



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

REPORT MEETING ON ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



10-12 July 2014
Accra, Ghana

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SUMMARY

The meeting on institutional linkages brought together representatives of Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Water Basin Authorities to chart a roadmap for building and strengthening institutional collaboration in African fisheries and aquaculture sector. Specifically, the meeting focussed majorly on enhancing collaboration i. amongst the RFBs, ii. the RFBs and the Regional Fisheries Management organizations (RFMOs), Water Basin Management Authorities, non-fish sectors such as mining, forestry etc and iii. the RFBs and the RECs. The main outcome of the meeting was the recommendations by the participants for the African Union to establish a forum or platform for RFBs with the day to day coordination at the CAMFA Secretariat. The AU was also charged with the responsibility to undertake an assessment of the institutional set-up and performance of the RFBs as well as facilitate their formal linkages with the Regional Economic Communities. The Executive Committee of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism was recommended as discussion forum for all stakeholders for enhanced institutional coordination and collaboration.

I. INTRODUCTION

The meeting on 'Enhancing Institutional Collaboration in the Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa' was held from 10th to the 12th July 2014 in Accra, Ghana. The meeting was organized by the African Union –InterAfrican Bureau for Animal resources (AU-IBAR), in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) with support from the European Union. The meeting was hosted by the Ghanaian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The overall objective of the meeting was to develop a roadmap for rationalization of the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) in a bid to enhance their efficiencies in delivery of their individual mandates and to also chart a roadmap for enhancing institutional or inter-agency collaboration between the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), the Regional Economic Communities (RECS), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Water Basin Management Authorities, mining sector and forestry sectors. The overall expected outcome of the meeting was therefore development of a roadmap, with actions and timelines, for institutional collaboration for sustainable fisheries management and responsible aquaculture development.

1.1. Participants

There were 25 participants representing mainly the RFBs and RECs from various regions of the continent. The following Regional Fisheries Bodies were represented at the meeting:

1. Lake Victoria Fisheries organization (LVFO)
2. South-West Indian Ocean Commission (SWIOFC)
3. Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF)
4. Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)
5. Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)
6. The Regional Fisheries Commission for Central Gulf of Guinea (COREP)

The water basin commissions were represented by:

1. Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA)
2. Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

The following Regional Economic Communities were represented:

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
2. The Common Market for Southern-Eastern Africa (COMESA)
3. The Economic Community of central African States (ECCAS)

4. The East Africa Community (EAC)
5. Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)

Participants included also individual consultants with proven requisite expert knowledge on sector issues as well as representatives from the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture in the African Union Commission (DREA-AUC, AU-IBAR) in Addis, Ethiopia, AU-IBAR and from the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Republic of Ghana.

2. OPENING SESSIONS

The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Simplicie Nouala. Speaking on behalf of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as well as the (DREA-AUC), the representative Mr. Jonathan Ocran, the AUC Policy Officer for Livestock, gave an overview of the importance of the sector interns of food and nutritional security, employment and economic returns. He assured the participants of the commitment of African Union in championing the cause of the Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector making specific reference to the Sirte declaration in 2004, the NEPAD Fish for all Summit in 2005 right through the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development programme (CAADP) all of which climaxed in the hosting of the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA I) held in Banjul, The Gambia, 2010. He drew attention to the significance of the meeting being held in a year which has been proclaimed as the year of Agriculture in Africa and in a year which marked the 10th Anniversary of the Adoption of CAADP as framework for sustainable agriculture development on the continent. He informed the participants that the recent concluded Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea gave renewed commitments to advance the cause of Agriculture (including fisheries) in Africa. In concluding, he underscores the need for Africa to maximize benefits from the fisheries and aquaculture resources and to endeavour to learn from other developing countries such as China which have made impressive progress in aquaculture development.

In his welcome speech, the Director of AU-IBAR, Prof. Ahmed Sawalhy, welcomed the participants and expressed his candid appreciation for their continued commitment to African fisheries and aquaculture development. On behalf of Chair of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma and the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, he thanked the Government of Ghana, in particular the Ministry and the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, for playing host to the meeting.

The AU-IBAR Director noted the significance of the timing of this meeting particularly coming at time when the institutional arrangements for formal operationalization of the framework for promoting coherence and coordination in African fisheries and aquaculture has just been concluded in a stakeholders' meeting in Kenya last month, ensuring a logical follow-up to that meeting. He reminded the participants of the importance of institutional collaboration and cooperation for sound regional fisheries management as has been discussed at several forums and the tragic consequence thereof which would result due to lack of it. In this regard, as examples, he made reference to the rising incidences of illegal fishing practices, weak intra-regional trades, incoherent policies, lack of common positions or strategies etc, to govern the sector sustainably and rationally. He recalled the recommendations of the CAMFA I as a justification for the continuing effort by the AU to foster institutional collaboration in the sector and also informed the meeting of the assessment conducted by AU-IBAR on the linkage between the ECCAS and COREP. This meeting is therefore a culmination of several initiatives, including earlier efforts by AUC and NPCA. He sensitized the audience of the recent resolutions of the Joint ministerial Conference in Addis Ababa and the adoption of the resolutions by the Executive Council of the African Union in the recent summit of Head States and Governments in Equatorial Guinea.

