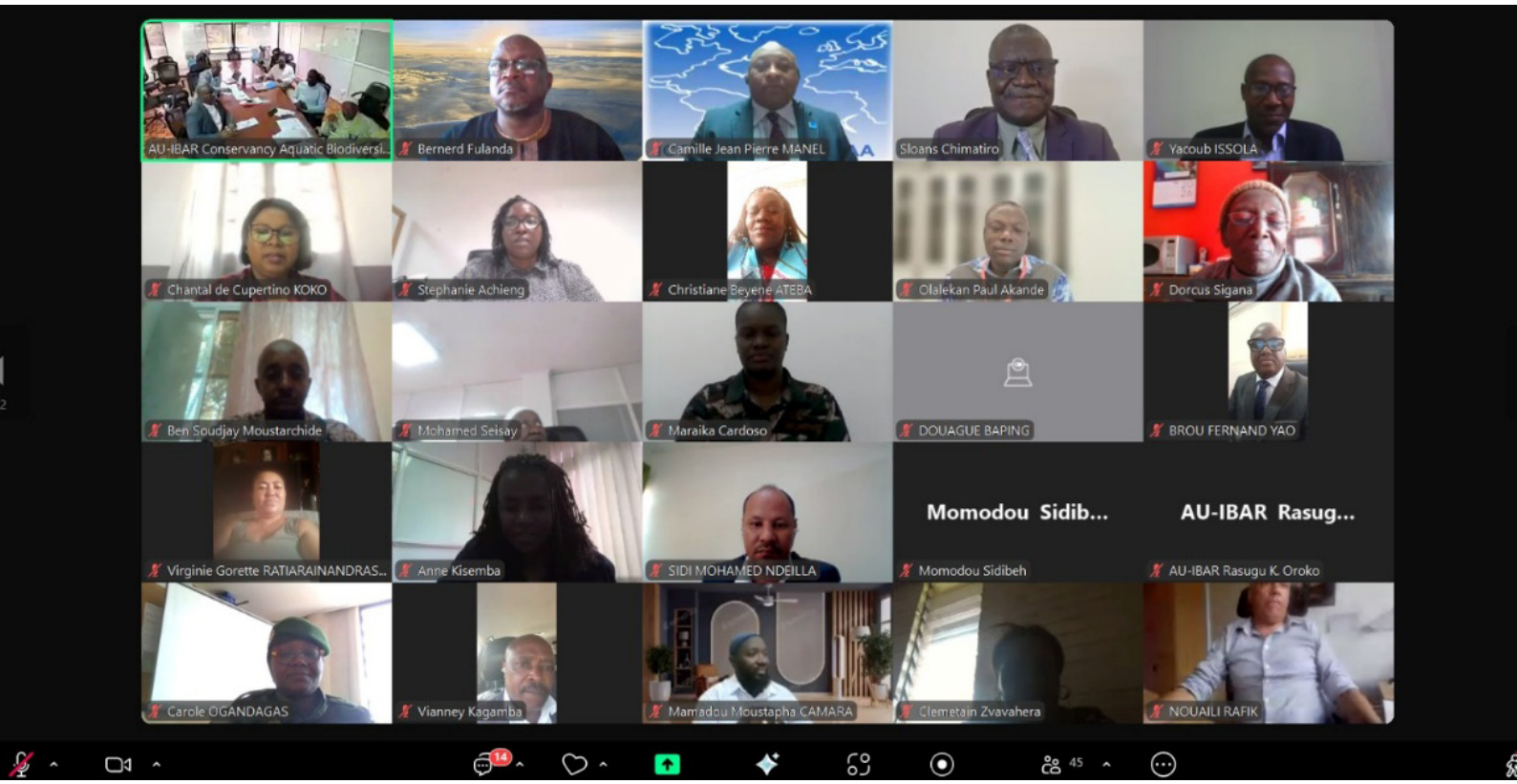
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REPORT

Towards a Coordinated African Voice in Global Fora: Continental Virtual Training Workshop on Effective Participation in Fisheries, Aquatic Biodiversity, Climate Change and Environmental Governance Processes



11th – 12th May, 2026

VIRTUAL

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report is the proceeding of the Continental Virtual Expert Training Workshop and Awareness Raising for AU Member States and other Stakeholders on Processes and Procedures for Effective Participation in Global Fora relevant to Fisheries Management, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Environment Management: Coordinated Africa Voice in Global Fora Within the AU Mechanisms. The training workshop was held virtually, from the 11th to 12th May, 2026. The training workshop was organised by the African Union – Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with the Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA), through the "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in the African Blue Economy" project; a project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The African Union Inter–African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU–IBAR), is a specialized technical office of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU–IBAR is mandated to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the African Union Member States (AU–MS). AU–IBAR delivers its mandate in furtherance of the framework of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) and the African Blue Economy Strategy (ABES), and within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063.

The African Continent is adjacent to highly productive Marine ecosystems including the seven African Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) viz., Agulhas Current LME, Benguela Current LME, Guinea Current LME, Canary current LME, Mediterranean Sea LME, Red Sea LME and Somali Current LME. The Continent is also endowed with networks of freshwater Rivers and Lakes. The Seas, Oceans, Lakes and Rivers inhabit a significant number of biodiversity, and the ecosystems provide sources of livelihoods, food security and wealth. The African aquatic ecosystems inhabit living and non-living resources. However, the unsustainable exploitation of these resources is threatening the biodiversity, natural resources and environmental sustainability.

Overexploitation of living species, pollution from several sources (land-based municipal and agricultural activities), uncontrolled introduction of exotic species in aquaculture systems, effluents from mining activities. Other threats to aquatic biodiversity include poorly and or unplanned settlement development in both urban and rural riparian areas; resource exploitation in the catchments of the aquatic ecosystems by such industries as mining and logging, as well as Coastal/shoreline tourism activities and Coastal infrastructure development. All these alter, reduce or destroy natural aquatic habitats.

In addition, air pollution is a major driver of water pollution through a process known as atmospheric deposition, where airborne contaminants—such as particulate matter, heavy metals, and greenhouse gases—naturally settle into Lakes, Rivers, and Oceans through gravity, dust, or rain. Furthermore, agricultural activities in the catchments lead to soil erosion and sedimentation, causing eutrophication of water systems and posing threats to aquatic biodiversity.

The highest political organ of the African Union endorsed the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2014 and Africa African Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) in 2020. These two frameworks aim to addressing some of these challenges and for the AU–Member States to sustainably harness the fisheries, aquaculture and the wider resources of aquatic ecosystems. While PFRS aims to facilitate reforms towards coherent National and regional policies that realise the full wealth-generating potential of African fisheries and aquaculture, ABES envisions an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth; all for sustainable social, environmental and profitable development outcomes for Africa and its peoples.

Both PFRS and ABES recognise that Africa cannot deal with the above-mentioned challenge without collaborating and coordinating with other Countries, within and outside of Africa. In this regard, the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) was established by the African Union in order to be a coordinating platform for harmonising fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic-related policies across the Continent. AFRM is a mechanism that was developed through consultative process as an African Union platform and concurrently endorsed with the PFRS by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Summit of Heads of States and Government in Malabo Equatorial Guinea from 20th to 27th June, 2014. Further to serving as a platform for coordination and coherence, knowledge generation and information sharing, AFRM is also envisaged to coordinate all relevant inputs before, during and after key events of the identified fora and organizations.

