

Report on the Proceedings of Virtual Continental Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Awareness on African Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Mechanisms



15th October 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was adopted by the African Executive in 2020 (Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec. 1074 (XXXVI) with vision to foster an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth. The Ministers at the 3rd Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) in October 2019n recommendations following the endorsement of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy:

- The Commission to support adequate awareness creation, capacity building and sharing of best practices of the application of the Blue Economy concept;
- The Commission to support setting up Blue Governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels; and
- The Commission to mobilize resources for the implementation of Blue Print for Africa's Blue Economy Strategy.

Based on the above recommendations, the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organized a continental consultative workshop on enhancing awareness on Africa Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Mechanism on the 15th October 2020.

The Objectives of the workshop:

The overall objective of the continental consultative workshop was to provide space for regional and partners' initiatives to be harmonized on a continental level in the context of AU approach, ABES and support to integration mechanism that is inclusive. The specific objectives were:

- To enhance awareness on blue economy and blue governance concepts, sharing lessons and best practices;
- To popularize ABES by elaborating on key provisions to stakeholders;
- To present ABES Implementation Plan (and M&E framework) and to solicit opinion for improvement; and,
- To present blue governance coordination mechanisms and to solicit opinion for improvement
- To create opportunities for synergies and harmonization in the implementation of ABES and other initiatives

The Participants:

There were 88 participants to the virtual consultative workshop comprising of representatives of the following institutions:

African Union Commission

- Represented by H. E. Commissioner REA
- Directors of Trade & Industry, Energy & Infrastructure, Peace & Security, Women, Gender and Development and Office of the Legal Counsel; o
- NEPAD Agency
- AU-IBAR

Donors and Development Partners

- Permanent Mission of Norway to the AU – Represented by the Ambassador
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Norway
- Norwegian Agency for Development
- European Union (EU)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- World Bank
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- United Nations (UN-ECA, UNEP, FAO)
- WWF

Government of Kenya

- Representative of the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Blue Economy

Members of the RECs

- ECOWAS
- SADC
- ECCAS
- UMA
- COMESA
- EAC
- IGAD

Regional Economic Blocs

- Indian Ocean Commission
- UEMOA

Specialized Regional Institutions (on Blue Economy)

- General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean
- Benguela Current Commission
- Abidjan Convention
- COMHAFAT
- WWF International
- Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP)
- African Ship-owners Association
- African Marine Environment & Sustainability

Regional Fisheries Bodies

- Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)
- Nile Basin Authority
- Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
- Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat
- Autorite du Bassin du Niger
- Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP)
- Les Huitres de la petite cote

Centres of Excellence (Fisheries / Blue Economy)

- ACADEMIE REGIONALE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNIQUES DE LA MER (ARSTM), Cote D'Ivoire
- Faculty of Fisheries Resources, Suez University, Egypt
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NAFiRRI), Uganda
- University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- University of Rhodes, South Africa

Non State Actors (NSA)CSOs, youth Representation, Women Representation, Networks (NGOs)

- AwFishNet – African women fish processors and processors Network
- WIMAfrica – Women in Maritime in Africa
- PRNFAA – Policy Research network for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
- Afri-FishNet

Blue Economy experts

- Experts in Blue Economy (including Fisheries & Aquaculture)

Opening Session:

The master of ceremony for the opening session was Prof. Ahmed El-sawalhy, the Director of AU-IBAR. Statements were made by the following:

1. Opening remarks by the Director of AU-IBAR
2. Statement on behalf of the Kenyan Government by Ms Susan Otienno, Director in charge of Blue Economy, representing the Minister in Charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Blue Economy
3. His Excellency Mr. Bard Hopland, the Norwegian Ambassador to the African Union
4. Her Excellency, Ambassador Yosefa Sacho, the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission

In his opening remarks, the Director of AU-IBAR welcomed all the participants to the workshop and expressed his appreciation to the participants for honoring the invitation from AU-IBAR to participate in this continental consultation. This demonstrates, he noted, their support to the aspirations of the African Union development Agenda as encapsulated in Agenda 2063. He reminded the participants that the Africa Blue Economy Strategy was developed to contribute to the fulfilment of the aspirations of African continent through effective harnessing of the potential in the aquatic resources. He detailed the consultative processes that went into the development of the Strategy, including the following:

1. Development of the roadmap and approach
2. Expert scoping missions undertaken to selected countries for collation of lessons and best practices in blue economy development to inform the development of draft blue print of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy
3. Organizing broad-based stakeholders to review and improve on the draft blue print of the Strategy
4. Presentation to the technical session of the of 3rd STC-ARDWE in October 2019 for further critical review
5. Endorsement of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy by the Ministers of the 3rd STC-ARDWE in October 2019 and subsequently by the African Union executive Council in February 2020

He informed the participants that the purpose of the consultation workshop was based on the ensuing recommendations of the Hon. Ministers at 3rd STC-ARDWE to create awareness and popularize the ABES as well as support the AU member states and Regional institutions that have

embarked on the formulation of their national and regional strategies coherent with the ABES. He expressed gratitude to the EU, AU member states and the Kingdom of Norway for their support in the development of the Strategy as well as to initiate the implementation of the Strategy. He underscored the technical support of the Government of Seychelles for their contribution to the development of the Strategy. He noted with appreciation the cooperation and support of all stakeholders and experts for their contribution to the formulation of the widely acclaimed Strategy.

The Director of AU-IBAR, in his capacity as Master of Ceremony for the opening session introduced the Representation of the Kenyan Government, Ms. Susan Otieno, to give a statement. The Director informed the audience the pioneering role of the Kenyan government in creating the momentum for blue economy development on the continent. This is manifested by the hosting of first Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in November 2018 as well as the organization of the dedicated side event on “embracing blue economy development in Africa’ of the margins of 6th TICAD in Nairobi in 2016.

Ms, Susan Otieno, Director of Blue Economy in Kenya, conveyed apologies for the unavailability of the Principal Secretary for Fisheries aquaculture and Blue economy. Prof. Ntiba, to deliver the Statement on behalf of the Minister hon. Peter Munya due to prescheduled events. She noted that the ABES was timely to fulfil the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 especially in the areas of poverty alleviation. She informed the participants that Kenya placed high importance on sustainable blue economy and underlined the support of the Kenyan Government to roll out the ABES by aligning the Kenya Strategy with the ABES.

The Director, AU-IBAR introduced the newly assigned Ambassador of the kingdom of Norway to the African Union, His Excellency, Mr. Bard Hopland. He welcomed and congratulated the Ambassador on his new assignment and wished him a successful and fruitful tenure of office. The participants were carried through the vast diplomatic experience of the ambassador, having served in several African Countries as well as occupying diplomatic desks in his native country of Norway, prior to his present assignment, spanning nearly two decades.

In his statement, H.E Ambassador expressed thanks to the AU-IBAR for the invitation and for organizing the first consultation on Africa Blue Economy Strategy for awareness raising on blue economy concept and implementation mechanisms. The oceans have an enormous potential for value creation and growth. The African continent is no exception. According to The Ambassador

the value of the ocean economy might grow by 37% by 2030 and double by 2063. A prerequisite for such growth is that the oceans are managed sustainably.

The Norwegian Ambassador informed the workshop that the need for sustainable ocean management is also the core message from the Ocean Panel Co-chaired by the Norwegian Prime Minister and the President of Palau. The Panel, composed of 14 heads of states and governments, will launch on 3rd December a bold new healthy ocean agenda so we can have a sustainable ocean economy where protection, production and prosperity go hand in hand.

He noted the importance of promoting sustainable ocean management and in particular an ecosystem-based integrated ocean approach and reiterated Norway support to effort in the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. He welcomed and support efforts made by the AU member states to realize the full benefit from the various sectors of the blue economy and at the same time ensure healthy and productive marine and aquatic ecosystems. He noted that the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) is providing an excellent framework for partnership, as well as collective and coherent action through development and implementation of national and regional action plans.

The Ambassador admonished the participants it is important to avoid conflicts between the various blue economy sectors but rather to adopt multi-sectoral and harmonized approach. He informed the workshop that Norway has extensive experience in governance and has experienced that experience the world over. He underscored the point that knowledge based management is key for solid decision-making. Including local communities and people working in the blue economy sectors in the planning process is essential. This ensures transparency and inclusiveness, which are important to avoid conflict, build confidence and legitimacy towards the integrated management plans. Thus blue economy development should be all inclusive, involving all relevant stakeholders and communities, CSOs, women and youth. He ended by stating that Norway will continue to be a partner in sustainable blue economy development in Africa.

For decades, Norway has shared its experience and expertise in ocean management, including sustainable fisheries and aquaculture with many African countries. A new programme, Ocean for Development, will support a sustainable blue economy by assisting cooperating countries in improving their ocean governance. We welcome a close partnership with the AU in the implementation of this new programme.

The Director of AU-IBAR invited and formally introduced H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, as the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the AUC. The Director informed the participants that Her Excellency has accumulated extensive experience in international cooperation in Agriculture and Rural Development.

She is a champion of international cooperation in tackling various challenges that confront Agriculture and Rural Development. Her passion for partnership and cooperation in Agricultural and Rural development has seen Her Excellency convene and participate in various continental and international fora. The AU-IBAR team know her very well for her passion for the development of Animal Resources in Africa and in particular for her commitment to the development of the Blue Economy.