He admonished the participants to come out with actionable points that could be implemented within a reasonable time frame.

The opening statement was given by the Director of Fisheries, Mr. Samuel Quatey, of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Ghana. He gave his profound gratitude to AU-IBAR and the European Union for organizing such an important meeting on enhancing collaboration in Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector. He conveyed fraternal greetings from the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and that of the government and People of the Republic of Ghana to all participants of the workshop.

He reminded the participants that the outcomes of this workshop would be of immense potential benefits and critical to all the stakeholders and, in this regard, a successful outcome is being urgently anticipated. He informed the participants of the continent's huge opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture resources for increased potential contribution to GDP and socio-economic advancement of the continent. He lamented however that despite these opportunities, poverty remains pervasive in fishing communities. He observed that the choice of the theme of the workshop, that is regional integration and integration, is very pertinent to present day fisheries management since many fish stocks are shared and migrate across boundaries. He expressed his fervent hope on the meeting reaching consensus during the meeting on the rationalization of the Regional Fisheries Bodies and proposed that the eventual outcome should support the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by the respective member states of the African Union.

3. TECHNICAL SESSIONS

3.1. Meeting objectives, outcomes and rationale

The stage of the meeting was partly set by the presentation on the objectives and expected outcome of the meeting by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Senior fisheries Officer, AU-IBAR. He elaborated on the rationale for the meeting and the noted the possible impacts resulting from lack of collaboration and cooperation in the management of fisheries and aquaculture sector. Symptoms such as rising incidents of Illegal, weak inter-regional trade etc are a manifestation of weak institutional and inter-state collaboration. As a reference he drew the attention of participants to the Pacific Nauru Agreement on the cooperative management of the tuna resources amongst the eight Pacific Island States and accruing benefits resulting from that regional agreement.

He enumerated the objectives and expected outcomes of the of the meeting as;

Specific objectives:

- Discussing options for enhanced collaboration and coordination, cooperation between, RECs, RFBs, RFMOs, other sector
- Agreeing on the role of the AFRM in facilitating collaboration and cooperation
- Agreeing on an action plan/roadmap

Expected outcomes:

- Consensus reached with stakeholders on the rationalization of RFBs
- A roadmap established for developing institutional linkages for sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development

3.2. Presentations by Regional Fisheries Bodies

Presentation were made by each of the eight Regional Fisheries Bodies and water basins focusing mainly on

mandates, main objectives and areas of specialization in fisheries and aquaculture. Highlights of presentations by the respective RFBs are as summarized below;

The Fisheries Commission for central Gulf of Guinea (COREP)

The presentation was by: Mr. Emile Essema, Executive Secretary

COREP is an inter-governmental organization comprising of five members (Republics of Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and the Democratic Republic of Congo). The Republics of Angola and Equatorial Guinea have Observer status. The mission of COREP is to assist Member States in order to protect and enhance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development for the realization of the potential of aquatic environments and the well-being of the citizens of the member states.

The main objectives of COREP are to facilitate the harmonization of fisheries policies of States Parties, fostering regional collaboration in the development and management of fisheries and aquaculture resources and promotion of responsible development of aquaculture in areas under the jurisdiction of States parties. The institution has benefited from the NEPAD/PAF and the ACP Fish II programmes in support of fisheries management and aquaculture development activities. The principle activities of COREP estimate of potential of fish stocks, putting in place regional monitoring systems for fisheries and aquaculture, development of regional action plan for capacity building for fisheries management, promotion regional programmes for combating IUU. Some of the activities also include strengthening capacity of small-scale producers and support to development of national and regional fisheries management.

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

The presentation was by: Mr. NA-ANDI Mamane Tahir, Expert in fisheries and aquaculture

LCBC has 6 members (Federal Republic of Nigeria, Peoples Republic of Libya, Cameroon, Republics of Chad, Central Africa and Niger. LCBC's mandate is to ensure the sustainable and equitable management of Lake Chad and other shared resources of the basin waters, preservation of ecosystems, the promotion of regional integration and the preservation of peace and the border security in the Lake Chad Basin.