Coordination under AFRM is delivered by implementing National, regional and Continental commitments through alignment with Global Instruments. A key part of the coordination task is the need to raise awareness of AU Member States and other stakeholders on the processes and procedures that enhance effective participation in Global fora relevant to fisheries management, aquatic biodiversity conservation, climate change and environment management.

In this context, AU–IBAR with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), is implementing a project on "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy" (here referred to as The Conservation Project) from October, 2021. The overall objective is to enhance the Policy environment, Regulatory frameworks and Institutional capacities of AU–Member States and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

Under the Project "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy", AU–IBAR commissioned studies that culminated in the identification of 21 Global Fora / Regimes that are relevant to fisheries management, aquatic biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and environmental sustainability and also, led to the development of a Mechanism for enhancing the effective role and

participation of African Union Member States in Continental and Global aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management related Fora or Regimes. The mechanism was endorsed by the Summit of African Heads of States and Government in 2024.

The Mechanism identified strategies and priority actions to address the current challenges faced by AUMS in enhancing effective participation in relevant Fora/Regimes relevant to fisheries management, aquatic biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability.

These includes:

Strategic Goal 1: Increase awareness of relevant Fora and Regimes on climate change, environment, and aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Blue Economy.

Mechanisms to increase awareness that should be implemented include:

1. Creation of a platform for AU-MS to obtain information on relevant Fora and their benefits in a summarized manner and in English, French and Arabic. The platform can be linked to relevant Fora/ Regime websites for more details;
2. Conducting regular awareness raising meetings/workshops;
3. Coordinating a network of experts from existing rosters and in line with the coordination structure of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa in each Region to provide insights, data, and models on key pertinent issues on aquatic biodiversity, climate change and environment;
4. Creating partnerships with relevant for a secretariat to enhance coordination of AU-MS to participate in different meetings/workshops; and,
5. Conducting high level meetings with relevant decision makers (Ministerial level) to highlight the importance of the Fora and their benefits.

Strategic Goal 2: Improve capacity and skills of Member States through training, technology, and advanced research.

Mechanisms for capacity building and skills development include:

1. Enhancing negotiation skills through training workshops on an annual or bi-annual basis;
2. Improving technical capabilities through short-term or long-term technical training in specific fields;
3. Leveraging technology through technology transfer and technology localization from developed States;
4. Enhancing research and data collection by acquiring equipment and capabilities to support Regional research initiatives; and,
5. Augment existing knowledge repository for information and data sharing to enhance reporting and strengthen institutional memory on relevant Fora.

Strategic Goal 3: Enhancing coordination of AU-MS to effectively participate in relevant fora.

Mechanisms to enhance coordination include:

1. Strengthening local coordination by supporting relevant National institutions to develop systems and tools for coordination and reporting;
2. Strengthening Regional coordination by supporting Regional Economic Communities (RECs), commissions, and authorities to coordinate Regional workshop/meeting relevant to the Fora or Regimes;
3. Strengthening Continental coordination by conducting preparatory meetings where AU-MS can flesh-out a common position for negotiation on key strategic issues in Fora meetings. This may include; appointing a speaker on behalf of the Continent and should be done collaboratively with existing platforms/groupings that are coordinating Member States before meetings;
4. Supporting the harmonization of legislation on biodiversity, climate change; and, environmental issues across transboundary areas to enable effective implementation of Fora and Regime requirements, including, monitoring, and surveillance.

Strategic Goal 4: Enhancing implementation of Fora or Regimes at a local level through strategic programs.

Mechanisms for enhancing implementation include:

1. Establishing partnerships on behalf of AU-MS with International organizations to develop Regional multi-year, multidisciplinary programs;
2. Establishing a resource mobilization team and conducting proposal writing workshops to support various institutions, Governments, and organizations on the Continent;
3. Support the establishment of an Africa Blue Economy trust fund with support from funders such as development banks, developed Countries, foundations, UN Agencies and other International organizations. Currently, the Intergovernmental Authority (IGAD) for East Africa is coordinating efforts for the establishment of the Blue Economy trust fund; and,
4. Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework with indicators, baseline, and targets to monitor implementation progress.

During the 18 months extension phase of the project, the priority was placed on strengthening human resources, policy, institutional, financial and technological capacity of AU MS in order to ensure effective implementation of applicable relevant Global Instruments. In view of the above, AU–IBAR organised a 2 days Continental Virtual Expert Training Workshop and Awareness Raising for AU Member States and other Stakeholders on Processes and Procedures for Effective Participation in Global Fora relevant to Fisheries Management, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Environment Management. The training was held from 11th to 12th May, 2026. This report provides the proceedings of training workshop.

The training focused on the following key priority Global Fora:

1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
2. FAO-Committee on Fisheries (FAO-COFI);

3. International Commission for the Convention of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);
4. International United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) (UNFCCC).

1.2 Rationale and Justification

While International selected Global Fora that are relevant to Fisheries Management, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Environment Management, are vital to the management of African fisheries, aquaculture, aquatic ecosystems and Blue Economy, many African Union Member States and stakeholders are struggling to understand, ratify, domesticate and implement these Fora. Ratification and implementation of these Fora reflect state of commitment to recognized conservation and management doctrines, standards, rights and best practices. Therefore, the extension phase of the "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy" project has prioritised support to MS to ensure ratification and adoption of International best practices and Global Fora enhances the ability of AU MS to optimise benefits from partnerships and collaboration that come with these Global Fora.

In alignment with the FishGov2 (a sister project) which has established the Biennial Forum for Regular Consultations on Monitoring Compliance on Domestication of Global and Continental Instruments Within the Framework of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM). The Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Project's actions, including the virtual training, further support AU MS to ensure effective participation in Global Fora as well as coherence in the ratification, domestication and implementation process. Following the Biennial Forum of Abidjan May, 2025 (by FishGov2 Project), as well as the physical training in Lomé (By the Aquatic Biodiversity project), this virtual training contributes to inter-sessional activities of the Conference of Parties (CoPs) of various Global Instruments, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and helps AU MS prepare for the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

1.3 Organisation and Participants of the Training Workshop

The Training workshop was organised by the African Union–Inter–African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU–IBAR) in collaboration with the Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA) through the extension phase of Swedish funded The Conservation Project.

The training was attended by 60 participants drawn from the following AU-MS – Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, The Gambia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Other participants included the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS); Intergovernmental Organization – ICCAT, African Centres of Excellence, Policy Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PRNFAA), AUC and AU-IBAR staff, Independent Consultants and Experts. The full list of participants can be seen in Annex 1.

DAY 1: MONDAY, 11th May, 2026

2.0 OPENING SESSION

Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Sustainable Blue Economy Expert and Project Coordinator, AU-IBAR, facilitated the opening session. The outline of the opening session can be seen in the Agenda in Annex 2.

2.1 Statement by the new Director and Head of Mission of AU-IBAR Dr. Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih

Mr. Delvis FORTES, Senior Fisheries Officer and Project Coordinator of the FishGov2 Project at AU-IBAR, delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of the Director, AU-IBAR, Dr. Huyam Salih. In his remarks, Mr. Fortes welcomed the participants to the training. He further conveyed warm greetings of H.E. Amb. Moses Vilataki, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Sweden, through SIDA, for its visionary partnership with the African Union. This collaboration, through the Conservation Project, has been instrumental in strengthening the institutional capacities of Member States and regional bodies to enhance the governance and sustainable management of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems and environment management—contributing directly to food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods, and wealth creation across our Continent.