In her opening statement, she conveyed warm greetings from H.E. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat to all the participants for gladly accepting the invitation by AU-IBAR to be part of this first consultative process on awareness raising on Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Ambassador extended special thanks and profound appreciation to the Kingdom of Norway, through the Norwegian Embassy to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the dedicated support towards initiating the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. The Commissioner informed the participants of the following activities being embarked by her department including the African Union Wildlife strategy with a focus on combating illegal fishing and trade in fisheries, climate change strategy, Circular strategy for reduction and reuse of waste. He reiterated the importance of ocean governance and the potential for the Africa blue economy strategy to harness the potential of oceans, seas, lake and rivers for the economic transformation of the continent. She congratulated AU-IBAR to taking the lead in the development of the strategy and for overseeing its implementation. The Commission called up the Kingdom of Norway for the continuation of support to Africa Blue economy development. She formally declared the consultative workshop opened.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATION TO THE WORKSHOP

The technical session was heralded by presentation from, Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Senior Fisheries Officer at AU-IBAR on the objectives of the workshop and the contextualization of the ABES with related regional and global instruments or initiatives.

The participants were reminded of the following recommendations by the hon. Ministers during the 3rd session of STC-ARDWE in October 2029 as follows which were the basis of the rationale for organizing the consultative workshops:

- The AU Commission to support adequate awareness creation, capacity building and sharing of best practices of the application of the Blue Economy concept;
- The AU Commission to support setting up Blue Governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels; and
- The AU Commission to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

In the presentation, the complementarities between the ABES and the continental and global initiatives were demonstrated

- AU Agenda 2063 –
- PFRS -
- 2050 AIMS -
- 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) -
- 2030 SDGs - Being part of the Sustainable Development Goals, (especially 14 (SDG 14) on Life below Water) but also supports implementation of SDGs 1,2,3, 7, 9, 13, 17 etc)
- UNFCCC (NDC), UNCLOS, CCRF, VG-SSF, PSMA, Compliance Agreement, UNFSA, other maritime charter, CBD etc

The objectives were outlined as follows;

The overall objective of the continental consultative workshop is to provide space for regional and partners' initiatives to be harmonized on a continental level in the context of AU approach, ABES and support to integration mechanism that is inclusive.

- To enhance awareness on blue economy and blue governance concepts, sharing lessons and best practices;
- To popularize ABES by elaborating on key provisions to stakeholders;

- To present ABES Implementation Plan (and M&E framework) and to solicit opinion for improvement; and,
- To present blue governance coordination mechanisms and to solicit opinion for improvement
- To create opportunities for synergies and harmonization in the implementation of ABES and other initiatives

The participants were apprised of ongoing activities in respect of the implementation of the Strategy:

1. Formulation of Implementation of Plan (including M&E framework) for the ABES
2. Development of a framework for setting up blue governance coordination mechanisms; to enhance harmonization and synergies
3. Organizing stakeholders' consultative workshops for awareness enhancing on BE and BG concepts, ABES and implementation mechanisms at:
 - a. Continental level involving AUC, RECs, specialized regional institutions, partners, NSAs
 - b. Regional levels involving AU member states and NSAs (West-Central, East-Southern and North African Regions)

The future activities on out of the ABES were presented as follows:

1. Engaging AU MS and RECs to formulate national and regional blue economy strategies in coherence with the ABES
2. Engaging AU MS, RECs and AUC to set-up national, regional and continental blue governance coordination mechanisms
3. Strengthen capacity of AU MS and regional institutions in methodologies to implement Aquatic Spatial Planning, develop Blue Economy Accounting System (evaluating blue economy resources; Ecosystem Services (BES) and NDCs)
4. Reinforce national and regional capacities on concepts such as LME modules, Watershed approach

TECHNICAL SESSIONS:

SESSION I: SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATION ON AWARENESS ENHANCING ON AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS:

The Session was moderated by Professor James Wabacha, Animal Health Expert, AU-IBAR

Presentations

1.1. Blue Economy and Blue Governance Concepts by Prof. Pierre Failler

Mentioned the need for linking the three pillars in Blue Economy strategy: social, Economic, and Environmental Sustainability, with the challenge of maintaining the three pillars cohesively at many different levels of the strategy. Another key point is the enforcement of coordination efforts to challenge the externalities resulting from the Blue Economy strategy, through existing policies. He noted that Ocean, lakes, rivers, ponds, and all water bodies are at the heart of most of the SDGs and all should deserve appropriate recognition in blue economy development.

In practice, however, Prof. Pierre Failler noted that blue economy development is based on sectorial approach. There is no coordination of efforts for synergies. Still based on standard Development Approach = More economic benefits.

There is need to Implement & enforce existing policies and management Measures.

Exemplary mention was Bangladesh, considered the most advanced regarding Blue Economy strategy implementation. Examples given was the ban of trash fish, and mandatory declaration of catches as some of the efforts to monitor and regulate the industry.

Major constraints to blue economy development:

Lack of Planning

- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) has not yet planned and designed in coordination with various stakeholders in Southern countries while MSP should be integrated and multi-objective, strategic and future oriented, and continuous and adaptive to use all marine resources for ***sustainable blue growth - Secure Investments and reduce negative externalities.***

Lack of Coordination

- Between administrative and research institutions
- Between administration and private sectors
- Inter-ministerial coordination is very much vital to bring forward all the relevant developmental issues related to the SBE
- Lack of consideration for ecosystem services and climate change effects
- Ecosystem services are not taken into account (as well coastal and marine environment) into Ocean based economic development policies
- Climate change not [enough] integrated in SBE strategies
- Lack of Blue Economy Development Bank
- To bring the financial support at the level needed
- To contribute to ensure the sustainability of BE development

Keys to success in blue economy concept:

- Planning (reduce externalities, secure investment),
- Coordination (a unit at the high level),
- Climate change effects,
- Establishment of a Blue economy development bank

With regards to blue economy coordination mechanisms, He underscored the point that capacity building, Blue financing, Blue accounting system should be a benchmark for Blue Governance

The need for blue governance:

Entailing the following:

- Awareness on the importance of Ocean and Water
- Coordination and Planning (all levels from local to international)
- Evidences about potentials
- Capacity building: education and research
- Blue Accounting
- Blue Financing
- Maritime sovereignty

1.2. Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) Dr. Patrick Karani

The thematic areas of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy were outlined as follows:

- Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems
- Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and 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

The Vision of the BE Strategy is an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth. The objective of the BE Strategy 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, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.

Africa Today and at the Horizons 2030 and 2063

Outlook of Value added of BE Sectors and Value of BE components (Ecosystems Services, education, Research, etc.) from 2018 to 2063 as well as employment by the various sectors:

African BE sectors and components generate today a value of USD 296 billion with 49 million jobs. It is projected that by 2030, figures will be respectively USD 405 billion and 57 million jobs while in 2063 estimates would respectively be USD 576 billion of value created and 78 millions of jobs. The number of jobs would correspond to about 5% of the active population in 2063.

The main driving sectors of the BE are tourism, both in term of value added and jobs created; the mineral sector, and the Oil and Gas that have a strong contribution to the value added but a low participation in the job creation process. The fishery sector will remain stable, with a high number of people employed while the aquaculture will continue to grow in next decades. Port and shipping will grow at a constant rate. The value of blue carbon and other ecosystem services generated by coastal, marine and aquatic ecosystems will progressively increase as conservation efforts expand. Education and research will follow the same pattern due to a growing demand for knowledge, especially in the area of deep-sea mining, offshore exploration and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The presentation outlined the following as key drivers of change for Africa Blue Economy development:

- **African population growth and demand**
- **Regional/international Economic integration**
- **Nationally Determined Contributions**
- **Environment and biodiversity protection**
- **Sustainable Blue Energy for Addressing Energy Demand**
- **Ocean Mining for Meeting Global Demand and National Economic Development**
- **Innovative Industries for Accelerating Economic Development Benefits**
- **Large companies and Countries transport strategies**

The technical and strategic challenges to Africa's blue economy development were enumerated as follows:

1. Strategic challenges

- a. Blue governance
- b. Economic and social
- c. Nutritional
- d. Environmental and climate change

2. Technical challenges

- a. Assessing the Blue Potential
- b. Accounting BE activities and components for better governance
- c. Maritime spatial planning (MSP) and better coordination and synergy
- d. Integrated and prospective approach to marine ecosystems
- e. Increasing safety and security through an integrated maritime surveillance
- f. Value addition

In a bid to optimize benefits from Africa Blue Economy resources, the following areas of intervention were identified in the presentation:

Areas of Interventions	Strategic objective
Blue Governance and Institutional change	To Strengthen Institutions for Policy Environment and Governance to coordinate African BE
	To have the African BE accelerate the Economic Transformation
	Africa assumes leadership for financing BE development

Areas of Interventions	Strategic objective
Shipping	Carrying cargoes of African countries at reasonable rates
Port	Modernisation of African ports
Fishery and aquaculture	Optimising conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes Achieving full wealth-generating potential for fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment
Energy	Unlocking the sustainable blue energy potential (Technical Aspect) Creating conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy
Mineral and Oil and Gas	Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources and oil and gas for economic prosperity
Innovative Industries	Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through R&D
Coastal tourism	Developing an Integrated and Sustainable Tourism
Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services and Resilience	Promoting the integration of blue carbon and ecosystem services into CC policies and Coastal and Aquatic policies Ensuring Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities

Ensuing Discussions and recommendations:

- There is huge need to kick start actions towards realistic coherent blue economy with inclusiveness (NGOs, CBO, Government etc) as the bedrock. What tangible efforts are directed in this regard?