The LCBC has a strategic Action Plan that was adopted in 2008 by the member states. The regional policy has five major objectives which are: improving the quantity and quality of the waters of the Lake Chad Basin; restoration, conservation and sustainable use of biological resources of the Lake Chad Basin; Biodiversity conservation in the Lake Chad Basin; restoration and conservation of the ecosystems of the Lake Chad Basin; and strengthening the participation and capacities of stakeholders as well as development of legal and institutional framework for sustainable environmental management of the Lake Chad Basin

The LCBC has developed fisheries management plan for Lake Chad integrating ecosystems approach to fisheries; establishment of permanent monitoring system of fishery statistics; conducted activities to strengthen post-harvest resilience to climate change, disaster risk management; training of beneficiaries and stakeholders

The Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)

The presentation was by: Mr. Seraphin Dedi Nadjé, Secretary General

FCWC is constituted by six member states which are the Republics of Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Liberia and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The remit of FCWC is marine waters under national

jurisdiction of the six contracting Parties. The mandate is to promote cooperation among the Contracting Parties with a view to ensuring the conservation and optimum utilization of the living aquatic resources, improve the livelihoods of small-scale fishers and processors, including appropriate measures to deal with migrant fishers.

The main objectives of FCWC are to strengthen sub-regional cooperation in monitoring, control, surveillance (MCS) and enforcement; promote the development of standards for the data collection, information exchange and sharing of fisheries data; develop and promote common policies and strategies, as appropriate, in the sub-region to strengthen sub-regional positions in regional and international forums

The major accomplished and ongoing activities are facilitating signing MOUs with partner institutions such as GCLME, WWF-WAMER, WADAF etc; formulating and spearheading adoption of agreements or convention on information sharing and Minimum Access conditions; formulation of a beach seine fisheries management plan; establishment of working groups on statistics and IUU fishing; support to the strengthening of the regional legal framework to fight IUU fishing through capacity building and provision of expertise; adoption and implementation of FCWC regional plan of action to combat IUU fishing and support the development of a regional centre for processing and disseminating satellite data to fight IUU fishing.

Sub- Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)

The presentation was by: Ms Dienaba BEYE TRAORE, Head of the Policy and Legislation Department

The SRFC is constituted by seven members- Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The mandate of the SRFC is to harmonize Member States' policies with regard to the conservation and exploitation of the sub-region's fisheries resources; improve cooperation among the member states with regards to governance, MCS, research, information systems and human capacity development.

The major programmes of work of the SRFC include policy harmonization/coherence; regional fisheries MCS including fight against IUU fishing; management of fish stocks; small scale fisheries strategy; development of research and information capacity; strengthening regional trade and communication and advocacy. The accomplished activities are the establishment of the Surveillance Operational Unit (in The Gambia); facilitating adoption of the revised Convention on Access Condition.

The South West Indian Ocean Commission

The presentation was by: Ms Aubrey Harris, Senior Fisheries Officer

The SWIOFC is formed by the following members Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and United Republic of Tanzania Yemen. SWIOFC was formed in 2004 to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources by their proper management and development. The region's fisheries involve artisanal and small-scale fisheries using hand lines, traps and seines and nets. These artisanal fisheries take a diverse catch of fish and invertebrates.

SWIOFC is high level regional forum for recommendation of fisheries policy, management and research. The Commission facilitates monitoring the state of the fisheries resources and encourages shared responsibilities between countries each of which has, on a rotational basis, the opportunity to chair the Commission and drive its strategic direction. SWIOFC maintains close collaboration with other agencies through the many activities including training courses and working groups on: Statistics; Regional shrimp assessments; Special meeting for SWIOfish; Conference on MDGs; Weight of evidence approach and EAF baseline

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization

*The presentation was by: **Mr. Godfrey Monor, Executive Secretary***

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization is a specialized Institution of East African Community and formed by three party states (Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania). The mandate of LVFO is to implement in a harmonized manner the fisheries policies and objectives of the partner states in relation to Lake Victoria that would ensure increased and sustainable fish production and utilization through proper management of wild stocks; promotion of aquaculture; reduction of post-harvest losses. The objectives of the organization are to foster cooperation among the Contracting Parties; harmonize national measures for the sustainable utilization of the living resources of the Lake and to develop and adopt conservation and management measure.

In terms of activities, the main areas of specialization of LVFO are co-management of fisheries resources through the Beach management Units (BMU); aquaculture development; data management and analysis and dissemination; scientific understanding of fisheries resources; capacity development of institutions as well as personnel, working groups and management and conservation

Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA)

*The presentation was by: **Mr. Ibrahim Kaitira, Director of Fisheries***

Lake Tanganyika Authority is formed by four countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. The mandate of LTA is to co-ordinate the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) by the Contracting States and, in accordance with the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of Ministers, to advance and represent the common interests of the Contracting States in matters concerning the management of Lake Tanganyika and its Basin.