He acknowledged the excellent collaboration with the Policy Research Network for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA), which is an African Union endorsed network that provides a platform where researchers can work collaboratively with other sector stakeholders for greater coherence in their research agenda and activities and promote coherence and harmonization in fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa. He informed the distinguished participants that the virtual workshop was organised in collaboration with PRNFAA. Mr. Fortes highlighted the benefits and the critical role of the vast aquatic biodiversity resources in African Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems.

He however pointed out the that unsustainable exploitation of these resources was threatening the biodiversity, natural resources and environmental sustainability. Mr. Fortes further highlighted the Blue Economy (BE) Blue Economy (BE) as being an integral component of AU Agenda 2063. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was therefore endorsed by the African Union Heads of States and Governments in 2020 as the blueprint to guide African Union Member States to fully harness the aquatic ecosystems endowments for an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy that significantly contributes to Africa's transformation and growth.

Mr. Fortes pointed out that under the provision of the Aquatic Diversity Conservation project, AU–IBAR commissioned studies that identified 21 key Global Fora relevant to African's participation. The studies culminated in the development of a Mechanism for enhancing Africa Common position through the effective role and participation of African Union Member States in Global aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management related Fora or Regimes. The mechanism was endorsed by the Summit of

African Heads of States and Government in 2024.

The African Heads of States and Governments further requested the African Union Commission to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the endorsed mechanism. He further reminded the meeting that the Republic of Kenya was going to host the 11th Ocean Conference in Mombasa from 16th–18th June, 2026, under the theme "Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future". Mr. Fortes noted that the Conference was going to serve as a platform for Governments, regional bodies, private sector players, and communities to reaffirm their collective commitment to sustainable Ocean governance and aquatic biodiversity conservation. AU–MS are encouraged to work towards this Global target.

He recognised the representatives from various AU-MS, regional institutions and other stakeholders. He also recognised the International consultant and trainer for the workshop, Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, who is also the current President of PRNFAA, for availing his valuable time to conduct the training. Mr. Fortes finally wished the delegates a successful training.

2.2 Background, Objectives, Structure and Expected Outcomes of the Training Workshop, including Overview of the Conservation Project

Mr. Eric Nadiope, Legal and Institutional Officer – AU-IBAR presented background, objectives, structure and expected outcomes of the training workshop. He noted that the main objective of the training was to create awareness and strengthen the capacities of experts on the Continent on the above identified key priority Fora of high demand on processes and procedures for effective participation and Africa Voice. Specifically, the training aimed to (i.) carry out training of the Continental experts on key provision, processes and procedures to facilitate effective adherence, participation, and implementation of the identified Global Instruments and highlighting associated opportunities; (ii) facilitate interactive sessions during the training courses; With regard to expected outcomes, Mr. Nadiope reported these to include (a) capacity of AU Member States enhanced on key provisions, processes and procedures for enhancing the effective adherence, participation and African Voice in the identified Global framework; (b) emerging issues, Lessons, best practices, articulated and documented from the training workshop, towards improving knowledge gaps for improved adherence, participation and implementation of Global frameworks; and, (d) comprehensive report of the training developed.

He concluded his presentation by emphasising that the training workshop was going to be facilitated by the trainer (Dr. Sloans Chimatiro), through a series of presentations; with interactive discussions aimed at exchanging experiences, lessons and best practices among AU Member States on processes for effective participation in Global Fora, and how stakeholders can seize associated opportunities.

2.3 Introduction of the International Consultant

Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Sustainable Blue Economy Expert and Project Coordinator, AU-IBAR introduced the trainer, Dr. Sloans Chimatiro.

3.0 TECHNICAL SESSION 1: - Setting the Scene

The session was facilitated by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Sustainable Blue Economy Expert and Project Coordinator, AU-IBAR.

3.1 Introduction to Endorsed AU Mechanism for Effective Participation in Global Flora Related to Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Management

Mr. Eric Nadiope, Legal and Institutional Officer – AU-IBAR presented an overview of the endorsed AU Mechanism. He reported that AU through the Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Project, commissioned a consultancy to develop mechanism for enhancing the effective role and participation of African Union Member States in Regional, Continental, and Global aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management related fora or regimes in North, West and Central Africa. This presentation summarized the key deliverables from the consultancy.

The context under which the Mechanism was developed is that Africa is endowed with highly productive Marine and freshwater ecosystems, but faces threats including overexploitation, pollution, climate change, uncoordinated development, and threats to vulnerable groups. The Mechanism is guided by the Agenda 2063, Malabo Declaration of 2014, Africa Blue Economy Strategy and its five (5) thematic areas, and the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS). He reported that the Global Fora that were identified as being COFI, ICCAT, CITES, UNFCCC, plus 17 others including CBD, RAMSAR, BBNJ, IMO, etc.

The report also identified challenges that hinder African Voice as being (i) inadequate awareness (late approvals, poor info dissemination); (ii) weak capacity and skills (low scientific research, high staff turnover, language barriers); (iii) lack of coordination (National, regional, Continental); (iv) funding deficits; and (v) difficulties with obtaining visa to attend meeting outside of Africa, among others.

He concluded the presentation by outlining the 4 Strategic Goals of the Endorsed Mechanism as being the following (i) Increase awareness: Multi-lingual info platforms, regular workshops, expert networks; (ii) Enhance negotiation skills: Training, technology transfer, research capacity, knowledge repositories; (iii) Strengthen coordination: Support national institutions, RECs, harmonize legislation; and (iv) Enhance implementation: Partnerships, resource mobilization (Africa Blue Economy Trust Fund), M&E frameworks.

3.2 Training Session 1: Training and Awareness Enhancing on Global For a related to Fisheries Management for Effective Participation and Consolidated African Voice.

The session was facilitated by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Sustainable Blue Economy Expert and Project Coordinator, AU-IBAR.

3.2.1 Overview of the Global Fora, Procedures and Processes: Implications for African Union Member States: By Dr. Sloans Chimatiro.

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro (PRNFAA President) thanked all and in particular AU-IBAR for partnering with PRNFAA. He reported that PRNFAA aims to create a critical mass of policy thinkers to help align National fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic policies with Continental and Global Instruments. In his presentation, he reported that the aim of the first segment of the training was that by the end of the training, the participants were going to be able to (i) understand why Global Fora Matter for Africa's Aquatic Resources, Blue Economy & Environment, (ii) appreciate key Global Fora, Common Procedures & Processes, and (iii) examine possible AU Mechanism for Enhancing Effective Participation. He reported that the Global For a matter because (a) the context of Africa's aquatic ecosystems is critical for population's livelihoods; (b) the Stakes were high for Africa since access to fisheries management and conservation financing (e.g. GEF, GCF), technology transfer, and attainment of biodiversity targets (Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) depended on whether Africans were able to engage in these Fora. However, there was a risk that in absence of Africans, the decisions that were made at these Global Fora would undermine Africa's ability to access fishing quotas and funding for adaptation support.

He subdivided the Global Fora into four categories, namely fisheries, biodiversity, climate change and environment (see Table 1 below).