- How is the issue of integration of the five sectors (components) covered in the ABE Strategy?
- Is there any provision in BE to have access to the ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) and the resource therein? It is important to have a continental framework to negotiate ABNJ on behalf of the continent
- Land locked countries should also be on-board by adopting a wider definition of BE that includes inland aquatic resources, Blue Energy (hydroelectric power), minerals, tourism, etc.
- Need to emphasize strategies on legal actions on illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries culprits
- How do we manage the overlaps/duplications between some chapters of the Lome Charter and the AU Blue Economy Strategy?
- It is important to recognize that Member states have given a mandate to Regional Seas Conventions regarding blue economy. Where do they stand in the current AU setup? Is there a possibility to bring together Abidjan, Barcelona, Jeddah and Nairobi Conventions under the political guidance of the AU to jump start the process?
- There are several multitudes of BE initiatives on the continent demonstrating many silos with a lack or very limited coordination. What role does or should the African Union play, at least when it comes to the continent?

Recommendations:

- Reinforce national and regional capacities on concepts such as LME modules, watershed approaches
- Need to implement and enforce existing policies and management measures
- Need an environmental protection plan
- Create spaces for small scale fisheries and include them in the strategies
- Whereas establishing a Blue Economy Bank is advisable, it would be great to mobilize existing financing institutions to align their priorities to the Sustainable Blue Economy agenda

SESSION 2: BLUE ECONOMY IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The Session was moderated by Mr. Kennedy Oroko and Mr. Admore Chakadenga

Presentations:

2.1. Draft ABES Implementation Plan and M&E framework by Dr. Asmerom Gilau

The Africa Blue Economy Implementation Plan (2021 – 2025) proposes a way forward to overcome the challenges hindering the implementation of the African Blue Economy Strategy and makes use of the huge opportunity for economic prosperity and job creation.

The Implementation Plan is structured around the 5 areas of intervention namely:

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

The Action plan is based on the challenges and opportunities identified in the Strategy' for the five thematic areas of the ABES, goals and strategic objectives identified:

For each strategic objectives, an Implementation Plan is being developed that constitutes:

- Targets
- Actions/Activities
- Expected results
- Performance Indicators
- Implementation timeline
- Coordination mechanisms

Areas of Intervention I: *Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems*

Context and Specific Objectives

- Fisheries and aquaculture sector contribute immensely to poverty alleviation, provision of food and nutritional security.

- With this plan, the AU member states will unlock the full potential of the sector to enhance livelihoods and generate wealth within the BE space.
- Targeted interventions will be conducted that will increase productivity, profitability and sustainability, and supported by multiple partners within the public and private sectors, NGOs, CSO, academics and development partners, and with full support by the AU during implementation.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

- The ministry, department or agency in-charge of the fisheries and aquaculture sector set up a Directorate or Unit, if not already exist, to oversee the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluations.
- The Directorate/Unit to establish a Committee/Working Group (WG) composed of representatives of all key stakeholders whose primary responsibility of the WG is to domesticate the plan and steer its implementation.
- The competent authority to fulfil its national, regional and international obligations, supported with resources by partners, AU-IBAR, RECS and NPCA Secretariats as well as conducting periodic M&E
- Establish a link with the national BE coordination entity/unit and with the AU-IBAR, RECS, LMEs, AUDA-NEPAD, RFMOs, RFB, Inland Water Commissions and regional seas programs.



Areas of Intervention I: Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems

Goals	Goal 1 Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes (16 Targets, 38 Actions)	Goal 2 Achieving full wealth-generating potential for fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth (29 Targets, 52 Actions)	Goal 3 Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment (24 targets, 41 Actions)
93 Targets 172 Actions	1.1. Establishing institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonized fisheries and aquaculture activities with other blue economy themes (3 Targets, 14 Actions)	2.1. Develop small-scale fisheries whilst minimising the negative impacts of other blue investments (7 targets, 9 Actions)	3.1. Develop communication strategies about blue growth as well as create awareness and develop human capacity (6 targets, 12 Actions)
Strategic Objectives	1.2. Promote conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources (7 targets, 16 Actions)	2.2. Promote inclusive blue value chain incorporating fisheries sustainable aquaculture, ornamental fisheries and tourism sector (7 targets, 12 Actions)	3.2. Ensure security of investment of fisheries and aquaculture (2 targets, 5 Actions)
	1.3. Establish regional and sub-regional cooperation in the blue economy themes (6 Targets, 8 Actions)	2.3. Achieve a responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing including inclusive inter-regional and cross border fish trade (8 targets, 15 Actions)	3.3. Create safe working conditions and security (3 targets, 4 Actions)
		2.4. Attract and promoting private-public-partnership (PPP) sectors investments and financing for fisheries and aquaculture in order to realise the full potential of the blue growth (4 targets, 7 Actions)	3.4. Strengthen resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change (5 targets, 10 Actions)
		2.5. Accelerate the dev of fisheries and aqua fish processing and storage capacities within BE-related industries (2 targets, 2 Actions)	3.5. Empower women and youth in fisheries and aquaculture in order to take full advantage for blue growth (3 targets, 3 Actions)
		2.6. Maximise benefits from high seas fisheries (1 targets, 7 Actions)	3.6. Rehabilitate and or secure threaten fishing grounds/zones, prevention of land-based pollution and degradation of aquatic environments (5 targets, 7 Actions)



Areas of Intervention I: Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems

Goal 1 – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Strategic Objective 1 - Establishing institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonised fisheries and aquaculture activities with other blue economy themes					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Indicators	Time frame	Coordinator (C) and Partnership (P)
1. Establish institutional multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national level	Set up a national working group that will have oversight responsibilities for the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluations of the prioritized targets under Area of Intervention	Working Group in place	Meeting minutes	2021-2025	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Sector Ministry
	Delegate a senior official, at the level of a Director or high, to provide strategic leadership to the working group.	Official appointed	Minutes of Sector Ministry	2021	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Sector Ministry P: Nat. stakeholders

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Areas of Intervention 2: Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement

Context and Specific Objectives

- In most African countries, port infrastructures are obsolete and transport corridors in poor condition.
- Maritime trade is currently dominated by conglomerates which unilaterally set freight rates and thus organize the shipping market in their way. This situation was favoured by a series of measures aimed at deregulation of the sector.
- However, since 2017, there have been positive developments that needs to keep the momentum moving forward to create synergy and build capacities through cooperation with various institutions and development partners.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

Due to the lack of State authority's interest to prioritize the maritime transport, serious consequences has emerged such as:

- International conventions and related agreements, even if they are ratified, are not implemented,
- Sub-regional organizations responsible for coordinating maritime activities do not have the support of the States which do not pay much attention to the management of maritime traffic rights.

In this regard, for the governance of the sector and coordination of the activities, it is necessary to:

- Strengthen the coordination bodies of the blue economy in each State and to create them in states that do not have them,
- Implement international conventions and various regional and sub-regional agreements on transport and international trade,
- Organize more synergy and consultation between the national structures responsible for managing maritime transport for more consistency and efficiency in actions.



Areas of Intervention 2 : Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement

Goals	Goal 1	Goal 2
	Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates	Develop interstate trade
Objectives	1.1 Control sea freight rates and other transport costs	1.1 Creation and development of transport corridors
	1.2 Promote good governance of the sector	2.2 Develop sub-regional cabotage transport
	1.3 Promote the training of actors	2.3 Application of conventions and agreements on free movement of persons and goods and standards
	1.4 Ensure security and safety in the African maritime area	

Areas of Intervention 3: *Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure*

Context and Specific Objectives

- Despite its potential for economic development and job creation, this sector contains critical gaps, particularly relation to a mechanism for coordination, efficient and effective implementation of programs.
- Inadequate practical information at the national and or regional levels is another challenge.
- Thus, the objective is to develop and strengthen technical capability and institutional abilities required and necessary to deliver practical solutions to African countries that are pragmatic, realistic and achievable, while at the same time delivering tangible benefits to African countries in terms of economic diversification, better climate, clean environment and resilient infrastructure.
- Institutional arrangements to set-up
- Enhance or set-up a proper Tourism coordination mechanism that integrates environmental and economic data;
- Develop their Tourism sectors based on supply and demand of goods and services adapted to countries development priorities;

- Ensure links between System of National Accounting (SNA) to overall integration of both Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and System of Economic and Environmental Accounting (SEEA) framework as required to generate information for decision-making;
- Fix current institutional inefficiencies, data gaps and information problems originating from inbound, domestic tourism and outbound tourism expenditure; internal tourism expenditure; production accounts of tourism industries;
- Ensure coherence and synergies between AU Tourism institutional coordination based on Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) with Member States' System of National Accounts (SNA) and,
- Develop institutional mechanism to promote Africa's tourism with potential to increase Gross Value Added (GVA) and GDP



