebuild fish stocks and restore biodiversity, reverse habitat degradation and improve water quality in North Western African Region.

## *6.5 The role of women in conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems*

*by Dr. Alberta Sagoe, University of Cape Coast, Ghana*

Human life has been closely associated with water bodies since the ancient times. Aquatic and marine resources play a crucial role in supporting an array of economic sectors that provide livelihoods and employment opportunities in the sectors of Fisheries and aquaculture, Tourism, Oil and Gas exploitation, Maritime transportation, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics and Mining. Aquatic ecosystems are however highly vulnerable to various stressors stemming from human activities. Most African countries are undergoing rapid population growth, urbanization, coastward migration, and associated socioeconomic growth, causing dramatic coastal changes - with increased pressure on aquatic ecosystems - thereby threatening the sustenance of livelihoods supported by these ecosystems.

Various approaches and strategies have been adopted at different levels (international, regional, national, traditional) to conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems for sustainable development. Women play a vital role in the use and management of natural resources and are thus expected to be fully integrated in various conservation efforts. This is however not entirely so, as in many African settings, women are often marginalized and under-represented in decision-making and active participation in the management of aquatic resources. These challenges are mainly rooted in certain cultural and social norms and practices and unequal rights over land and other natural resources.

Women control as much as 60-80% of the world's food production and play a relevant role in both water management and forestry. Their conservation roles are directly related to their livelihoods and by empowering them fully, they have the potential to contribute highly to achieving conservation goals for sustainable development. The USAID Women Shell fishers and Food Security Project has demonstrated this via the active involvement of West African women in the shellfish value chain in Africa. Examples of how women can actively participate in the co-management of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems have been alluded to in the Tanbi wetlands and the Densu Delta oyster co-management schemes.

Barriers to the active participation of women in conservation can be addressed by adopting gender inclusive ecosystem management policies which promote gender equality. Targeted women empowerment approaches should be grounded in ecosystem management programs in a gender and social context

analysis that considers gaps and opportunities to address them. Education on the rights and roles of both men and women in natural resource use and management should be embarked upon at all levels to promote equal, collective responsibility in conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems for sustainable development.

## *6.6 Managing the impacts of land-based pollution, shipping (and other at-sea activities) on marine biodiversity in West and Central Africa.*

*By Dr, Chiamaka Mogo, Executive Secretary, AFMESI*

Biodiversity can simply be defined as the diversity of living organisms. Biodiversity is said to be aquatic when it is related to water. Biodiversity has several benefits to humans. These benefits have been categorized as economic, ecological, recreational, cultural and educational (Scientific). Economically, biodiversity provides humans with raw materials for consumption and production. Ecologically, biodiversity creates functioning ecosystems that supply oxygen, clean air and water, pollination of plants, pest control, wastewater treatment and many ecosystem services. In terms of recreation, biodiversity serves as an avenue for bird watching, hiking, camping and fishing. Many tourism industries also depend on biodiversity to render some pleasurable services. Culturally, some African cultures closely connect to biodiversity through the expression of identity, spirituality, aesthetic appreciation and festivals (e.g. Aboakyir Festival in Ghana). With respect to science and education, biodiversity represents a wealth of systematic ecological data that help us to understand the natural world and its origins.

Globally, there are about 34 biodiversity hotspots; Africa has 8 of these hotspots. Unfortunately, Africa's biodiversity is under severe threat as a result of anthropogenic activities and climate change. The key threats to the aquatic biodiversity in Africa include policy deficiencies and inadequate planning, overfishing, agricultural, municipal and industrial pollution, deforestation, conversion of sites for agriculture, aquaculture and building construction, water diversion and large-scale irrigation, global climate change and their synergistic effects.

Although combined data on conservation status of both marine and freshwater biodiversity of Africa seem to be unavailable, data on only freshwater biodiversity indicate that 0.1% of freshwater fish have gone extinct, 2.6% are near-threatened, 4.1% are critically endangered, 5.2% are endangered and 12.5% are vulnerable. Whereas data on 18% of the freshwater fish are deficient, 57.4% are of least concern. Given that any loss or deterioration in the condition of biodiversity can compromise the wellbeing of mankind, it is essential to proffer some solutions to reduce or eliminate the threats posed to aquatic lives. The potential solutions include improve institutional capacity, encourage appropriate economic and sectoral policies, encourage community-based management, maintain or restore natural hydrological cycles, establish critical aquatic reserves, develop sustainable fisheries and support needed research.