Table 1. Categories of Global Fora

Sector	Primary Fora	Key Instruments
Fisheries	UN General Assembly (UNGA), FAO-COFI, Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), WTO (Fisheries Subsidies)	UN Fish Stocks Agreement, Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
Biodiversity	CBD COP, CITES, BBNJ (High Seas Treaty)	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)
Climate	UNFCCC COP, IPCC	Paris Agreement, Global Stocktake
Environment	UNEA (UN Environment Assembly), MEAs (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions)	Minamata Convention (mercury), SAICM (chemical management) now GFC.

As for challenges faced by AU-MS when participating in relevant regional and international Fora, Dr. Chimatiro referred to the AU-IBAR report on "Mechanisms for Enhancing the Effective Role and Participation of African Union Member States in Regional, Continental, and Global Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Management Related Fora or Regimes". In conclusion, Dr. Chimatiro highlighted the Common Procedures and Processes; the tools which Africans can use to enhance the African Voice and urged for the need to enhance the capacity of the African Group in Global Fora. The presentation was

shared with the participants; Annex 3 shows the power point presentation of the "Overview of Global Fora, Procedures & Processes: Implications for AU Member States".

3.2.2 The Selected Fisheries Related Global Fora: FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI): Dr. Sloans Chimatiro.

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro noted that by the end of the training, the participants were going to be able to (a) Understand the mandate, structure, and functions of FAO-COFI, (b) Identify the processes and procedures for effective participation in COFI meetings, (c) Recognize Africa's role, challenges, and opportunities within COFI, and (d) Develop strategies for strengthening African coordination and Voice in COFI.

On Background of COFI, he reported that COFI was established 1965, a subsidiary body of FAO Council, biennial sessions. He described the two types of FAO subsidiary bodies, namely (i) Core Subsidiary Organs, and (ii) Technical Committees.

As Why COFI Matters for Africa, Dr. Chimatiro, noted that: (i) Africa produces ~7% of Global aquatic animals (~13M tons), (ii) the fish sector employs >12M people; provides essential protein to >200M Africans; and (iii) around 40% of COFI membership was African.

Functions of COFI: Policy review, standard setting (Code of Conduct, SSF Guidelines, PSMA), coordination, monitoring. Table 2 shows the detailed mandates and functions of COFI.

Table 2. COFI Mandates and Functions

Function	Description
Policy Review	Reviews Global fisheries and aquaculture issues and trends
Programme Guidance	Provides guidance to FAO on fisheries and aquaculture programs
Standard Setting	Develops and promotes International Instruments and guidelines
Coordination	Coordinates among Member Nations, Regional Fishery Bodies, and stakeholders
Monitoring	Monitors implementation of International fisheries Instruments
Emerging Issues	Addresses emerging challenges (climate change, illegal fishing, etc.)

Dr. Chimatiro reported that COFI has Subcommittees, namely (i) Fish Trade, (ii) Aquaculture, (iii) Fisheries Management, and (iv) Small-Scale Fisheries. Regarding Key COFI Instruments, Dr. Chimatiro mentioned (i) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, (ii) Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), (iii) Compliance Agreement, (iv) Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF), (v) Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, and (vi) Technical Guidelines. He further mentioned Challenges which African Union Member States face, and these include limited technical capacity, weak coordination, financial constraints, language barriers, data gaps, and weak domestication. Regarding opportunities, he mentioned growing recognition of Africa's Blue Economy and fisheries potential, AU MS comprise almost 40% voting bloc potential, South-South cooperation, and technical assistance that may be provided under the framework of support to developing Countries. He concluded the presentation by outlining Strategies to enhance AU-MS participation, and these include (i) raise awareness (multi-lingual materials, workshops), (ii) build capacity (negotiation skills,

data systems, policy development), and (iii) strengthen coordination at national, regional (RECs/RFBs), and Continental levels (pre-COFI meetings). The presentation was distributed to the participants; but Annex 4 shows the power point presentation of the "FAO-Committee on Fisheries (FAO-COFI)".

3.2.3 International Commission for the Convention of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): Dr. Sloans Chimatiro

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro noted that the main Objective of the training was to enhance AU-MS capacity to navigate ICCAT processes for the conservation and sustainable use of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-like species. Specifically, by the end of the training the participants were expected to (a) Understand the legal mandate and structure of ICCAT. (b) Demystify the decision-making process and meeting cycle, (c) Identify critical entry points for Africa to influence conservation and management measures, and (d) Outline strategies for effective preparation and negotiation.

In his presentation, Dr. Chimatiro outlined Key Content, that included the following:

- ***Background:*** ICCAT was established 1969, science-based binding management measures for tuna/ tuna-like species in Atlantic & adjacent seas.
- ***Membership:*** 59 Contracting Parties (19 from Africa). Togo recently joined (pending formalization); Benin is also in the process of rejoining.
- ***Structure:*** this comprises (i.) Commission (annual meeting in Nov), (ii.) Panels (tropical/temperate Tunas, albacore), (iii.) Standing Committees (Finance, Research & Statistics), and (iv) Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.
- ***Decision-making:*** Simple majority in panels; two-thirds majority in Commission. Opt-out clause exists for binding recommendations.

Key Issues for Africa included (a.) Allocation of fishing opportunities (equity for Coastal States, small-scale fishers), (b.) Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) – balancing industrial efficiency vs. conservation and artisanal impact, (c.) Combating IUU fishing (link with PSMA), and (d.) Observer program coverage & training.

Challenges Specific to Africa include (i.) Late or non-submission of catch data to science committees, (ii.) Weak stock assessment capacity, (iii) High turnover of national delegates (loss of institutional memory), and (iv.) Financial constraints (paying membership dues).

The presentation was distributed to the participants; but Annex 5 shows the power point presentation of the "International Commission for the Convention of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)".

3.2.4 Questions and interactive discussion and recommendations for enhancing African effective participation and coordinated voice

In the ensuing discussions, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, H.E. Dr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel thanked AU-IBAR for inviting him; and he further commended AU-IBAR for focusing on ICCAT. He further thanked Dr. Chimatiro for such a succinct training. He noted that ICCAT was very complex, but the training materials emphasised the key elements of ICCAT. He concluded his remarks by making several suggestions which would assist AU MS to enhance their participation and value in ICCAT, and these included the following:

- Encourage longer tenures for technical representatives to ensure institutional memory.
- Expedite internal authorisation processes for meeting attendance.
- Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination (Fisheries, Environment, Foreign Affairs) at the country levels.
- Build capacity on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and harvest control Rules.
- Use ICCAT's capacity-building programmes and engage with the Secretariat regularly and early enough to ensure optimum support; and.
- Leverage African diplomatic missions in Madrid to ensure optimal benefit from ICCAT.

Table 3 below shows a summary of issues that were raised and discussed.

