



Africa Blue Economy Strategy



H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat
Chairperson of the African Union
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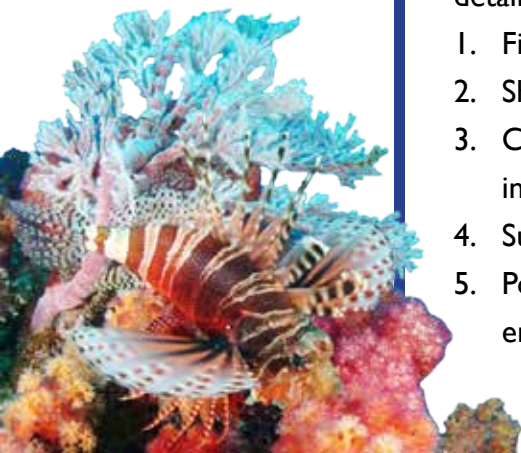
H.E. Ambassador Yosefa Sacko
Commissioner for Rural Development
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The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was developed following the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference that took place in Nairobi, Kenya in 2018. The African leaders at that Conference urged the African Union (AU) to work with relevant stakeholders to develop Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Such a Strategy would guide sustainable development and the utilization of aquatic resources in Africa. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was endorsed by the 3rd session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in October 2019.

The African Union has identified blue ocean economy development as a priority goal towards achieving the aspiration on 'A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development within the context of the Africa Union Agenda 2063. Consequently, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), which is a technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, was charged with the specific responsibility to support the development of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy is consolidated based on the following five detailed thematic technical reports that are annexes to this Strategy:

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



Vision:

The Vision of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy is an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth

Purpose:

The objective of the Africa Blue Economy 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, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.



The Africa Blue Economy Strategy outlines the key drivers of change that are shaping Africa Blue Economy development; strategic and technical challenges to blue economy development and identified priority areas of intervention for sustainable blue economy development in Africa.



The process for formulation of this Strategy has involved desk research studies on the thematic areas, field visits by consultants to collate lessons and best practices on issues related to blue economy development to 13 AU member states (Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania (including Zanzibar) and Togo). The consultants developed draft thematic areas reports based on the outcomes of desk research and the field missions. To ensure an inclusive approach in the formulation process, a Stakeholders' Consultative Workshop was organized, which comprised of 125 delegates, on the 30-31 August 2019 in AU-IBAR Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of this workshop was to critically review and improve the thematic areas. The stakeholders provided valuable inputs for the completion of these five thematic reports.

The Strategy is aimed at supporting and providing guidance to African Union member states and regional institutions for coherent formulation of their national and regional blue economy strategies that would promote socio-economic transformation and growth.

For further details on the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and the associated Annexes, you can visit AUC and AU-IBAR websites: www.au.int; www.au-ibar.org.



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