The biodiversity of the West and Central African sub-region face different threats such as:

- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea

- Marine pollution

IUU accounts for up to 40 percent of fishes harvested in West Africa. Countries in the Global North are often the final destinations of such catches. IUU reduces species population as perpetrators often target select species. This especially impacts coastal communities. For example, in from Ghana, “trawlers enter prohibited zones and illegally adapt their fishing gear to target sardinella, which are in high demand for local consumption”. A somewhat similar case exists for Nigeria. There has been some reported progress on maritime security in the GoG (Gulf Of Guinea). According to the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB), “The Gulf of Guinea region recorded 28 incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the first nine months of 2021, in comparison to 46 for the same period in 2020”. Progress is slow in terms of ensuring rich protection of maritime resources including aquatic life. Several initiatives are being implemented to address maritime security issues in the GoG.

The following are the issues of marine pollution:

- 80% of marine litter in water bodies originate from land/upstream.
- Plastics, for example, distort the activities and lives of aquatic animals.
- Plastics clog/block passage channels of aquatic animals. Such blockages are also fatal to human lives. E.g. every year in the Democratic Republic of Congo, there are fatalities linked to flooding emanating from plastic-clogged waterways (Bukasa et al., 2021, p. 181).
- Also, ballast water becomes problematic, when it introduces invasive species that compete with and/or destroy aquatic animals of West and Central African waters.
- Ocean noise is another form of marine pollution. It is an effect of shipping and some other marine activities.
- There is currently no global convention or policy regulating ocean noise.
- Ocean noise distorts the physical features of aquatic animals, affects their ability to protect themselves from attack etc.

Solutions for IUU and Maritime Security Issues:

- Ensuring that coastal communities are engaged in the use and protection of their Indigenous, maritime resources.
- Deployment of adequate, maritime surveillance technology.
- Creation and harmonisation of laws against maritime crimes.
- Establishment of marine-protected areas (MPAs) as key legal instruments. AFMESI has created a robust MPA strategy and seeks the support of regional governments and institutions to take it a step further.

Solutions for Marine Pollution

- Implementation of regional and national strategies on environmental management (e.g. Nigeria’s model for marine litter).
- Ratification and domestication of international conventions on marine environment protection e.g. London Convention and its Protocol, MARPOL and its annexes.
- Provision of waste management infrastructure upland.

- AFMESI conducts marine litter management activities in collaboration with members of the host community (especially youths from that community) to ensure sustainability of proper waste disposal attitudes.
- Promote regional implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (2004).

#### Solutions for Ocean Noise

- Advocacy for national, regional (Africa) and international laws regulating ocean noise.
- AFMESI has secured a partnership to facilitate the training of young Africans in marine acoustics detection.

#### AFMESI Strategic Action Plan (2021 – 2025)

- This is a 22-page document that will guide the NGO's engagement with pan-African stakeholders and international partners. It has five thematic areas:
  - Engagements and relationships
  - Science and research
  - Advocacy and implementation: AFMESI will be launching an IUU awareness program.
  - Communications
  - Fundraising and organizational foundation

## 6.7 Mechanisms of Payments for Ecosystems Services

*by Prof. Andrew Baio, Marine Biology and Oceanography, University of Sierra Leone*

The thrust of the presentation was to establish the reciprocity between the provision of Ecosystem Services (ES) and Services to the Ecosystem (S2E) in justifying Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). The issues in the identification and feasibility of PES and the payment mechanism employed therein, were also explored. In doing so, the concepts of ES, S2E, Common Pool Resources (CPR), Total Economic Value (TEV), and Use Values (UV) were briefly introduced as a way of providing background information for the subsequent detailed discussions on the identification and feasibility of PES.

Having established that PES is the compensation of individuals or communities for undertaking actions that increases the provision of ecosystem services by providing S2E, the presentation then outlined a 10 step feasibility assessment pathway for PES.