Areas of Intervention 3 : Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure

Goals	Goal 1 Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and empowered communities	Goal 2 Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism	Goal 3 Sustainable Tourism	Goal 4 Resilient Infrastructure, Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services
Objectives	1.1 develop integrated strategies for sustainable environmental management	2.1 develop integrated strategies for regional cooperation	3.1 develop integrated strategies for sustainable tourism	4.1 develop strategies for resilient infrastructure
	1.2 develop capacity for climate resilient economies and communities	2.2 develop capacity to strengthen regional institutions	3.2 develop integrated tourism infrastructure strategies	4.2 establish strategic linkages including infrastructure
	1.3 marine ecosystem balanced	2.3 harmonized collaboration on transboundary matters		
	1.4 enhance local communities' livelihoods	2.4 enhance partnership between public and private sector		
	1.5 develop a risk management framework	2.5 promote R&D and technology transfer		
	1.5 develop a risk management framework	2.6 support integrated planning mechanism		
	1.7 develop information database and dissemination mechanism	2.7 enhance inter and intra coordinated mechanism		

Areas of Intervention 4: Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries

Context and Specific Objectives

- This area of intervention has huge economic potential for Member States.
- Sustainable Blue Energy is one of the emerging opportunities, not only for coastal MS but also land locked countries with water bodies;
- Except for mining and oil and gas, which is relatively institutionalized, this sector is not adequately developed from institutional, infrastructural and human capacity perspective;
- In order to unlock the potential of sustainable blue energy, mineral resources and innovative industries technical, institutional, regulatory and human capacity related interventions need to be implemented.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

- The challenges of institutional requirements for implementing and fully unlocking these potentials remain at large
- The major institutional requirements include:
 - Integrate sustainable blue energy, mineral resources and innovative industries in the national and regional initiatives and policies
 - Enhance collaboration with international, regional, national and private sectors
 - Develop regulatory framework to attract private sector investments
 - Develop continental, regional and continental database
 - Strengthen research and development (R&D)



Areas of Intervention 4 : Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries

Goals	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
	Unlock sustainable blue energy potential	Create conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy	Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity	Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through R&D
Objectives	1.1. Increase blue energy penetration in the energy mix	2.1. Reform unsustainable financial structure and create conducive energy finance instruments	3.1. Increase deep-seabed and seawater mining production for meeting demand and economic prosperity	4.,1 Develop policy framework to accelerate the transfer and application of blue economy technologies
	1.2. Contribute in increasing reliable, affordable and modern energy	2.2. Develop sustainable blue energy master plan and policy derivatives	3.2. Create conducive regulatory frameworks for exploration of deep seawater	4.2. Strengthen institutional, infrastructural and human capacity
	1.3. Assess the availability of sufficient infrastructure at (a) national (b) regional, (c) and continental level	2.3. Develop environmental impact assessment guidelines	3.3. Promote sustainable and environmentally friendly deep-seawater exploration	4.3. Promote the application of innovative industries
	1.4 Power the blue economy		3.4 Capacity building and technology transfer	4.4. Create innovative industry database and support tools

Areas of Intervention 5: Polices, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing

Context and Specific Objectives

- This area of intervention is cross-cutting determinants useful to drive toward to the economic prosperity, innovation, job creation, poverty eradication and governance.
- An integrated and prospective approach to transformed and resilient economies in order to get a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth, sustainable development, innovation and local capacities is at the core the BE success.

Institutional arrangements to set-up;

From governance and institutional perspective, there is a need for:

- Ensuring the consistency of all regional and national BE initiatives, policies and strategies with the continental one;
- Developing a Blue Governance framework for ensuring the Coordination of activities following the subsidiarity principle;
- Developing proper tools for the Blue Governance such as the Blue Economy Accounting, the Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy Standards
- Develop integrated strategies for ensuring a sustainable and inclusive blue growth and AfCFTA.
- Ensure the running of continental and sub-regional capacity building mechanisms, innovations centers and networks of excellence for the circular economy, the clean industry and innovative financing mechanisms.



Areas of Intervention 5 : Polices, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing

Goals	Goal 1: To Strength Institutions for Policy Environment and Governance to coordinate African BE	Goal 2: To have the African BE accelerates the Economics Transformation	Goal 3: Africa to assume leadership for financing BE development
Objectives	1.1. Fostering coherence in policy practice and harmonisation of regulatory frameworks within and across sectors and levels	2.1. To assist MS and RECs to mainstream integrated strategies for sustainable and inclusive BE with focus on value chain enhancement	3.1. develop innovative financing tools and enablers to implement BE strategies at national, regional and continental levels
	1.2. Capable Institutions to foster inter-sectoral collaboration, implementation and accountability in delivering on Africa's blue economy goals	2.2 Mainstream relevant mechanism and framework to operationalise AfCFTA and Continental Frameworks	3.2. Initiate fiscal reform and other incentives to improve financial system and improve PPP and financing (State and non-State).
	1.3. Enhanced analytical and information support system at all levels for informed decision making and reporting	2.3. Reinforce BE capacities and accelerate STI	3.3. Promote the creation of a African Blue business alliance for the health and sustainable use of African Aquatic Ecosystems

2.2. Draft Blue Governance Coordination Mechanisms (ABES)- National, Regional and Continental Prof. Martin Ndende

The Africa Blue Governance Framework aims to:

- Establishing functional, integrated blue governance coordination mechanisms in AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities, for sustainable and holistic implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

It has specific objectives such as:

- Structure the coordination, the planning and the monitoring of the BE development in Africa
- Put in place specific institutional arrangements to ensure the coordination among the African policy bodies from the continental to the national ones.
- Act as a unified voice towards the international engagements, treaties, conventions, policies in the area of the Blue Economy

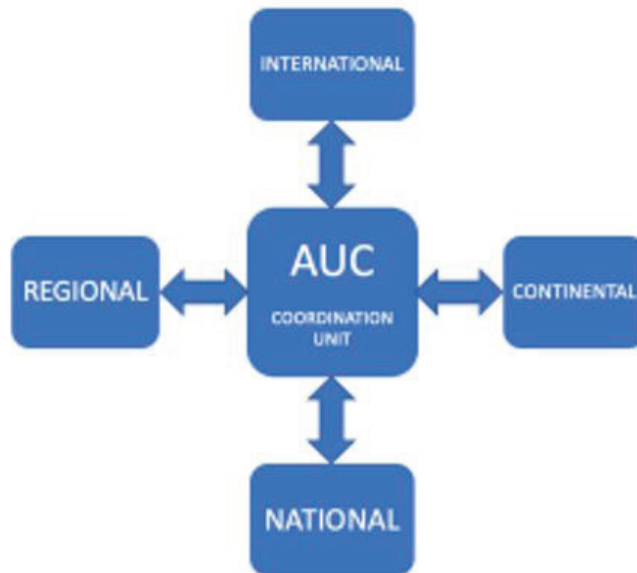
Blue Governance Principles :

1. At the level of Coordination, the following principles should be observed;
 - Alignment with key policies and strategies: Agenda 63, AIM50, Lomé Charter, SDG, etc.
 - Ensuring the application of key Blue Governance values: Good Governance (II principles); Circular Economy adoption; Environmental and Social sustainability; Empowerment and inclusive decision-making
 - Defining key Orientations based on the valuation of blue ecosystem functions and services, innovation and inclusiveness
 - Ensuring leadership in Transformative change: Climate change opportunities, new financing mechanisms, AfCFTA opportunities, capacity building (network of excellence), etc.
 - Fostering Coherence and ensuring the subsidiarity principles: consistency of BE initiatives between levels, develop BE initiatives at the right level
2. Develop relevant tools
 - Blue Economy national accounting: Blue sectors + Blue Ecosystems Services + Blue Social indicators (baseline and monitoring) (UNECA initiative)
 - Marine Spatial Planning: detailed spatial allocation of the blue spaces to avoid negative externalities and attract Investment
 - Blue Economy Standards: to ensure normalisation and conformity of BE services and products

- BE reporting scheme and dashboard: using BE national accounting and regional indicators
- Funding: innovative tools based on the valorisation of the blue natural capital



Institutional arrangements to set-up (1)



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Institutional arrangements to set-up (2)

COORDINATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL



Partnerships

Collaborations

Synergies

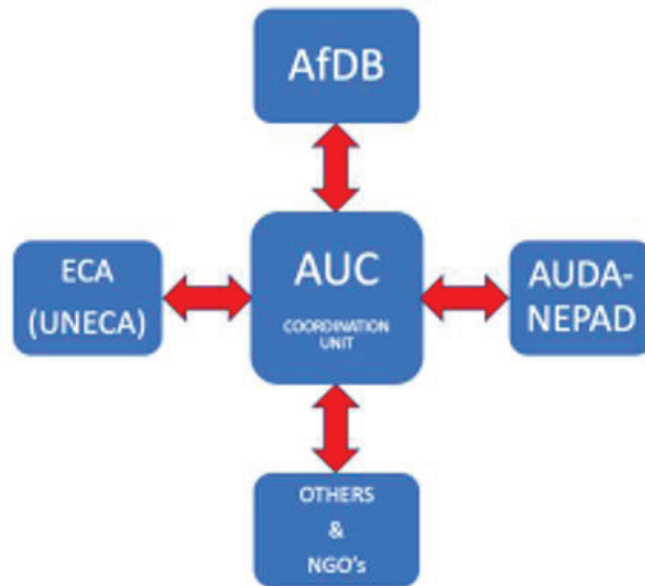
Fundings

www.au-ibar.org



Institutional arrangements to set-up (3)