In terms of specialized specialization, LTA is responsible for the Lake and its Basin, as whatever happens in the basin will eventually affect the lake and its aquatic resources. The technical activities are coordinated by the two technical directorates, i.e. the Directorate of Environment (for environment related issues), and the Directorate of Fisheries for fisheries and aquaculture issues. Some of the activities coordinated under the Fisheries Directorate include the following: -Up-dated the Lake Tanganyika Fisheries Management Plan, which was first developed in 2000; organizing lake-wide fisheries Frame Survey in 2011; harmonization of fisheries policies and laws of the four countries; harmonization of Catch Assessment Survey (CAS) system; development/improvement of Co-management system on the lake.

Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF)

*The presentation was by: **Mr. Bright Onapito, Information Expert.***

ANAF was established during the 14th CIFA session in November 2006 (Accra) and currently has 12 AU member (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Senegal). The main focus of ANAF is to support aquaculture research, technology transfer and information exchange among members and their stakeholders, including collaboration with other existing regional networks e.g. Afri-Net. The main objectives are to enhance collaboration amongst all aquaculture stakeholders with special attention given to regional and sub-regional structures; support the increased role of private sector and other non-state institutions in national and regional aquaculture development initiatives.

In the area of specialization, ANAF aims to be a primary reference for aquaculture information, facilitating research and technology transfer in the region; maintaining a regional aquaculture information system. The

main activities are in: M&E; aquaculture and environment; coordination, research and education; support to aquaculture industry; regional liaison and conduct.

Presentations by: Regional Economic communities

Each of the five Regional Economic Communities gave presentation on its own mandates, objectives and activities in fisheries and aquaculture and current linkages

Economic Community of central African States (ECCAS)

The presentation was by: Mr. Aurelien Mofouma, Expert Suivi-Evaluation, ECCAS.

The ECCAS is formed by 10 member states which are Gabon, Congo, DR Congo, CAR, Burundi, Rwanda, Cameroon, Angola, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. In 2007, the COREP became the specialized agency of ECCAS responsible for fisheries and aquaculture. In line with its arrangement, ECCAS provides financial support to COREP activities in fisheries and aquaculture. Projects in fisheries and aquaculture identified by COREP are supported by ECCAS in addition to donor support to COREP. An illustration of the institutional arrangement is the contract signed between ECCAS and NEPAD-PAF for implementation of fishing activities by COREP. Similarly was the contract between the ECCAS and ACP Fish II on fisheries, the activities which were implemented by COREP. The following fisheries activities, which are on the basis of collaboration between COREP and ECCAS, are ongoing: estimate of resource rent; enhancing regional fisheries governance; definition of a regional plan for capacity management; development of a regional agreement on minimum conditions of access to resources establishment of a regional strategy against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The recommendations of ECCAS include the preparation of legal text for formalizing collaboration between ECCAS and COREP; develop a framework for enhanced collaboration between the two institutions and recruitment of fisheries expert at ECCAS.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The presentation was by: Mr. Komlan BOSSOU, Regional program Coordinator, Agriculture & Rural Development Directorate.

ECOWAS has 15 countries all from West Africa excluding Mauritania. Member States agree to cooperate with the view to ensuring: food security; increased production and productivity; the valorisation of the agricultural production and protection of the prices of export commodities on the international market.

The main focus in the area of fisheries is the development of a Programme on Coherent Governance of the Fisheries Sector in the Region which has the following major broad activities:

- i. Promotion of coherent and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies
- ii. The development of monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the fishery and aquaculture policy coherence in West Africa
- iii. Strengthening the capacities of fisheries and aquaculture professionals

ECOWAS has developed regional policies for coherence in fisheries management and has established regional fisheries committee under which operate three sub-committees, viz. on governance and coherence, aquaculture and fish trade.

East Africa Community (EAC)

The presentation was by: Mr. Timothy Wesonga, EAC Secretariat.

The mandate of EAC in fisheries and aquaculture is the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the EAC through the formulation of policies and strategies. The fisheries and aquaculture development objectives are to: improve production; support to fisheries sector value chain development; support and facilitate fish trade and market as well as creating enabling environment for fish feeds and seeds.

The main accomplished and planned activities include the development of sanitary measures for fish and fisheries, rolling out of the measures; development of EAC aquaculture strategy; enhancing data collection through ARIS of AU-IBAR. Planned activities include the development of an EAC fisheries (capture and Culture) sector policy and the formulation of Governance harmonised instruments for Inland and marine fisheries resources.

In the area of strengthening collaboration with LVFO, there are proposals to expand the mandate of LVFO in terms of geographical coverage.

Common Market of Southern Eastern Africa (COMESA)

The presentation was by: Dr. Yoseph Mamo, COMESA Secretariat.