The steps advocated include:

- i. Identifying the ecosystem service; wherein the question of what is the ecosystem service that is going to be bought and sold is addressed.
- ii. Set clear boundaries; to ensure that clear geographic boundaries for the service are defined
- iii. Identifying the buyer/s and seller/s determining who is legally entitled to sell ecosystem services and who is going to buy the ecosystem services.

- iv. Identifying the market - determining access to markets and setting the price to ensure sustainable financing.
- v. Determining governance of the ecosystem service - assessing if the necessary governance arrangements are in place.
- vi. Identifying institutional and administrative functions/ frameworks - assessing if the necessary institutional arrangements are in place.
- vii. Establishing and comparing business-as-usual and project intervention scenarios – assessing how situation is expected to change as a result of the PES scheme. Establishing the baseline is a prerequisite for PES projects.
- viii. Data collection for improving ecosystem service by shifting away from business as usual to an improved situation.
- ix. Setting requirements for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) to ensure credibility of the service provision.
- x. Developing pro-poor benefit-sharing mechanisms for the fair and equitable means of sharing the benefits in line with the Nagoya Protocol.
- xi. Minimum requirements, enabling environment, scale and cost & financing considerations for PES were also elucidated.

## 7 Conclusions on Enhancing Conservation Aquatic Ecosystems

Key points from plenary discussions on the outcomes of the Groups work:

- It was observed that people with disabilities were not properly taken into account on gender issues, however, clarifications were made on the need to avoid it because it amount to a sort of discrimination;
- There is need to focus more on pollution from oil and gas exploitation especially that it impacts knows no boundaries;
- It is observed that apart from forest, ocean also play an important role on carbon sequestrations, therefore, there is need to consider assessing the potentials (in terms of quantity) of carbon sink in the ocean;
- It was also observed that African counties are not yet on-board on tapping from the potentials of carbon neutralization and storage based on geological formations, however, at the moment Nigeria is considering the option;
- There is need for capacity building of African experts to understand the impacts from oil and gas industries and be able to identify and tackle problems before waiting for external expertise;
- To consider aquaculture to support aquatic biodiversity conservation initiatives;
- Needs to strengthen research on biodiversity including studies on crime against fauna;
- There is need for the implementation of hydro ecology approach on lakes for pollution control;
- In the course of Group II Working session deliberations, intervention sites were not discussed, however, t there a need a the need to develop criteria for the choosing the intervention sites;
- There is need to focus more on informing and developing the capacities of MS on the implementation of commitments contained in the different Convention and Treaties signed to ensure equal participation on negotiations;

Key points from discussions on presentations of best practices:

- The important of conducting an economic analysis of MPAs in relation to stock protected is acknowledged;
- Although the cost of protecting the MPAs hasn't been evaluated, however, it is equally important to think of the cost of not protecting the MPAs;
- The important of community involvement in the protection of MPAs is acknowledged; Unpacking the strategy from continental to regional and national would define the role of not only the coastal communities but of every stakeholder;
- There is need to support MS in data collection and capacity building of African experts on the application of technology such as GIS in MCS;
- The importance of MCS as a proactive measure to manage incidences rather than reacting after incidence;
- There is need to open up different possibilities of MCS (e.g., satellite technologies) to improve efficiency;

The meeting provided opportunity to share insight in best practices, experiences and lessons learnt from ongoing projects and synergies generated with other initiatives on Aquatic Biodiversity and Conservation as well as Blue Economy. A detailed stakeholders inputs for follow-up implementation based on review of the strategies and activities as outlined in the project document and knowledge of the most up-to-date problem situation gained from feedback in initiatives at national, regional and international levels. Recommendations were developed on strategic analytical framework for project implementation. The role of the stakeholders in the project were highlighted and awareness enhanced among them on issues and importance of Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems in the context of Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

## 8 Outcomes of the Meeting

The meeting among others came up with the following outcomes:

- i. Information was shared on the Project Activities in the following areas:
  - Project Activities and Implementation Mechanisms
  - Project Budget
  - Communication and Visibility
  - Monitoring and Evaluation framework and log-frame
  - Project Yearly Workplan
- ii. Established buy-in and ownership by the participating key stakeholders (particularly AU member states, RECs, Specialized Regional Institutions, and NSAs, including the CSOs, private sector and NGOs) in the project implementation and execution through capacity deliverance and institutional support.
- iii. The meeting provided opportunity to share insight in best practices, experiences and lessons learnt from ongoing projects and synergies generated with other initiatives on Aquatic Biodiversity and Conservation as well as Blue Economy.
- iv. A detailed stakeholders inputs for follow-up implementation based on review of the strategies and activities as outlined in the project document and knowledge of the most up-to-date problem situation gained from feedback in initiatives at national, regional and international levels.