BLUE ECONOMY CONTINENTAL STRATEGIES OR B.E POLICIES AND INITIATIVES



Partnerships

Collaborations

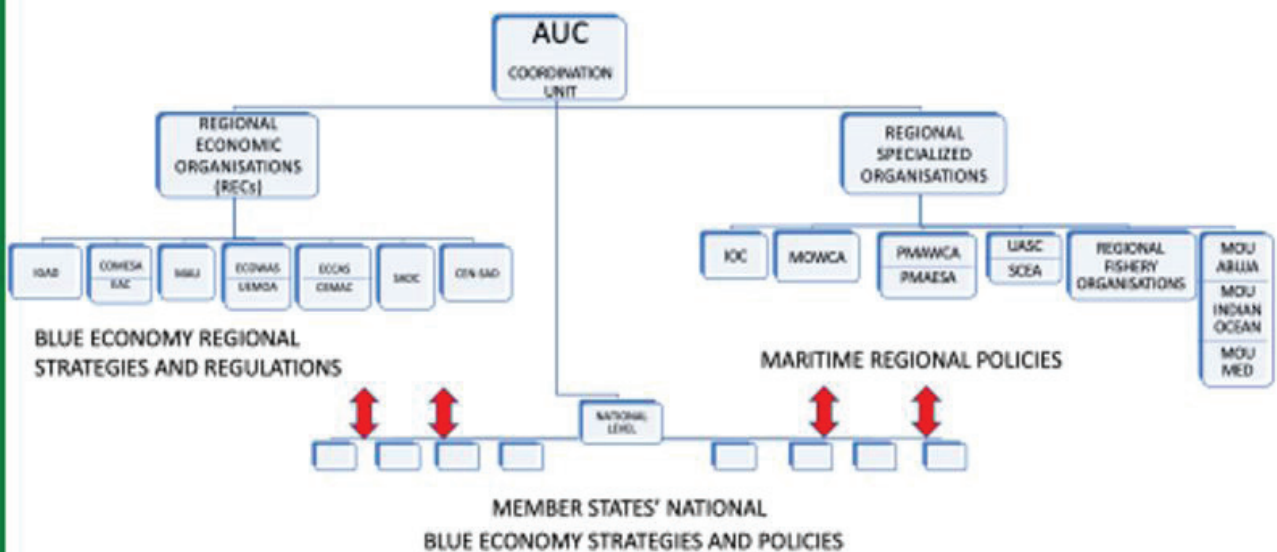
Synergies

Fundings

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Institutional arrangements to set-up (4 & 5)



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Institutional arrangements to set-up (6): Regulatory tools and legal institutions to develop

- Ratification and implementation of the International Conventions, Agreements and Regulatory instruments in the process of building the African Blue economy and blue growth (e.g.: All the United Nations Conventions enacted by their specialized agencies and bodies such as IMO, FAO, UNCTAD, ILO...)
- Elaboration of Regional regulatory frameworks aligned to the International and Continental Rules (e.g.: The CEMAC common Maritime Code, 2012)
- Harmonization and modernization of the national legal, Policy and regulatory frameworks and their alignment to the regional, continental and international rules (e.g: National Blue economy Strategies and Policies to be aligned to the African Blue economy Strategy)
- Creation of a continental Maritime Arbitration Chamber and Regional maritime courts specialized and focused on African maritime and Blue economy conflicts and litigations (except on particular cases to be submitted to and treated by the UN International maritime courts: ILOS and ICJ)
- Encourage and ensure the presence of African delegations and African experts in the works, activities and decisions undertaken by the International specialized institutions (Such as ISA, IMO, IMC, FAO, UNCTAD, ILO, WTO, etc...)

Specific arrangements to set-up relating to thematic areas of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy

1. Fishery Aquaculture, Conservation and Sustainable aquatic systems

The experts have identified number of problems in the field of Governance of this very important sector that requires a common and global approach throughout the continent:

- Open access in capture fisheries and ineffective foreign access agreements
- Historical focus on production, to the detriment of a sustainable exploitation
- Limited resources for fisheries management and aquaculture development
- Inadequate governance at national level and for management of transboundary stocks
- Limited competences and skills in general despite the member States' efforts : need of more capacity building, research and education
- Institutional weaknesses, with often terrible consequences such as the expansion of IUU fishing
- Need for legal, policy and institutional coordination mechanisms

- Specific coordination mechanisms and actions:
 - Need for a study aiming to establish institutional multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at all levels
 - Adopt a multi-level approach for harmonized fisheries and aquaculture policy with international, regional, subregional and national levels
 - Attract and promoting private-public-partnership (PPP) sectors investments and financing for fisheries and aquaculture in order to realise the full potential of the blue growth
 - Implementation of efficient tools such as the “Policy Framework and Reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa” (PFRS)

2. Blue Tourism , Environment and Climate resilience

- Specific coordination mechanisms:
 - Develop integrated strategies for sustainable tourism and enact a regional policy framework and action plan to integrate cooperation by 2065: Africa as a sustainable tourist destination
 - Develop integrated strategies for sustainable environmental management
 - Enhance local communities’ livelihoods
 - Develop a national and regional policy framework and action plan to integrate an environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities by 2063-2065
 - Align blue economy interventions to environmental agreements and other international agreements
 - Develop a national and regional policy framework and action plan to balance use of ecosystem
 - Establish a risk management policy framework stipulating approach to risk management, reporting, and how to embed to operation
 - Create enabling institutional environment for R&D,TT to drive the BE
- Public-Private partnership to set-up and actions
 - Enhance awareness on public private sector participation + communication channels between them
 - Promoting environmentally sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure, blue carbon & other ecosystem services

- Capacity building, Research and Education:
 - Elaboration of instruments of capacity building for Tourism, Environment, climate resilient economies and communities
3. Shipping/transportation, Trade, Ports, Safety and security
- Specific coordination mechanisms:
 - Create or strengthen the coordination bodies of the blue economy in the member States
 - Strengthen the institutional support of the States to the regional organizations of the blue world and their coordination mechanisms (MOWCA, PMAWCA, PMAESA, UASC, SCEA, UAPNA).
 - Implementation of conventions and agreements on trade, free movement of persons and goods and good standards
 - Harmonization of the national legislations and implementation of the various regulations (international conventions, regional and sub-regional agreements, memoranda of Africa Blue Economy Strategy II understanding, standards, etc)
 - Control sea freight rates
 - Strengthen and harmonize the trade facilitation mechanisms / Single window and paperless trade
 - Coordination of policies and actions in the field of the maritime safety and security
 - Integration of the land-locked countries in the maritime activities and port management
 - Promote good governance of the sector, including ports,
 - Strengthen the capacity building and professional specialization
 - Public-Private partnership to set-up and other national and regional specific initiatives
 - Creation of national and regional cabotage shipping companies with a view to promoting intra-African trade and facilitating the ZLECA and the economic and socio-economic integration of the continent
 - Develop existing ports and create new ports capable of receiving the latest generation ships (including inland ports),
 - Strengthen the ports infrastructure and the multimodal transport infrastructure
4. Sustainable Energy, Mineral resources and Innovative industries

The experts have identified number of problems in the field of Governance of that very strategic sector and that are requesting a common and global approach throughout the continent:

- Unavailability of enabling policy frameworks
- Lack of access to finance
- Unsuitable centralized systems
- Unconducive regulatory systems and capacity to drive competitiveness and ensure profitability
- Not adequately known Ocean mining potential and lack of Regulatory framework and Strategic Plan as well as Environmental Management plans
- Weak Institutional Capability and Research and Development on the Innovative industries

Specific coordination mechanisms:

- Developing harmonized and up dated Regulatory Frameworks + African Mining Vision, AMV + Continental mandatory minimum operating regulatory standards in the Mining sector (AU Mining Operating Protocol)
 - Strengthen Institutional Entities (or create new ones in the field of Innovative industries)
 - Promote Regional Power Sector Integration and Implement De-centralized Electricity Power Systems
 - Development of An Integrated Sustainable Blue Energy Planning
 - Undertake Regional analysis, Capacity building programs and Technology transfer for Integrated Approach
- - Public-Private partnership to set-up: Critically important for the promotion of investments

2.3. AUC – Internal coordination mechanism for ABES implementation; synopsis of 2019 December Retreat by Dr. Mohamed Seisay

Rationale:

The multi-sectoral nature of ABES calls for coordination amongst various agencies to ensure harmonized and synergistic approach in the implementation. Accordingly, in order to effectively determine how to operationalize and synergistically implement the Strategy, the AUC organized a retreat at the AU-IBAR premises in Nairobi, Kenya, December 2019. The participants of the retreat included representatives from AUC Member states, relevant AUC Departments; RECs, Partners, Experts and Women representatives etc.