COMESA has membership of 19 countries mainly from East and Southern Africa. The vision of the organization is to be a fully integrated, internationally competitive regional economic community with high standards of living for its entire people ready to merge into an African Economic Community. COMESA has developed a fisheries and aquaculture strategy to increase and sustain the contributions of fisheries and aquaculture to the region's social-economic development and food security. The Strategy identifies regional priorities for sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and outlines COMESA's approach for the development of regional programmes in support of these priorities.

The fisheries and aquaculture Strategy identifies six priority areas: (1) Facilitating intra-regional trade and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products (2) Harmonization of Regulations, Standards and development of a Regional Policy on fisheries and aquaculture (3) Technology dissemination and Research (4) Capacity Building and Training (5) Management of shared fisheries and aquaculture resources (6) Investment facilitation. COMESA has been working on improving the Shelf life (SPS) issues on Smallholder producers. Fishery has been given attentions in COMESA CAADP compact as one of the intervention areas.

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development

The presentation was by: Dr. Eshete Degen, Fishery Expert.

IGAD is made of seven members: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. The original mandate was to mitigate drought effects and combat desertification but the new extended mandate now includes Food Security and Environment Protection; Economic Cooperation & Social Development; Political and Humanitarian Affairs. IGAD priority areas in agriculture include the following: Agricultural production more efficient; Agricultural trade more liberalised; food insecurity reduced; livestock sector improved and Sustainable fisheries management.

The current activities in fisheries are centred around the following: incorporating fisheries activities in IDDRSI 4 Priority Intervention Areas; environment and Natural Resources Management; Market Access, Trade and Financial Services; Livelihoods Support and Basic Social Services; Research, Knowledge Management and Technology Transfer. Other activities include developing IGAD Regional strategy for fisheries and aquaculture development; regional envelope to "Support for Enhanced Fisheries Management and development in

ASAL's of IGAD region project" for EDF 11...5 million euro; cross regional envelope to support sustainable fisheries...30 million euro, implementing partner; developing cross-border fish trade modalities and baseline data collection.

Findings from ECCAS-COREP Study

The meeting was informed that Mr. Michel Xavier Biang has been contracted by AU-IBAR to evaluate the institutional linkage between ECCAS and COREP. His work brought some findings which he was invited to share with the participants in a bid to inform the meeting deliberations.

Mr. Michel Xavier Biang based his presentation on general institutional landscape in Africa. He noted that, from the 1983 census, there were 50 institutions in Africa region at that time. He submitted however that the proliferations of regional institutions have not brought any efficiency in their tasks or synergy of actions. He noted that the lack of synergies between the RFBs and the RECs are largely attributable to multiple memberships of by member states of various regional institutions, the large numbers of RFBs with the similar mandates (12 RFBs in Central Africa) and also lack of official legal frameworks that defined the relationships between regional institutions (e.g. ECCAS and COREP). He informed the participants that there is no legal instrument which formally assigns the functional relationship between the two institutions (ECCAS and COREP). The Treaty establishing the ECCAS is silent on relationships with COREP which could be amended by inclusion of a legal text, he noted.

4. WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Two Working Groups were constituted taking mainly into consideration geographical of competency.

Working Group I: Mr. Seraphin Nadi Dedi (FCWC as Chair); Mr. Na-andi Mamane Tahir (LCBC as rapporteur); Mr. Aurelen Mofouma (ECCAS); Mrs. Dienabe Beye Traore (FCWC); Mr. Anozie Obinna (AU-IBAR); Mr. Emile Essema (COREP); Mr. Michel Biang (Consultant); Mr. Bossou Komlan (ECOWAS)

Working Group II: Mr. Kaitira Ibrahim Katonda (LTA as chair), Mr. Georges Mba-Asseko (Consultant); Mr. Godfrey V. Monor (LVFO); Dr. Yoseph S. Mamo (COMESA); Mr. Jonathan Ocran (DREA-AUC); Mr. Aubrey HARRIS (SWIOFC); Dr. Eshete Dejen (IGAD); Dr. Timothy Wesonga (EAC); Mr. Bright Onapito ANAF as Rapporteur), Dr. Mohamed SEISAY (AU-IBAR) and Mr. Nemorius Peng-yir (Ghana).