- v. Recommendations were developed on strategic analytical framework for project implementation.
- vi. The role of the stakeholders in the project were highlighted and awareness enhanced among them on issues and importance of Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems in the context of Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

## 9 Recommendations

The meeting provided the following recommendations:

- i. Where funds are available AU-IBAR should support at least one Member State in each of the 8 RECs
- ii. AU-IBAR should also endeavour to give consideration to inland water bodies in implementing activities of the Project.
- iii. On gender related matters it was recommended that women and youth issues should be reflected across all the Result Areas of the project.
- iv. In supporting Member States to develop their aquatic biodiversity strategy there is the need for AU-IBAR to establish synergy with similar regional initiatives
- v. In implementing Project activities AU-IBAR should work through RECs and Specialized Regional Institutions to the AU Member States.
- vi. Given the limited availability of funds AU-IBAR should adopt more strategic approach in implementing the activities of the project
- vii. AU-BAR should enhance collaboration with NGOs in Aquatic Biodiversity, Conservation and Blue Economy in implementing the project.

## 10 Way Forward

AU-IBAR will present the outcomes and recommendations of the inception meeting to SIDA through the Swedish Regional Development Cooperation for Sub-Saharan Africa, the Project Technical Committee and the Project Steering Committee meeting for their guidance and endorsement.

## 11 Closing Remarks

The meeting was formally closed by the representative of the Ag. Director of AU-IBAR, Mrs. Patricia Lumba. She expressed gratitude to delegates for accepting the invitation and taking interest in implementing the decisions of our Heads of State and Government and assured them that their inputs, guidance and recommendations would be taken into account. Mrs. Lumba expressed gratitude to the sister organization, AUDA-NEPAD, for their strong partnership and thanked AU-IBAR colleagues for their collective efforts in ensuring the success of the workshop and to the Swedish Government for funding the project 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy'. She wished participants journey mercies back to their various destinations.

# ANNEXES

## Annex I: List of participants

	Country	Name of Participant	Ministry / Institute	Email
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## Annex 2: Workshop Agenda

### INCEPTION MEETING CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICAN BLUE ECONOMY

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Naivasha, Kenya

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
	<b>DAY 1: 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021</b>	
<b>08:30-09:00</b>	<b>ARRIVAL &amp; WELCOMING OF PARTICIPANT</b>	<b>AU-IBAR</b>
	<b>OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION</b>	<b>Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay</b>
09:00-10:00	<p><u>Welcome remarks by:</u> Representative of DIRECTOR AU-IBAR</p> <p>Statement by AUDA-NEPAD</p> <p>Representative of SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)</p> <p><b>Opening Statement Government of Kenya</b></p> <p><b>Objectives of the workshop</b></p>	<b>Ms. Hellen Moepi</b>
	<b>Technical Sessions</b>	
	SESSION 1 <b>SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATIONS</b>	Moderator/Presenters Professor A.E. Falaye
10:00-10:15	Theory of Change	Mr. Kennedy Oroko
10:15-10:45	Overview of the Aquatic Biodiversity Project, activities and implementation	Dr. Mohamed Seisay
10:45-11:00	The Budget	AU-IBAR, Finance
11:00-11:20	GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE BREAK	ALL
	SESSION 2 ELABORATING THE PROJECT	<b>Moderator/Presenters</b> Professor A.E. Falaye
11:20-12:15	YEAR WORKPLANS	Mr. Kennedy Oroko
12:50-13:05	YEARLY BUDGET	Finance, AU-IBAR
13:20-14:00	Discussion	
14:00-15:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>ALL</b>
	ELABORATING THE PROJECT	Moderator/Presenters Dr. Clement Adjorlolo
15:00-15:20	Highlighting the role of RECs and Specialized Regional Institutions in supporting project implementation	Dr. Mohamed Seisay
15:20-15:40	Highlighting the role AU Member states and other stakeholders in supporting project implementation	Ms. Hellen Moepi
15:40-15:45	COFFEE BREAK	ALL
	ELABORATING THE PROJECT	Moderator/Presenters Mr. Obinna Anozie
15:45-16:05	Communication, visibility and knowledge management	Mrs. Patricia Lumba
16:05-16:25	Monitoring, Evaluation, Logframe, Collection baseline information on indicators	Mr. Admore Chakadenga
16:25-16:55	Discussions	
16:45-17:00	<b>CLOSURE FOR THE DAY</b>	