Table 3. Key Discussion Points, Comments and Interventions from Participants During Plenary on Day 1

Participant	Country/Institution	Key Comment/Suggestion
Dr. Momodou Sidibeh	Gambia	Need to mainstream the AU mechanism into National/local policies.
Dr. Rodrick Kundu	PRNFAA, Kenya	Use RECs (EAC, SADC, IGAD) and LVFO for sensitization; benchmark Blue Economy Trust Fund on Lake Victoria Environment Trust Fund experience.
Prof. Bernerd Fulanda	Pwani University, Kenya (CoE)	Inadequate MCS (only 2 vessels for 600km coast), weak observer programs, poor port inspection, data gaps, institutional coordination challenges between National/county governments.
Dr. Rasugu Oroko	AU-IBAR	Clarified that the African Group of Ambassadors (Geneva, NY, Addis) is already formalized; AU should provide them technical briefings.
Dr. Evans Mutanuka	Zambia	Suggested early identification of Countries for the upcoming COFI (Sept, 2026) and starting preparatory work now.
Mr. Obinna Anozie	AU-IBAR	Proposed using the AU Biennial Forum as a preparatory platform; called for funding partnerships (RECs, RFBs) to increase delegate numbers; noted that some African Countries attending COFI were not even members.
Dr. Dorcus Sigana	University of Nairobi (CoE)	Noted that lack of equipment forces focus on Coastal fisheries, but data from Coastal/artisanal sectors is often missing, affecting contributions.
Dr. Abdalla Abdalla	Sudan	Highlighted that African Countries in IOTC (e.g., Sudan) have quotas but lack capacity to utilize them; called for cooperation to benefit from Global Instruments.
Ms. Chikondi Manyungwa	PRNFAA, Malawi	Emphasized need for sex- and age-disaggregated data; asked whether networks are new or existing (answer: build on existing platforms like APRIFAAS, AWFISHNET, PRNFAA).

Participant	Country/Institution	Key Comment/Suggestion
Dr. Khalid Salie	Stellenbosch University, South Africa (CoE)	Asked about enforcement of voluntary Instruments; stressed alignment of National R&D priorities with Member State needs.
Ms. Chantal Koko	Madagascar	Noted PSMA implementation remains a major challenge (IUU fishing).

3.2.5 Outcomes and Actionable Recommendations for COFI and ICCAT

1. Strengthen Data Systems:
    - Improve National fisheries statistics, including Gender-disaggregated and artisanal/small-scale data.
    - African Centres of Excellence and Universities should generate usable science for policy and Global negotiations.
    - AU-IBAR to continue rolling out the African Fisheries and Aquaculture Database (AFDATA).
2. Enhance Coordination for a Common Voice:
    - Formalize and strengthen pre-meeting coordination for COFI, ICCAT, and other fora.
    - AU-IBAR to convene pre-COFI meetings to review agendas and develop common positions.
    - Utilise existing AU networks (APRIFAAS, AWFISHNET, PRNFAA, AFRI-FISHNET) for technical support.
3. Capacity Building & Institutional Memory:
    - Advocate for longer tenure of National technical focal points to preserve institutional memory.
    - Provide targeted training on negotiation skills, MSE/harvest control rules (ICCAT), and compliance (PSMA).
    - Support Member States to pay mandatory dues to RFMOs like ICCAT.
4. Resource Mobilization & Partnerships:
    - Fast-track the establishment of the Africa Blue Economy Trust Fund.
    - Engage development partners, RECs, and RFBs to co-fund participation of African delegates.
    - Encourage high-level political participation (Ministers) to elevate Africa's position.
5. Upcoming Events:
    - 37th COFI Session: Rome, 7th – 11th September, 2026 – Start delegate identification and agenda review.
    - 11th UN Ocean Conference: Mombasa, Kenya, 16th – 18th June, 2026 – AU-IBAR to organize side events (SIDS, climate vulnerability) and coordinate common African messages.

3.2.6 Closing of Day 1 and Next Steps

- Day 1 Adjourned. Dr. Mohamed Seisay adjourned the meeting and informed the participants that the workshop was going to continue on 12th May, Day 2 with training on:
    - CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)
    - UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- Time: Same time (implied morning/afternoon session)
- Action: Group photo was taken. All presentation materials and the AU mechanism document will be shared with participants.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 12th May, 2026

The programme for the second day was moderated by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Sustainable Blue Economy Expert and Project Coordinator, AU-IBAR.

3.2.7 Recap of Day 1: by Mr. Eric Nadiope

Mr. Eric Nadiope, Legal and Institutional Officer – AU-IBAR made a recap of Day 1 by summarising the proceedings of 11th May. In his presentation he summarized the opening ceremony, the training presentations as well as the plenary discussion.

4.0 TRAINING SESSION 2

4.1 Training and awareness enhancing on Environment & Biodiversity Related Global Instruments fora related to aquatic biodiversity conservation, Climate change mitigation and environmental management: by Dr. Mohamed Seisay.

Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management and Blue Economy Expert, AU-IBAR made a presentation in which he noted that despite most African Union Member States having ratified global instruments, they struggle to comply with the requirements of the Fora or Regimes and do not always participate in these Fora effectively. In addition, they fail to implement these instruments because they lack technical and scientific capacity and are unable to make evidence-based decisions for negotiations in relevant meetings. Consequently, The Conservation Project commissioned a consultation to develop mechanisms for enhancing the effective role and participation of African Union Member States in Regional, Continental, and Global aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management related fora or regimes in North, West and Central Africa. Dr. Seisay reported that to enhance effective participation of AU-MS, several strategies and mechanisms were endorsed and these include (a) Increase awareness of relevant fora and regimes on climate change, environment, and aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Blue Economy; (b) Improve capacity and skills of Member States through training, technology, and advanced research; (c) Enhancing coordination of AU-MS to effectively participate in relevant fora; and (d) Enhancing implementation of fora or regimes at a local level through strategic programmes.

4.2 Overview of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Significance to African Union Member States – by Dr. Sloans Chimatiro

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro opened his presentation, by outlining the objectives as being to support the participants to (a) understand MEAs, (b) appreciate key MEAs Relevant to Africa, (c) understand how MEAs Work, and (d) explore strategies to enhance Africa's participation. He mentioned that Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) were legally binding Treaties between two or more Countries addressing Global or regional environmental issues. The Key features of MEAs were (a) Framework Convention + Protocols + annexes, (b) Conference of Parties (COP) as supreme governing body, (c) Secretariat, Scientific/Technical Bodies, Financial Mechanism (e.g., GEF), and (d) Agreements that create common rules for protecting ecosystems and promoting sustainable development at Global or regional levels. He outlined the MEA that were relevant to Africa's aquatic and environmental sectors. He concluded the presentation illustrating the

role which AU can play in order to strengthen MEA Engagement.

The presentation was distributed to the participants; but Annex 6 shows the power point presentation of the "Overview of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Significance to African Union Member States".

4.3 The Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): by Dr. Sloans Chimatiro

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro outlined the aims of the presentation and indicated that by the end of presentation participants were going to (i) understand the purpose, structure, and legal framework of CITES, (ii) identify the processes and procedures for effective participation in CITES meetings, (iii) recognise Africa's role, challenges, and opportunities within CITES, and (iv) develop strategies for strengthening African Voice and coordination.

He outlined the key elements of CITES as being an Instrument that;
(i) regulates International trade in specimens of species of wild fauna and flora based on a system of permits and certificates issued under certain conditions, (ii) covers export, re-export, import and landing from the high seas of live and dead animals and plants and their parts and derivatives, and (iii) annually, over 1 million CITES permits & certificates are issued by Parties covering international wildlife trade estimated to be worth billions of dollars.