AUC Departments/Agencies:

- Peace and Security (DPS)

- Political Affairs (DPA)
- Infrastructure and Energy (IED)
- Social Affairs (DSA)
- Trade and Industry (DTI)
- Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)
- Human Resource, Science and Technology (HRSR)
- Economy Affairs (DEA)
- Women, Gender and Development (WGDD)
- Civil Society and Diaspora (CSDD)
- Legal Affairs (OLC)

Objectives of the workshop:

The overall objective of the retreat was to elaborate the key provisions of the newly endorsed Africa Blue Economy Strategy and to develop a coordination mechanism for the seamless implementation of Strategy within the AU internal systems.

The specific objectives:

- Elaborate the key provisions ABES to ensure understanding especially AU systems, partners
- Presentation of blue economy initiatives by partners for exchange of information and identification of appropriate mechanisms for effective coordination and operationalization of the implementation of ABES;
- Determine an agenda for a follow-up meeting amongst AUC departments, AU MS, Partners, RECS

Meeting outcomes:

To facilitate effective coordination of the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy within AU system, a matrix was developed that included the five components of the ABES, against each of which was assigned various Departments/Agencies of the AUC based on mandates and related functions in Blue Economy based.



Matrix of ABES components and Responsible AUC Depts for Implementation

ABES Components and Coordination	Lead AU Depts	Complementary activities AU Depts	Partners/Stakeholders	Comments
Overall Coordination of ABES implementation	Eventually DREA but STC ministers AU-IBAR to undertake until capacity and blue economy structure is formally established at DREA	All AUC Departments	RECs,	
Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems	DREA through and its technical Agency (AU-IBAR)	DTI, DEA, HRST	EU, WB, IDB, FAO, AfDB, RECs, RFBs, RFMOs, RSCs, MS.	
Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement	OLC, DTI,	DEA, HRST; DPA; DREA	FAO; WB; AGRA; USAID; BMGF	
Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure	DREA, IED	DTI, DEA, HRST;	African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN); UNFCCC; UNEP; FAO; AfDB; UNCCD; UNCCD; GIZ; UNDP; EU	
Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries	IED, HRST	DREA, DTI, DEA, DPA	EU, UNECA; Korea and India, AfDB	
Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty reduction	DEA, WGDD, DSA	DREA, DTI, DPA, HRST, Office of SE on Women, P&S	UNECA; WB; GIZ and Korea, AfDB, UNDP, EU, and Sweden	

Key Emerging issues and recommendations

- Coordination framework needs to be in place to drive implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy at Continental, RECs and Member State levels; this is one of the objectives of today's workshop
- A regular monitoring and reporting framework needs to be developed; also this is another objective for this workshop
- The retreat noted that both production and protection of the resources that make up the Blue Economy are fundamental and thus protection of the resources cannot be ignored.
- Stronger communication and advocacy for the BE Strategy is required, including an even stronger role for Blue Economy Regional and National Champions
- Landlocked States concerns need to be addressed so that they can be fully integrated into the Blue Economy framework and communicated widely
- Inequality should be avoided and the rights of all, including women, youth and indigenous communities need to be addressed
- The African Union Blue Economy Strategy needs to be urgently shared to all Member States that are in the process of developing their own national Blue Economy strategies; this was done

and freely available on websites.

- A steering committee should be constituted as a task force on Blue Economy for monitoring the overall implementation; this should be part of the mechanism that would be established at continental level involving AUC, RECs and partners

Way forward

- Establish and operationalize blue economy structure to oversee coordination of implementation of ABES
- Mobilize resources among partners and AU MS to support coordinating functions
- Organize periodic coordination meetings on Africa Blue Economy Strategy
- Conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the detailed activities in the matrix

Ensuing Discussions and recommendations:

- What are the implementation mechanisms to ensure the human rights of the communities are not negatively impacted by bad governance, weak regulations, non-compliance and overfishing amongst other challenges?
- In the implementation of the strategies how are we making sure that we really include the coastal communities that depend primarily on the blue economy resources and the worst hit also with disasters like climate change?
- Are the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic expected to affect the implementation plan and its timelines?
- Great idea to have an Africa platform/dialogue on Sustainable blue. A platform to Promote dialogue between agencies/stakeholders including NGOs and Private sector will be very effective. It will work like “Centre dexellence” in the area
- Considering all these initiatives, a multidisciplinary and multisectoral groups to ensure efficiency and success of implementation of the ABES should be established
- How are we integrating these sectors? We are still stuck in our respective professional domains looking at Blue Economy from these domains? What are we proposing to do differently?
- It is well known there is an overlaps of RECs, however, we can use that as an opportunity for better synergy

TECHNICAL SESSION 3: SYNERGIES: INFORMATION SHARING ON BE INITIATIVES BY PARTNERS (10MINUTES EACH)

The session was facilitated by **Professor James Wabacha** and **Dr. Mohamed Seisay**

3.1. 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) by Amb. Dr. Namira Negm, Director AUC OLC

Background:

The AU interest in maritime issues has taken on an unprecedented scale over the recent years with the issues of illegal maritime activities such as piracy, particularly off the coast of Somalia, in the Gulf of Eden, also toxic waste dumping, illegal fishing, drug and human trafficking, etc. Therefore, the sea has become an issue which deserves more attention for inter-African cooperation because not only can it be a source of insecurity for African States, it also represents a source of opportunity for the development of the continent. Let's not forget that our coastline extends for around 40,000 km, with total of 38 coastal states. For these reasons, African Union Member States recognized the need to move towards an integrated management and governance of African seas and oceans through adoption of maritime related policy frameworks such as the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS).

The AIM Strategy was adopted along with its strategic plan of action by the Assembly of the African Union in January 2014. In its paragraph 18, the Vision for the AIMS is "to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner."

It is basically an overarching framework to help Africa address in the long-term, several of its maritime challenges, accelerate wealth creation through the development of a sustainable "blue economy" and ensuring maritime safety by achieving the four (4) goals and twelve (12) strategic objectives listed in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Strategy Document.

STEPS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF AIMS

- a. Adoption of the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter)
 - i. The adoption of the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) in 2016 was a significant step towards manifestation of a key objective of

the AIM Strategy, which is to ensure security and safety of the African Maritime Domain, especially in light of the rapid escalation of maritime crimes such as piracy on the East Coast.

- ii. As envisaged by the AIM Strategy, the Charter takes note of the need for AU Member States to work together to develop security objectives and combat maritime threats as a basis for sustainable development of our maritime domain.
 - iii. Once it enters into force, the Charter has the potential to boost the protection of Africa's coasts and seas and ultimately create a healthy and sustainable blue economy, however, this will be down to the political will and leadership of Member States, guided by the AUC.
- b. Designation of the 2015-2025 decade as the "Decade of African Seas and Oceans", and the date of 25 July as the African Day of Seas and Oceans.
- i. This designation helps to rally action on Africa's Maritime Domain as over the years, we have been able to use the celebrations to draw attention to maritime related issues and encourage AU Member States to take positive action towards improving Africa's seas and oceans governance and ultimately maximizing gains through our blue economy.
 - ii. Some of the themes we have focused on include:
 - **2016** - Maritime Governance for Sustainable Development
 - **2017** - Harnessing the Blue Economy in Achieving the African Union Agenda 2063 – Recall that the AU's Agenda 2063 which was adopted in January 2015, identifies the African blue economy as "Africa's future" and as a catalyst for socioeconomic transformation.
 - **2018** - Implementation of Africa Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa: Development of the Annexes to the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa – the aim was to draw Member States' awareness and garner ratifications for the entry into force of the Charter.
 - **2019** - Towards a Globally-binding Instrument on Marine Biological Diversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) – aim was to unify the position of African States in the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations for an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
 - **2020** - Effect of COVID-19 on the marine environment

- In addition to the annual celebrations of African Day of Seas, in 2015, the AU organized the ‘Continental Conference on the Empowerment of African Women in Maritime’, that took place in Luanda, Angola. This event brought special attention to the need for more women in the African maritime sector and was in line with the theme of the year “Women’s Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063”.
- Through these events, the AU has been able to facilitate spaces for dialogue and information sharing between government agencies from its Member States, Regional Economic Communities, CSOs, as well as African academics in the field of maritime and the private sector, among others, and therefore as well as promoting a blue economy that is sustainable and equitable.

c. Conclusion

- i. Inevitably, there will be some challenges with implementation of the AIM Strategy. A major one is in trying to ensure balance in efforts to address the various threats to the African Maritime Domain whilst obtaining the maximum benefit from our seas and oceans resources through development of our blue economy and at the same time ensuring that we do so in a sustainable manner that will protect our marine environment.
- ii. However, these are all goals identified in the 2050 AIM Strategy and its Plan of Action and the key to addressing these challenges lie in the way that the Framework document also calls for action from various sectors on crosscutting issue, such as Peace and Security, Rural Economy and Agriculture, Science and Technology, Infrastructure and Energy as well as Trade and Industry. These sectors are all catered for through the different Departments of the AU Commission designated for such.
- iii. With a boost to the technical capacity of the AUC, availability of necessary resources and of course the political will of Member States, there is no doubt that we will be able to ensure the coherence required to achieve the goals and objectives set out in the 2050 AIM Strategy.