The Working Groups were requested to highlight the issues and challenges for building collaboration and cooperation with respect to the following:

- i. Cooperation between the RFBs themselves
- ii. Cooperation between the RFBs and RFMOs, Water Basin management, Mining etc
- iii. Cooperation with the RECs

5. MEETING OUTCOMES

5.1. Issues and challenges to institutional collaboration amongst the RFBS

The main issues

After presentation and discussions in plenary the following outcomes were agreed upon as the major issues and challenges that are hindering institutional collaboration;

- Lack of or inadequate cooperation among the RFBs because they work in their various geographical areas of competence (EEZ of the member States)

- Absence of formal channel of communication between the RFBs
- Overlap of activities or mandates between Regional FAO Networks and FAO RFBs
- Lack of or limited consultations amongst RFBs
- RFBs have restricted mandate and do not have mandates for fisheries regulatory or management functions; their roles limited to advisory functions
- Competition between Ecological Approach and Geographical Approach; RFBs mandates are based on geographical areas whilst LMEs are based on ecological mandates.
- No higher entity to manage and coordinate the RFBs hence the focus on their respective areas

The main challenges

- Lack of or limited exchange of experiences and sharing of information on Best Practices between RFBs
- Absence of coordination mechanism or institutional structures and a higher authority to provide leadership or coordinator role for the RFBs; absence of a platform for collaboration/dialogue between RFBs
- Undefined organizational structure and reporting / communication channel in the RFBs operations
- Misdirected donor funding on the continent and very often no based on real needs of the recipients or channelled through inappropriate entities (e.g. through NGO's, donor aligned organizations). This complicates the regional activities of the RFBs and hence uncoordinated actions.

Recommendations for enhancing collaboration amongst the RFBs:

- AU should take the leadership role for the RFBs
- Additional study to assess the various legal measures necessary to enrich the text of legal framework for enhancing collaboration

5.2. Issues and Challenges between the RFBs and the RFMOs, Water Basin Authorities, Mining and Forestry sectors

The main issues

- There is no cooperation between the RFBs and RFMOs and practically no collaboration between the two institutions
- RFBs are not eligible for membership status of RFMOs. They are often invited as Observers in RFMOs meetings and make no contribution or participate in any discussion
- The existing framework does not allow RFBs to offer effective advisory role to their member states for effective participation in RFMOs meetings.
- The lack of formal recognition or acknowledgement of the roles of RFBs by the RFMOs and their responsibility in information sharing in the area of our competences is lacking. This is likely as a result of absence of platform for exchange of information on roles and functions

The main challenges

- In some cases, the lack of clearly defined (or overlapping mandates) mandates for the different or between institutions g. RFBs, Water Basin Managements, RFMOs, LME-based organizations
- Fisheries management at regional levels since the RFMOs also playing advisory roles and technical advice to member states
- The role of RFMOs in decision making body for certain fisheries for member states can be conflicting and often there is policy inconsistency
- Absence of an apex body to provide guidance, coordination functions and direction to these institutions
- Absence of contribution by RFB to the process of development of management measures by RFMOs
- Language barriers since the medium of communication is often English in RFMOs meetings; this affects dissemination of information and effective communication

Recommendations to enhance collaboration between RFBs and RFMOs and other stakeholders

- Designation of an apex body at AU (CAMFA Secretariat) for fisheries and aquaculture issues
- Establish formalized channel of communication between RFBs and other stakeholders
- Clear definition of roles and sharing between RFBs and these stakeholders to minimize duplication
- Facilitation of member states for participations to various RFMOs meetings

5.3. Issues and Challenges to forging collaboration between RFBs and RECs

The main issues

- Lack of synergy and complementarities in the activities of the two bodies
- In general terms no formalized collaboration between two institutions and where they exist there are no measures or mechanisms to make it operational. Hence duplication of programmes, projects and activities
- Absence of fisheries and aquaculture experts in most of the RECs
- Lack of technical, political and financial support from RECs to RFBs in most cases

The main challenges

- Lack of synergy and action among the two bodies
- Need for implementation of the CAMFA recommendation relating to the RECs
- Operationalizing existing agreements between RECs and RFBs
- The need to clarify the mandate and streamline the activities of the RECs and RFBs
- Inadequate resources for fisheries development at regional levels
- Fisheries has not yet been highly prioritized in some RECs and thus absences of fisheries experts in some of these RECs
- Lack of knowledge, mandate or existence of the RFBs in some RECs
- Some RFB member states belong to multiple RECs

Recommendations for enhancing collaboration between RECs and RFBs

- Rationalize membership of RFBs within the RECs
- Need to carry out comprehensive study for mandate clarification between RECs
- Every REC should have fisheries and aquaculture experts
- RECs should exploit the presence of RFBs in the regions for fisheries and aquaculture activities in enhancing food and nutritional security
- RECs should ensure RFBs are involved in the CAADP process

6. OPTIONS FOR ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

6.1. Presentation on role of AFRM in institutional coordination

Dr. Seisay gave a presentation on the newly endorsed African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) and its potential role in coordinating activities in African fisheries and aquaculture sector under its various organs; that is the Executive Committee and the working groups, the Advisory council, the CAMFA Secretariat. He made reference to the outcomes of the meeting on AFRM held in Naivasha where proposals were made for the CAMFA Secretariat to be centre for coordinating activities in fisheries and aquaculture and to maintain strong communication linkage with the RFBs and the Working Groups established under the AFRM. The Secretariat should be the depository of information for disseminating best practices as well knowledge generation on fisheries reform governance at the country and regional levels.