Those that are Party to the Convention are obliged to;
(i) not trade in listed species, (ii) take appropriate measures to enforce the Convention, (iii) prohibit and penalize trade in violation of the Convention, and (iv) confiscate illegally traded specimens. Dr. Chimatiro listed the CITES Structure, CITES Appendices or Levels of Protection; Conditions for Trade in Appendix Species; CITES Permitting System; and Key CITES Processes. He further outlined the CITES Reporting Process for High Seas Species or "Introduction from the Sea (IFS). He also listed the challenges which are faced by Africa when engaging with CITES as well as the opportunities. Dr. Chimatiro suggested Strategic Goals for Africa's engagement, and these included (a) awareness raising on CITES, (b) capacity building for CITES, (c) coordination for CITES, (d) implementation of CITES in African Union Member States. He wrapped up the presentation by raising questions for interactive discussion. The presentation was distributed to the participants; but Annex 7 shows the power point presentation of the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)".

4.4 The Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): International United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) (UNFCCC): by Dr. Sloans Chimatiro

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro outlined the major aim of training as being to enhance the capacity of AU-MS and RECs to understand and effectively navigate UNFCCC processes to ensure climate resilience and finance for Africa's Aquatic Resources. Specifically, by the end of presentation participants were going

(i) understand the governance structure and key Agreements under the UNFCCC, (ii) map the Annual Negotiation Cycle (COPs and Inter-sessional); (iii) identify Critical Thematic Priorities for Africa; and (iv) strengthen the role of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in shaping a Common African Position on Aquatic Resources/Biodiversity. Dr. Chimatiro outlined the UNFCCC Fundamentals, which included (a) the Legal Architecture, (b) The UNFCCC Structure, (c) What are Parties & Non-Party stakeholders? and (d) The UNFCCC Structure – What are Parties & Non-Party stakeholders. He further mentioned the Kyoto Protocol and its key elements as well as the Paris Agreement and its key elements. He outlined the UNFCCC Finance - Key Climate Finance Sources and Initiatives. He suggested the way forward, which included Priority Issues for Africa; and capacity for effective participation, coordinating the African Voice. He concluded the presentation by raising interactive questions for discussions. The presentation was distributed to the participants; but Annex 8 shows the power point presentation of the "International United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) (UNFCCC)".

4.5 Questions and interactive discussion and recommendations for enriching African effective participation and coordinated voice

- In the ensuing discussions, the following issues were raised and discussed:
- While all stakeholders recognise the importance of enhancing the capacity for "African Voice", some group of stakeholders, such as the academia, do not know how to get involved in Continental and regional policy discourse.
- There is a need to strength science capacity of AU MS in critical areas of CITES, especially identification of species, Non-Detriment Finding (NDF).
- There is a need for CoE and academic institutions to bring issues of Global importance such as CITES into research and academic training in order to generate concrete evidence to inform African Voice.
- AU MS should be vigilant when undertaking listing under CITES, taking into account social and economic importance of such species because once species are listed, it is not easy to pull out.

Table 4. Key Discussion Points, Comments and Interventions from Participants During Plenary on Day 2

Participant	Country/Institution	Key Comment/Suggestion
Dr. Sidi Mohamed Ndeilla	Mauritania	Highlighted challenges with CITES documentation and training (e.g., seahorse exports); need for better species identification capacity.
Prof. Bernerd Fulanda	Pwani University, Kenya (CoE)	Canters of Excellence can support research and training on such issues of CITES including NDFs, research, and balancing conservation with livelihoods.
Dr. Sadiki Mohamed	COMHFAT/ATLAFCO (RFB)	Need for enhanced cooperation between National/regional agencies; better integration of African Countries into CITES scientific commissions. Noted difficulty of delisting species once listed.
Dr. Abdalla	Sudan	Raised challenges with endangered species (Sea cucumbers, Sharks, Turtles); called for collaboration to combat illegal fishing.
Momodou Sidibeh	Gambia	Accessing climate finance is difficult due to varying application requirements; called for capacity-building to navigate GCF/ Adaptation Fund processes.

Participant	Country/Institution	Key Comment/Suggestion
Prof. Agnes Muthumbi	University of Nairobi (CoE)	In order for the Canters of Excellence need to play an active role in policy discourse on global instruments, AU-IBAR need to involve them at every stage.
Dr. Henk Stander	Stellenbosch University (CoE)	AU MS should be aware of false labelling (food fraud) which may compromise implementation of CITES because criminals mislabel fish products in order to defraud consumers
Dr. Sloans Chimatiro	PRNFAA (Trainer)	Urged inter-agency cooperation in order to strengthen sharing of lessons on MEAs between Member States Build partnerships among scientific institutions to address trade issues in Sea cucumbers, Rays, and Sharks under CITES. Strengthen partnerships for joint research proposals among CoE and Networks

4.6. Outcomes and Actionable Recommendations for CITES and UNFCCC

CITES-Specific Actions:

- Roll out the AU-endorsed mechanism to RECs and Member States.
- Establish Continental platforms for CITES information in major languages.
- Create a roster of CITES experts for capacity building.
- Build partnerships with CITES Secretariat and range states.
- Support RECs to coordinate regional positions.
- Convene pre-COP meetings to develop common African positions (using the Biennium Forum framework).
- Appoint Continental spokespeople for key CITES agenda items.
- Integrate CITES into the African Fisheries Report.
- Establish a centralized database for African CITES decisions and best practices.
- Support development of a resource mobilization strategy and M&E framework for CITES.

UNFCCC/Climate-Specific Actions:

- Ensure integration of fisheries and aquatic biodiversity targets into national NDCs.
- Build capacity for direct access to GCF and Adaptation Fund for Blue Economy projects.
- Strengthen climate research and technical expertise at the Continental level.
- Support training for climate financing proposal writing.
- Track COP priorities and prepare briefing notes for Member States.
- Link with funding agencies (GCF, AfDB, World Bank, UN agencies) to support proposal writing for climate-related funding.

Cross-Cutting Actions (CITES & UNFCCC):