AIMS Goals – Para. 20

1. A comprehensive understanding of existing and potential challenges, including allocation of resources to identified priorities over a pre-determined time-frame.
2. A comprehensive, concerted, coherent and coordinated approach that improves maritime

conditions with respect to environmental and socio-economic development as well as the capacity to generate wealth from sustainable governance of Africa's seas and oceans.

3. A common template for the AU, the RECs/RMs, and relevant Organizations; and Member States, to guide maritime review, budgetary planning and effective allocation of resources, in order to enhance maritime viability for an integrated and prosperous Africa.
4. A business plan that specifies milestones, capacity building targets and implementation requirements, including technical and financial support from within Africa and also from development partners.

AIMS Strategic Objectives – Para. 21

1. Establish a Combined Exclusive Maritime Zone of Africa (CEMZA)
2. Engage civil society and all other stakeholders to improve awareness on maritime issues
3. Enhance political will at community, national, regional and continental levels
4. Enhance wealth creation, and regional and international trade performance through maritime-centric capacity and capability building
5. Ensure security and safety of maritime transportation systems
6. Minimize environmental damage and expedite recovery from catastrophic events
7. Prevent hostile and criminal acts at sea, and Coordinate/harmonize the prosecution of the offenders
8. Protect populations, including AMD heritage, assets and critical infrastructure from maritime pollution and dumping of toxic and nuclear waste
9. Improve Integrated Coastal Zone/Area Management in Africa
10. Promote the ratification, domestication and implementation of international legal instruments
11. Ensure synergies and coherence between sectoral policies within and between the RECs/RMs
12. Protect the right of access to sea and freedom of transit of goods for landly-connected States.

3.2. FAO Blue Growth Initiative Dr. Ndiaga Gueye, FAORAF

Introduction:

The Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) is the sustainable growth and development emanating from economic activities in the oceans, wetlands and coastal zones that minimize environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of living aquatic resources, and maximize economic and social benefits. The Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) is a FAO flagship initiative and aims at:

- Supporting more productive, responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sectors by

improving the governance and management of the aquatic ecosystems.

- Conserving biodiversity and habitats
- Empowering communities.

BGI Examples:

FAO is working with a number of countries to develop and implement Blue Growth Strategies -

Cape Verde:

- National Charter and Investment Plan supporting transition to Blue Economy.
- Multiannual programme promoting Blue Growth and Blue economy

Morocco:

- Assistance to promote Blue Growth Observatory with Strategic Intelligence Unit.

Cote D'Ivoire

- Improved smoking kilns.
- Assistance programme to prepare transition towards Blue Growth.
- Assistance to consolidate national Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy considering BGI objectives and process

Algeria:

- National strategy for fisheries and aquaculture adapted to Blue Growth.

Seychelles:

- Develop and support Economic Intelligence Unit for Blue Economy.

Madagascar:

- Platform to support Blue Growth with artisanal fishing and aquaculture communities.

BGI Communities Platform

EMPOWERING SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IS CRITICAL TO THE BLUE COMMUNITIES PLATFORM

- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related IPOAs
- The “Tenure Guidelines”
- The “SSF Guidelines”

- The Right to Food Guidelines
- The “RAI” Principles

Key Takeaways:

- The FAO Blue Growth Initiative is a framework for achieving sustainable growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sector
- The goals of the FAO Blue Growth Initiative are to maximize economic and social benefits in an environmentally sustainable fashion
- The FAO Blue Communities platform seeks to empower and build resilient communities with improved livelihoods, food security and employment based on sustainable natural resources use, social organizations, norms and values, and users’ rights
- The FAO Blue Growth Initiative is closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Human Rights

3.3. Sustainable Blue Economy for Africa - AUDA-NEPAD Blue Economy Programme Dr. Bernice Mclean

Background

Parallel & aligned process to the development of the continental BE Strategy, part of the AU Reform process. Development of a sustainable Blue Economy Programme for AUDA NEPAD to facilitate the Implementation of BE priorities in alignment with Agenda 2063, Africa’s BE Strategy

Vision:

An inclusive, sustainable and resilient blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa’s transformation and growth

Purpose:

To support and facilitate the implementation of the African Union priorities and address the four impact areas of AUDA NEPAD

Goal:

Inclusive and sustainable development of Africa’s Blue Economy through coordination of and support to MSs and Regional Bodies in developing and implementing their Blue Economies in alignment with Agenda 2063

Objectives:

1. Strengthen technical capacity for implementation of sustainable BE concepts
2. Facilitate market linkages, communication & equitable stakeholder partnerships & engagement in priority BE value & supply chains
3. Promote effective Private Sector Involvement, financing & technology for innovative & equitable approaches to investment & trade
4. Strengthen BE knowledge generation & management (data production, collection & management)
5. Develop common African positions at Global Level Goal
6. Provide Policy implementation advisory and advocacy services

Impact:

The relative contribution of the Blue Economy to Africa's wealth, food security & nutrition & resilience grows equitably, consistently & sustainably

Outcomes:

1. Annual growth of contribution of BE sectors to GDP & continental development indices increases
2. Benefits from Africa's BE are maximized & contributing to socio economic resilience, wealth generation, food security, nutrition & environmental sustainability
3. Continental, regional & international value chains operating effectively & contributing to development targets
4. Investment (public and private) in BE sectors innovation and technology doubles within 10 years
5. Africa's BE development is driven by relevant, targeted, & regularly updated evidence based knowledge
6. All stakeholders actively & equitably engaged in setting Africa's BE agenda

Implementation Modalities

1. Knowledge generation, analysis & research;
2. Technical backstopping & support on strategic development planning;
3. Project preparation;
4. Resource mobilization (development financing);
5. Impact assessment and learning

3.4 World Bank: Blue Economy Initiative Mr. Peter Kristensen, Lead Environmental Specialist Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy

Introduction:

The World Bank's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and increasing the income and welfare of the poor in a sustainable way guide our work with countries. Therefore, the WB believes it is indispensable to work on the Blue Economy. Globally, in March 2020, the World Bank had a blue economy-related portfolio of about \$5.6 billion. This counts specific financing provided for maritime sectors, fisheries, coastal resilience, coastal tourism, infrastructure. In Africa, we are at about \$1.1 billion. We rely on partnerships in Africa as well as beyond the Africa continent for implementation, harmonization, and to bring knowledge and finance to the scale needed. WB also work to support countries in meeting international obligations, such as the SDG's, engagement with regional commissions, organizations and conventions.

Key Presentation Points:

Today's presentation of the new AU Blue Economy Program is a great organizing framework. We welcome the initiative. The World Bank Blue Economy Development Framework (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26843>) is fully compatible with what was presented. At the end of the day, we all agree to the vision of a healthy and productive coastal-marine environment.

Examples of World bank interventions underway in the blue agenda in Africa:

- Sustainable ports: We are working with the West Africa Ports Management Association on developing standard for sustainable ports, considering coastal sediment management, waste management, carbon emissions. We are looking to transfer lessons from Canada's Green Marine and EU's Blue Ports.
- Offshore Oil & Gas. Here we support countries with technical assistance in governance in both the exploratory and production stage, and in some cases, we have financed gas pipelines. The application of the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework is a requirement. Counterparts are mostly national governments.
- Fisheries: The Africa Program on Fisheries has country projects in West Africa and the South-West Indian Ocean, and a portfolio of around \$300 million. A recent report on Africa Fisheries and Climate showed that climate change impacts the prospects for wild catch. We hear reports on foreign fleets, and are keen support countries in governance, science and data on catch, so that stocks can be managed sustainably. Here we work with regional fisheries commissions and

countries, as well as AU-IBAR.

- Tourism: Several projects are underway to support nature-based tourism (Benin), manage the destination attractions such as beaches in Saly, Senegal, and working with sustainability issues like prevention of plastic pollution. Counterparts are national governments and the private sector.
- Coastal Resilience: One of our flagships is the West Africa Coastal Areas Program (WACA, www.wacaprogram.org). The Bank has taken a new approach here.
 - The Bank support 17 countries in managing coastal erosion, flooding and pollution as an entry point for coastal zone management. That is a regional integration approach with WAEMU, ECOWAS, ECCAC, the Abidjan Convention's and its Protocols, the WA Coastal Observatory of the Center for Environmental Monitoring of Dakar (CSE), and the International Union of Conservation of Nature.
 - Through the education sector, we are supporting Africa Center of Excellence for Coastal Resilience (<https://acecor.ucc.edu.gh/>), hosted by the University of Cape Coast, Ghana which is managing a network of academic institutions in West Africa.
 - To bring knowledge, finance to the scale needed (\$2b is the estimated need), we have a "Platform" that brings solutions from partners in France, Netherland, Nordic countries and Japan, runs a
 - The Bank tries new things too: A Call for Innovation is underway and concluding on November 17th in a public on-line event. This is to source innovations for lagoon and port systems
 - The Bank has a Finance Marketplace where countries come pitch the projects to donors. The first, focusing on public finance, was in November 2019, and the next one is in December 2020 and focuses on the private sector and PPP's.
 - In this approach with WACA, in parallel to providing World Bank finance, we facilitate access to solution, accelerate access to finance, and support the national and regional dialogue. Following an incubation period, the Platform functions will be transferred to existing mechanisms the countries and organizations are already engaged with.