The flexibility to co-op development partners and other stakeholders as and when necessary on the Advisory Council and for them to participate in Executive Committee on Think Tank events would ensure coordination of projects and programmes in the sector

6.2. Presentation on options for institutional collaboration

The Consultant, Mr. Michel Biang, strongly advised that the legal framework of the institutional affiliation between Regional Economic Community (REC) and Specialized Institutions must be based on the principle of the independence of the partners. He noted that legal factors are key issues for the anchorage of the relationship between RECs and RFBs as well as the effectiveness of their functioning. The Consultant drew the attention to Article 57 of the UN Charter that outlined the framework for an institutional collaboration between the UN and its specialized agencies is set. According to this framework the specialized agencies have essentially, three characteristics: they are created by intergovernmental agreements, they have wide international responsibilities in specific areas and are related to the United Nations through agreements that set the conditions of attachment. Only organizations that meet these three criteria are designated as specialized institutions within the meaning of the Charter. He emphasized that the provisions governing general agreements between an organization and its specialized agencies, are not intended to remove the latter, its responsibilities in its own domain, as defined by the fundamental act of the institution.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

Based on the outcomes from the discussions on issues involved in and challenges to institutional collaboration, the another round of working group discussions was conveyed to deliberate on options for forging institutional collaboration in African fisheries and aquaculture sector:

Options for enhancing collaboration amongst RFBS

- Formation of a continental forum to support fisheries and aquaculture issues under the AU/CAMFA secretariat. This should be a platform such as Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariat Network for Africa (managed by the CAMFA Secretariat. This platform could contribute to the harmonization of positions by RFBS on regional and international forums, for examples
- Continental forum to maintain a website for sharing information on RFB activities as well as facilitate linking of RFB websites at AU and REC level
- AU to conduct a detailed assessment of all RFBs (mandate and performance review, activities) for rationalization
- Formalize collaboration between the RFBS and establish a system for regular exchange of information and experience
- To develop synergies, joint planning and implement joint work programmes
- Establish a trust fund for fisheries and aquaculture which is already contemplated under the African Fisheries Reform mechanism

Options for enhancing collaboration between RFBs and REMOs and others

- RFBs, RFMOs, water basin commissions and other stake holders should meet once every two years under the Executive Committee of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism
- Establish a formal line of communication between RFBs and RFMOs
- Clarify and share the roles and responsibilities between RFBs and RFMOs to avoid duplications

Options for enhancing collaboration between RFBs and RECs

- RECs should invited RFBs to their meetings and vice versa
- RFBs not yet aligned to a REC should request for observer status in the RECs within their area of operation
- RECs should have fisheries experts
- RECs should facilitate the inclusion of RFBS in the CAADP process
- Formalization of institutional linkages between the RFBs and RECs through signatures to agreements

- Rationalize the memberships of member states to the RECs and RFBs
- There should be financial support from the RECs to the RFBs within same geographical zones
- Conduct joint planning and programming of activities to minimize duplications

8. WORK PLAN FOR COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

The two Working Groups were convened with the task of developing work plan with timelines and assignment of responsibilities for institutions. The following table is the outcome of the last working group session on.

Table 1: Workplan

| No | Action | Activities | Timeline | Responsible Institutions |
|-----|--|--|--|---|
| 1-2 | Establish a platform for RFBs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of members • Define platform TORs • Inception meeting | Sept 2014 Dec 2014 End of Jan 15 | AU-IBAR |
| 2-4 | Formalize existing linkages/agreements between RFBs, WBCs and RECs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFBs writing to RECs • Initiating dialog/relationships • Preparing MOUs | Sept 2014- March 2015 | RFBs RFBs, RECs RFBs, RECs, WBCs |
| 3-1 | Assessment of performance RFBs and WBCs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of TORs • Recruit Consultant | Sept-Oct 2014 | AU-IBAR, |
| 4-3 | Participation of meetings of RFMOs and setup a mechanism to plan and facilitate decisions implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting invitations • Setting agenda • Preparing concept notes | TBA by platform | AU-IBAR, platform |
| 5-6 | Collate and share information on calendar of meetings of RECs and RFBs and directory of institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send calendar of activities to RECs through AU-IBAR • Compile and disseminate activities | Aug 2014 – Sept 2014 August 2014 | AU-IBAR, ANAF |
| 6-7 | Participation of RFBs and WBC in CAADP process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFBs, WBCs writing to RECs • RECs to communicate with RFBs about CAADP activities | August 2014 | RECS, AU |
| 7-8 | Joint planning and programming between RFBs and RECs | | January 2015 | RECs, RFBs |
| 8 | (Lobby) recruitment of fisheries experts in RECs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish relationship between RFBs and RECs • Sharing recommendations of importance of fisheries | August 2014 | AU-IBAR, RFBs |
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continental forum to maintain a website for sharing information on RFB activities • Linking of RFB websites at AU and REC level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking of already existing websites • Request IT departments to link websites | Sept 2014 | RFBs, RECs, AU-IBAR |