<b>DAY 2: 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021</b>		
09:00-09:15	<b>RECAP</b>	Ms. Hellen Moepi
09:15-12:00	<b>INTRODUCING WORKING GROUP SESSIONS</b>	Moderators/Presenters Dr. Mohamed Seisay and Prof. Eyiwunmi Falaye
	Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)	Working Group 1
	Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes	Working Group 2
	Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment	Working Group 3
	Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management	Working Group 4
11:15-12:15	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
12:00-13:00	Plenary	ALL
13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	ALL
<b>INFORMATION SHARING ON BEST PRACTICES ON CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY – EXPERT PRESENTATIONS</b>		Moderator/Presenters Professor Falaye
14:00-14:20	A Swedish Framework for a Network of Marine Protected Areas - an inspiration towards international goals	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
14:20-14:40	Conservation for development in the Western Indian Ocean	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
15:00-15:15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
15:15-15:35	African biodiversity conservation in the climate change context.	Prof. Pierre Faille, Blue Economy Consultant, University of Portsmouth, UK
15:35-15:55	Sustainable coastal and marine tourism, mining, gas, oil exploration – mitigating the impacts of externalities on	Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental Consultant
15:55-16:15	Implementation challenges of global biodiversity and environmental related instruments in Africa	Mr. Kwame Mfodwo, Legal expert in public policy and natural resources
16:15-17:00	Discussions	
<b>DAY 3: 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021</b>		
<b>Synergies and other initiatives on the continent</b>		Dr. Clement Adjorlolo
09:00-09:15	RECAP	Mr. Obinna Anozie
<b>Global, Continental and Regional Institutions</b>		
09:15-09:35	Protecting Biodiversity and environment in the oceanic space – IOC perspectives	Dr. Mika Odido IOC Coordinator in Africa
09:35-09:55	Enhancing blue economy in the IGAD member states for biodiversity conservations and livelihood diversification	Dr. Eshete Dejen AG. Programme Manager IGAD
09:55-10:15	The title: Maximising Africa's Blue Economy Potential: Strengthening the Regional Seaweed Value Chain	Dr. Bernice Mclean, AUDANEPAD
10:15-10:35	Man-made and environmental constraints to development of Africa blue economy	COMHAFAT / ATLAFCO
10:35-10:55	DISCUSSIONS	ALL
11:15-11:35	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	ALL
11:35-11:55	Mitigating impact of climate change in marine ecosystems in the Benguela Current Large marine Ecosystems	Mr Xolela Wellem BCC Namibia
11:55-12:05	FAO/CCLME Project: ongoing and planned activities on management of aquatic biodiversity and environmental sustainability	Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe, CCLME Project, Senegal

12:05-12:25	The role of women in conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	Dr. Alberta Sagoe , University of Cape Coast, Ghana
12.25-12.45	Managing the impacts of land-based pollution, shipping (and other at-sea activities) on marine biodiversity in West and Central Africa.	Dr Chiamaka Mogo, Executive Secretary, AFMESI
12:45-13:05	Mechanisms of Payments for Ecosystems Services	Prof. Andrew Baio, Marine Biology and Oceanography, University of Sierra Leone
13:05-13:35	DISCUSSIONS	ALL
13:35-13:45	<b>CLOSURE &amp; LUNCH</b>	ALL

#### *Annex 4: link to access presentations*

**Communique:** <https://www.au-ibar.org/au-ibar-communique/communique-inception-workshop-conserving-aquatic-biodiversity-africa-blue>

**Presentations:** <https://networks.au-ibar.org/show/conserving-aquatic-biodiversity-in-african-blue-economy/folder/2517>



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