In terms of financing, the World Bank has the following:

- Grants and Credits from the International Development Association (IDA). These funds are managed by the countries. Each country in Africa has an allocation determined by the country's specific situation. Financing is provided to almost all sectors of development, and we are keen to support climate, fragility, gender, governance, jobs and economic transformation, including in

the blue economy technical areas.

- **Trust Funds:** There are several. Let me mention one specific one related to the blue agenda. PROBLUE is a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, housed at the World Bank, that supports the development of integrated, sustainable and healthy marine and coastal resources. Funds are accessed via WB operations and analytical work. There are four areas of work that is supported.
 - Improving fisheries by tackling the underlying causes of overfishing and addressing aquaculture sustainability
 - Addressing threats posed to ocean health by marine pollution, including litter and plastics, from marine or land-based sources
 - Sustainable development of key oceanic sectors such as tourism, maritime transport and offshore renewable energy
 - Building government capacity to manage marine resources, including nature-based infrastructure such as mangroves

Two key messages:

Message 1: There is a need to value the contribution of natural oceanic capital to human welfare. We believe that this can help make the right policy decisions, including with regards to trade-offs amongst different sectors of the blue economy. Related to this, marine spatial planning of coastal areas, something most countries have underway in one form or another, and which is more important now than ever.

Message 2: The World Bank is prepared to o Continue assisting countries in meeting international obligations they have made related to the blue economy.

- Working with regional institutions as it offers opportunity for economies of scale and help address transboundary challenges (flow of sand, prevent pollution, fisheries).
- Engaging development partners in support of a coordinated approach to ocean sustainability, in a way where each partner support countries' programs and multi-sector investment or development plans.
- Supporting countries take the leadership in creating the institutions and mechanisms that will allow the many willing partners to engage and support development of the Blue Economy

3.4. AfDB Blue Economy Flagship, Dr. Ahmed Khan, Chief Fisheries Officer (Coordonnateur de L'économie Bleue et de la Pêche)

I. Alignment of ABES strategy with AfDB Blue Economy Flagship Programme

- a. Power Africa (e.g. hydro & tidal energy)
- b. Feed Africa (fisheries & aquaculture)
- c. Industrialize Africa (infrastructure, etc.)
- d. Integrate Africa (trade & connectivity)
- e. Quality of Life of Africans (resilience)

Focus on Feed Africa Strategy - Goals and strategic direction [2016 –2025]

- Contribute to the end of extreme poverty
- Eliminate hunger and malnutrition
- Become a net exporter of agricultural commodities
- Move to the top of key agricultural value chains
 - Key operational priorities and enabling conditions □ infrastructure, governance, technology, inclusion, partnerships, gender, etc.

Multiple entry points for BE operations:



Portfolio overview

Current operations in 12 RMCs (sectoral & integrative)

- RMCs: Zambia, Angola, Malawi, STP, DRC, Uganda, Cameroun, Cabo Verde, Seychelles, Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe
- Aquatic foods: > 20 species, value chains & related integrated develop programs

Pipeline projects (2020-2023) in 13 RMCs & 3 RECs

- RMCs: Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Gabon, Egypt, Mozambique, Mauritius, Tanzania, Burundi, Madagascar, DRC, Uganda, Lesotho, Comoros
- RECs: West, Central and Southern Africa

Partnerships, knowledge products, TAs, and policy dialogue

- WB, EU, FAO, WorldFish, ILO, UNIDO, UNEP, WWF, JICA, NORAD, etc.
- NEPAD, RECs (e.g. SADC, IGAD, ECOWAS)
- Impact on High 5s, national BE investment plans (e.g. SIDS) and RECs

Future horizon

- Build continuous pipeline & synergized BE operations with DPs, RECs, RMCs;
- Contribute to the Banks Covid programs & others such as the FAO-AU initiatives

3.5. Unlocking a sustainable Blue Economy in the South West Indian Ocean: WWF interventions By Mr. Edward Kimakwa

Developing a strong enabling environment and pilots:

- Sustainable fisheries work (SWIO regional fisheries programme, national fisheries work, fisheries improvement projects – FIPs, effective-comanagement)
- Promoting Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and integrated management in the transboundary Northern Mozambique Channel area.
- Improving regional coordination by strengthening the SADC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Center for fishing activities (2019-2023)
- Coral Reef Rescue Initiative
- Plastic free ocean initiative – No more plastics ((2019-2021)

Building strategic partnerships to deliver on a SBE

- AfDB, SADC, IOC, African Union (AU-IBAR), Nairobi Convention, Development partners (namely the EU, Norad, Sida, Danida, World Bank) CORDIO-East Africa/ Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and regional fisheries management organizations (IOTC, SWIOFC), relevant SWIO government agencies and non-state actors

What Actions are Needed to Secure the Sustainable Blue Economy in Africa?

- Implement Effective Management of Ocean Assets

- Ensure sustainability of Small-Scale and Industrial Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Transform to 21st C Climate-Resilient and Carbon-Neutral Economies
- Adopt a Sustainable, Inclusive Blue Economy Approach
- Invest in Social Capital as a Cornerstone of Future Prosperity
- Implement Integrated Ocean Planning and Management
- Build Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Ensuing Discussions and recommendations:

- How does the African Union Sustainable Blue Economy Coordination mechanism connect with the AU MS in terms of institutional frameworks? ..considering that many AU MS states are now building their institutional frameworks and enabling policy environment for Sustainable Blue Economy
- How is the FAO BGI implemented at different levels (international, regional and national). Also what will be the linkage with the AU BE Strategy?
- FAO is aware that implementing a BG Strategy in Africa will require partnerships, collaboration with a variety of organizations. No one group has the full suite of needed knowledge and expertise in fisheries, aquaculture, trade, community development and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to implement the BG Strategy alone
- Any budget estimate for the AUDA-NEPAD Blue Economy Programme and time frame for implementation?
- It will be good for World Bank to consider Eastern Africa for BE intervention. Is World Bank having a specific programme aimed at training coastal engineers and fisheries experts?
- Training in fisheries would happen through the national projects in countries where they are present. Training in ICZM is provided via the Africa Center of Excellence for Coastal Resilience (ACE CoR) and also via national WACA projects where the governments have that as a priority
- Je souhaite que le Groupe de la Banque Africaine de Développement s'intéresse aux pays du Sahel qui ont un sérieux problème de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle default user avatar
- AU-IBAR to integrate the BE initiatives of FAO, WB and AfDB in Africa in the in the ABES implementation

Conclusions on establishing Blue Governance Coordination Mechanisms

The implementation of the African Blue Economy Strategy and its action plan require a coordination mechanism at the highest level of the AUC. Such mechanism will ensure efficiency and coherence. It will furthermore guarantee a smooth BE accomplishment with a sound marine spatial planning and long term investment scheme. The multiplication of BE initiatives in recent years also calls for this.

Alongside the continental strategy, RECs (IGAD and SADC in a near future), regional organizations (such as IOC, IORA), countries (Seychelles, Mauritius, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa) are developing their own Blue Economy Strategy. UN organizations such as FAO (Blue Growth), UN-Environment (Ocean Governance), UNECA (Blue Valuation toolkit and Blue Accounting), Development Banks such the World Bank and the African Development Bank with their Blue Economy Initiatives are also elaborated their own strategy for specific sectors of the Blue Economy such as fishery and aquaculture or specific blue components such Coastal protection by improving coastal ecosystem resilience (WB-WACA project for instance). AUDA-NEPAD is also developing its plan of action while the EU and country development agencies, such as NORAD and AfDB, are supporting the development of regional and national strategies as well as the implementation of activities in the economic and environmental areas.

In that context, the classic sectorial approach should be left aside and replaced by a holistic one that will ensure first the consideration of the coastal and marine environment and the social sustainability at the same level than the economic and second the development of initiatives that combines some economic sectors and environmental components to create something larger than the sum of the parts.

Closing remarks

The closing remarks were given by the Director of AU-IBAR, Prof. Ahmed El-sawalhy. He thanked the participants for their availability for the consultation, despite their obvious very busy schedule. He noted that, he has no doubt that their excellent cooperation and support to this continental continent has resulted in very positive and successful outcomes. He told the participants that AU-IBAR will continue to rely on their goodwill, continuing cooperation and support for the successful rolling out of this Strategy.

Based on the ensuing interventions following the presentations, the Director stated that he was in no doubt that the objectives of this first consultative progress have been met. He underlined particularly the expert presentations on the awareness on blue economy and blue governance concepts; diagnosing the Africa blue economy strategy, the proposals for implementation plans and blue governance coordination mechanisms

He informed the partners that He has listened keenly to their presentation and underscored noted the underlying need for planning, synergies and coordination of blue economy. He deemed

partnerships as been very crucial and assured the partners that potential areas of collaboration, generation of synergies, multi-sector coordination have been identified. Going forward, he admonished the partners for continuity in this engagement as well as other stakeholders, including RECS, AU member states, private sector, NSAs, NGOs, women and youth to establish a functional mechanisms at continental, regional and national levels.

With those few words, the AU-IBAR Director officially closed the workshop



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