Meeting evaluation

Each of the participants was requested to give their candid opinions on the conduct of the meeting, their perceptions of the outcomes. All the participants expressed satisfaction at the meeting planning, process and outcomes and the logical timelines especially coming after CAMFA II and with the adoption of the Policy framework for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. The participants praised the AU-IBAR for the progress in forging collaboration amongst the regional institutions and support it has given to enhance this collaboration. The participants expressed their wishes that this process of building institutional linkages and fostering would be positive this time round and seeing right through to its logical conclusion. They were hopeful that the roadmap and work plan that have been developed are implemented and that all partners gave assurance of their commitments to honour their responsibilities in the work plan.

9. APPENDIX

9.1. Agenda

| Time | Event | Presenter/facilitator |
|--|--|--|
| Day 1 | 10-07-2014 | Meeting facilitator- Dr. Simplicie Nouala |
| 08:30-09:00 | Registration | AU-IBAR Secretariat |
| 09:00-09:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory remarks • Welcome statement • Introduction of participants • Opening statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC-DREA, Mr. Jonathan Ocran • Director of AU-IBAR, Professor Ahmed El-Sawalhy • Director of Fisheries, Ghana, Mr. Samuel Quatey |
| 09:30-10:00 | Photo session and Tea-Break | |
| 10:00-10:30 | Presentation of background, objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop | Dr. Mohamed Seisay, AU-IBAR |
| 11:00-11:30 | Outcome of previous initiatives on fostering REC-RFB linkages by AUC-NPCA | AUC-DREA, Jonathan Ocran |
| 12:00-13:00 Presentation RFBs: mandates, main objectives, specialization- 15 Minutes each | | |
| COREP | | |
| SRFC | | |
| FCWC | | |
| SWIOFC | | |
| LVFO | | |
| LCBC | | |
| LTA | | |
| ANAF | | |
| 13:00-14:00 Lunch | | |
| 14:00-15:00 Presentation by RECs on mandates, objectives and activities in fisheries and aquaculture and current linkages- 15 Minutes each | | |
| ECCAS | | |
| IGAD | | |
| EAC | | |
| ECOWAS | | |
| COMESA | | |
| 15:00-15:30 | Case study for ECCAS-COREP: methodology and findings | Mr. Michel Biang, Legal consultant on institutional linkages |
| 15:30 – 18:00 | <p>Discussion topic: What are the issues and challenges for building collaboration and cooperation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation between the RFBs themselves Cooperation between the RFBs and RFMOs, Water Basin management etc. Cooperation with the RECs | 2 Working Groups |
| Day 2: | | |
| | 11-07-2014 | |
| 09:00-10:00 | Plenary | |
| 10:00-10:30 | The role of AFRM in supporting collaboration in African fisheries | Dr. Mohamed Seisay, AU-IBAR |
| | <p>Discussion topic: What are the appropriate strategic options/mechanism strengthening</p> | |

| Time | Event | Presenter/facilitator |
|---------------|--|---|
| | i. Collaboration between the RFBs ii. Collaboration with other institutions e.g. RFMOs, water basin management, mining, forestry sector iii. Collaboration with the RECs | |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | |
| 15:00-16:00 | Discussion topic How can the AFRM be used to strengthen institutional collaboration? | |
| 16:00-18:00 | Plenary | |
| Day 3: | | |
| | 12-07-2014 | |
| 09:00-10:00 | Options for creating institutional linkages for fisheries management | Mr. Michel Biang, Legal consultant on institutional linkage |
| 10:00-13:00 | Discussion topic What are the options for institutional collaboration, - formulation of Roadmap? | 2 working groups |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch | |
| 14:00-16:00 | Task: Development of action plans based on recommendations | 2 Working Groups |
| 16:00-18:00 | Plenary and closure | |

9.1. List of participants

| ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION IN AFRICAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|
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| 17 | ECOWAS | Mr Bossou Komlan | R e g i o n a l P r o g r a m m e C o o r d i n a t o r , | Socio-Economic Development O F Z - P r o g r a m m e , A g r i c u l t u r e & R u r a l D e v e l o p m e n t D i r e c t o r a t e , 1 0 1 Y a k u b u G o w o n C r e s c e n t - A s o k o r o D i s t r i c t , P . M . B 4 0 1 - A b u j a , N I G E R I A . | (+234) 8160027653 or 80865803 71 | bosskomlan@yahoo.fr |

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