- Support inter-agency coordination at National levels.
- Establish African Blue Economy Aquatic Biodiversity Trust Fund.
- Strengthen partnerships with centres of Excellence and Universities to generate scientific data.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need to put in place a mechanism to strengthen the coordination among key stakeholders, including National Focal Institutions for MEAs and ICCAT or CITES, ministries responsible for fisheries, aquaculture, Blue Economy and aquatic biodiversity, academia (especially CoE), Networks and Non-State Actors, to ensure that aquatic biodiversity issues are prioritised in the COP discourses and other Global fora.
- There is a need to raise awareness about and strengthen the role of the Biennial Forum in order to ensure reduce fragmentation of the African Voice on COFI, ICCAT, UNFCCC and CITES as well as other priority Global fora.
- There is a need to strengthen the role of CoE and Networks to support the African Voice through (a) identifying issues of critical importance to Africa in Global for a, (b) analyse the issues to identify broad regional, and national priorities, and (c) share analytical papers ahead of COP or COFI.
- AU-IBAR should strengthen partnership with ICCAT Secretariat to ensure regular communication and exchange of information for the benefit of African members of ICCAT.
- AU-IBAR should establish MEA-Desk and regularly liaise with UNEP and the African Ambassadors to ensure coherence of fisheries biodiversity with MEA priorities.
- AU-IBAR should strengthen coordination with AU Offices in major centres of Global Instruments (e.g. New York, Geneva, Nairobi etc) in order to leverage on the diplomatic presence of AU at gGlobal fora.
- There is a need for AU MS to be aware of food fraud when implementing CITES since criminal elements mislabel fish and fishery products in order to defraud consumers or evade IUU Fishing.
- AU-IBAR should consider convening pre-COP meetings to develop common African positions (using the Biennium Forum framework) on key Global Instruments.
- There is a need to appoint Continental spokespeople for key Global fora, such as CITES, UNFCCC, COFI, in liaison with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN).
- AU-IBAR need to consider inviting the CoE and Networks to jointly setting up Side Events at major Global for a, such as the upcoming 11th Ocean Conference in Mombasa in June 2026
- AU-IBAR should support development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy and M&E framework for MEAs and strengthen partnerships for joint research proposals among CoE and Networks.
- There is need to enhance the coordination between RFBs such as COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO and ICCAT/IOTC, to ensure coherence in African Voice as well as management of such straddling stocks as tuna.
- There is a need for enhancement of the role of regional bodies (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, RFBs Regional Seas Convention) to harmonize policies, facilitate data sharing, and implement large-scale conservation projects within the framework of MEAs, and ICCAT.
- There is a need to build capacity among AU MS to be able to directly access funding from GCF and Adaptation Fund for fisheries and aquatic biodiversity conservation projects.
- There is a need to strengthen climate research and technical expertise among CoE.
- There is a need for AU-IBAR to put in place a mechanism for tracking COP priorities and prepare briefing notes for Member States.

6.0 TRAINER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important for AU-IBAR to urgently establish the COP Liaison Desk to ensure that AU MS are provided with timely updates on the events around the Global Fora.

AU-IBAR should consider issuing certificates of attendant to participants during the next trainings sessions. With the upcoming major Global fora, AU-IBAR to prepare Briefing Notes to support AU MS African Voice on the following:

- 11th Ocean Conference (to be held in Mombasa from 11th to 18th June), key issues could UNFCC and The BBNJ Treaty.
- 37th Session of COFI to be held in Rome from 7th to 11th September, 2026
- The 25th Special Meeting of ICCAT to be held in Vilamoura, Portugal, from November, 16 to 23, 2026.
- COP 21 scheduled to be held in Panama City, Panama, in 2028

7.0 CONCLUSION

The participants commended the AU-IBAR for the contents of the training workshop. The meeting encouraged the Member States and stakeholders to use the recommendations to inform their actions on implementation of Global Fora and coordination between fisheries and non-fisheries institutions as well as CoE and Networks at the National and regional levels. AU-IBAR was further urged to organise more trainings, especially for IOTC.

8.0 CLOSING CEREMONY

The trainer Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, President of PRNFAA expressed his gratitude to AU-IBAR for partnering with Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA) to conduct the training. He also acknowledged the support of Dr. Mohamed Seisay and Mr. Eric Nadiope from AU-IBAR as well as Mr. Tayamika Chimatiro from Tayali Analytics. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ms. Chantal de Cupertino Koko, the Regional Director Fisheries and Blue Economy in Madagascar. She committed to share widely the knowledge and information from training. She also invited AU-IBAR to partner with Madagascar during the Ocean Week in Toliara, Madagascar to be held from 1st to 8th June.

Official closing remarks were provided by Mr. Delvis Fortes Senior Fisheries Officer and Project Coordinator of the FishGov2 Project at AU-IBAR, at AU-IBAR, on behalf of the Director, AU-IBAR, Dr. Huyam Salih and Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) at the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Amb. Moses Vilakati. Mr. Fortes thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and active participation over the past two days. He concluded the speech by expressing AU-IBAR's heartfelt appreciation to SIDA for the support provided under the Conservation Project. He also thanked Dr. Sloans Chimatiro and PRNFAA for the collaboration. And he declared the virtual training closed.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of Participants

Continental Virtual Expert Training Workshop and Awareness Raising for AU Member States and other Stakeholders on Processes and Procedures for Effective Participation in Global Fora relevant to Fisheries Management, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Environment Management:
Towards Coordinated African Voice in Global Fora Within the AU Mechanisms.

11th – 12th May, 2026

12:00 Noon – Virtual

REGISTRATION FORM/FORMULAIRE D 'INSCRIPTION

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Annex 2. Agenda

Continental Virtual Expert Training Workshop and Awareness Raising for AU Member States and other Stakeholders on Processes and Procedures for Effective Participation in Global Fora relevant to Fisheries Management, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and Environment Management: Towards Coordinated African Voice in Global Fora Within the AU Mechanisms.

11th – 12th May, 2026

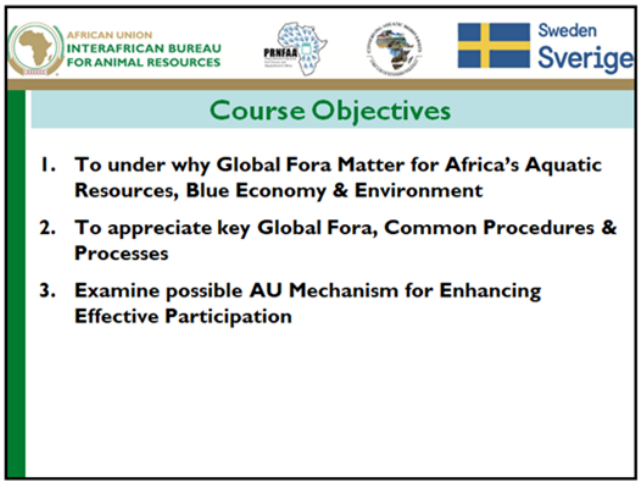
12:00 Noon - Virtual

08-05-2026	Day 1:	
Time	Event	Facilitator/Presenter
11:30-12:00	Opening /Registration	AU–IBAR Secretariat Ms. Anne Kisemba
12:00-12:15	Official Opening Ceremony	Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management and Blue Economy Expert, AU-IBAR
12:15-12:30	Welcome remarks	Director, AU-IBAR
	Back ground, objectives and expected outcomes and structure of training workshop; including overview of the Conservation Project	Mr. Nadiope Eric. Legal and Institutional Expert, Aquatic Biodiversity conservation, AU-IBAR
	Introduction of the consultant	AU-IBAR
	Setting the Scene Presentations **Moderator: Mohamed Seisay**	
12:30 – 12:45	Introduction to endorsed AU Mechanism for effective participation in Global For a related to aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.	Mr. Nadiope Eric Legal and Institutional Expert, Aquatic Biodiversity conservation, AU-IBAR
12:45-13:45	Training Session 1: Training and awareness enhancing on Global For a related participation and consolidated African Voice	Facilitator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay Fisheries Management and Blue Economy Expert, AU-IBAR
	Overview of the Global Fora Procedures and processes: Implications for African Union Member States	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Consultant, President, PRNFAA
	The Selected Fisheries Related Global Fora FAO–Committee on Fisheries (FAO–COFI); International Commission for the Convention of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Consultant, President, PRNFAA
13:45-14:45	Questions and interactive discussion and recommendations for enhancing African effective participation and coordinated voice	Facilitator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management and Blue Economy Expert, AU-IBAR
	WORKSHOP ADJOURNED	
09-05-2026	**Day Two**	
11:30-12:00	Zoom open for registration	AU-IBAR Secretariat Ms. Anne Kisemba
		Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management and Blue Economy Expert, AU-IBAR

12:00-12:15	Recap of Day 1	Mr. Eric Nadiope, Legal and Institutional Expert, Aquatic Biodiversity conservation, AU-IBAR
	Training Session 2: Training and awareness enhancing on Environment & Biodiversity Related Global Instruments fora related to aquatic biodiversity conservation, Climate change mitigation and environmental management	Facilitator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management and Blue Economy Expert, AU-IBAR
12:15-13:15	Overview of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Significance to African Union Member States	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Consultant, President, PRNFAA
	The Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) International United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) (UNFCCC).	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Consultant, President, PRNFAA
13:15-14:15	Questions and interactive discussion and recommendations for enriching African effective participation and coordinated voice	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Consultant, President, PRNFAA
14:15-14:45	A recap of challenges, opportunities, recommendations and priority actions for effective African Union Member States participation and coordinated African Voice arising from the general discussion	Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Consultant, President, PRNFAA
1445-15:00	Vote of Thanks Closing remarks by Director, AU-IBAR	

Annex 3. Overview of Global Fora, Procedures & Processes: Implications for AU Member States

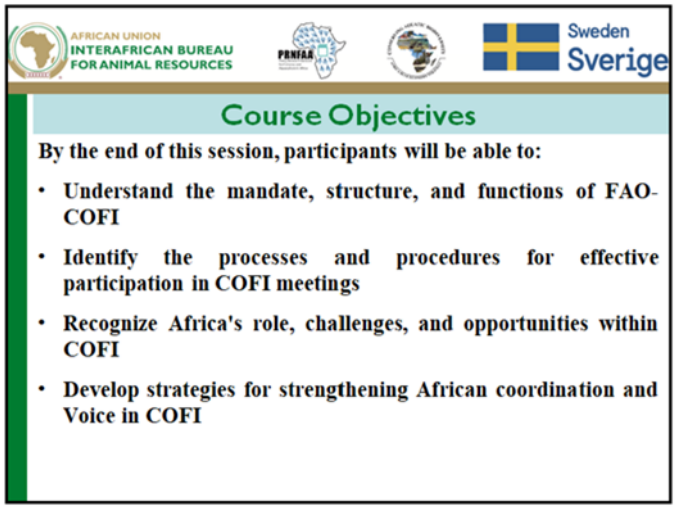




Annex 4. FAO-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (FAO-COFI)



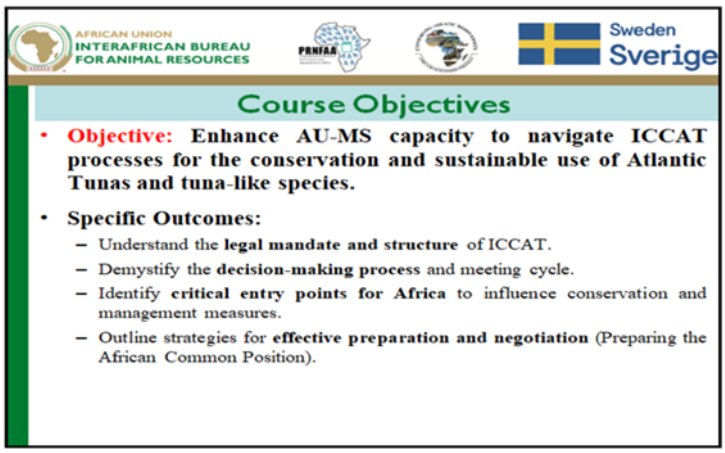
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Annex 5. International Commission for the Convention of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)



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Annex 6. Overview of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): Significance to African Union Member States



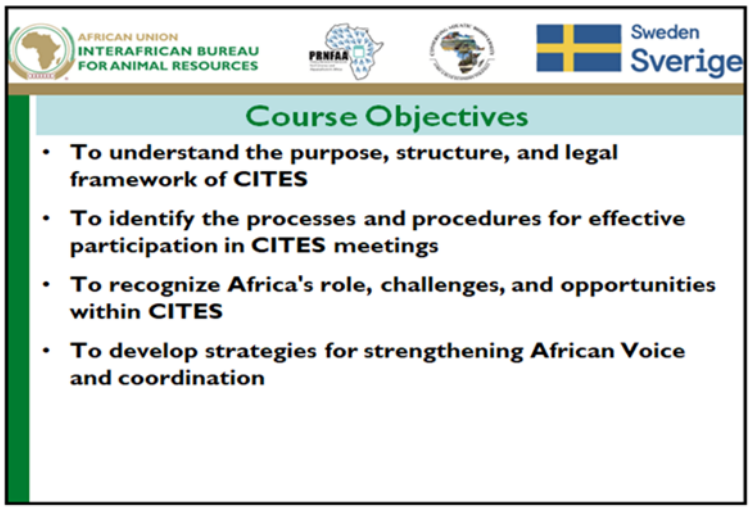
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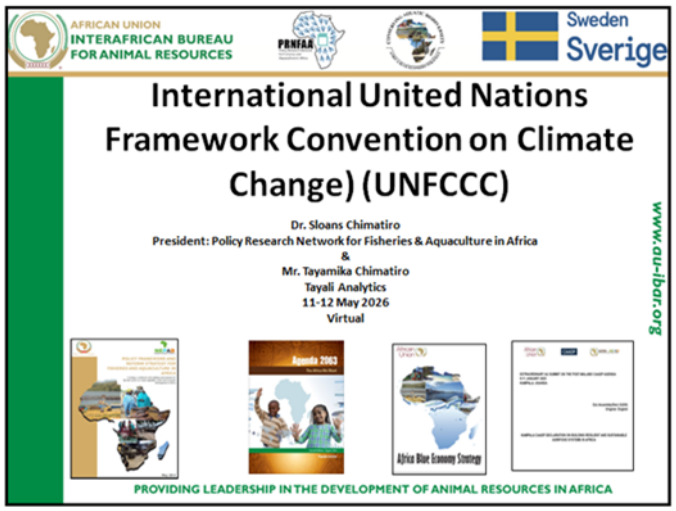
Annex 7. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)



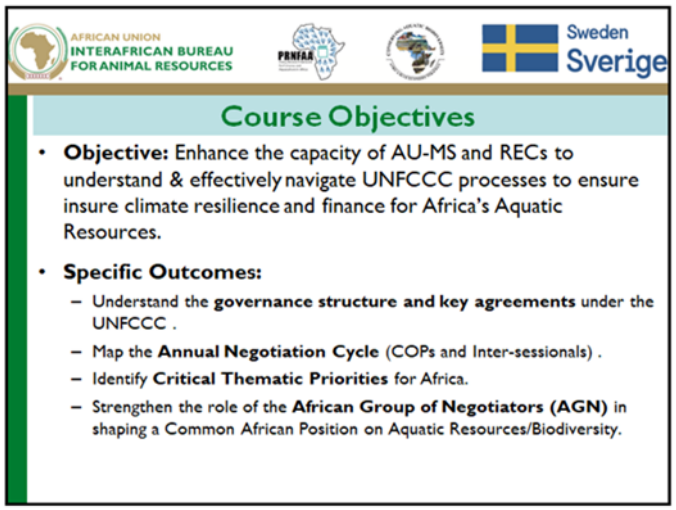
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Annex 8. International United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) (UNFCCC)



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