



**AFRICAN UNION  
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



**Sweden  
Sverige**

## REPORT

### **THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR: “CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY”**



**20<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022  
MOMBASA, KENYA**

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# ACRONMYS

AFMESI	African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
GDP	Gross domestic product
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IGAD	The Inter Governmental Authority for Development
IOC/UNESCO	InterGovernmental Oceanographic Commission/Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MPA	Marine Protected Area
IUU	Illegal unreported unregulated fishing
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTC	Project Technical Committee
PRCM	The Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone
REC	Regional Economic Community
RFB	Regional Fisheries Body
SADC	The Southern African Development Community
SWAM	Swedish Agency for Water and Marine management
SEAU	Swedish Emabassy to the African Union
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SP	Spatial Planning
ToR	Terms of Reference
UU	Unreported unregulated Fishing
WIOMSA	West Indian Ocean Marine Scoene Association
WTO	World Trade Organization
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WTO	World Trade Organization

# I. INTRODUCTION

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 Member States of the African Union. The Vision of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is an Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace. AU-IBAR's intervention in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is guided by the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) which is aimed at improving governance of the sector for increased sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. Also, within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) envisioned an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's economic growth and institutional transformation.

The ABES was endorsed at the highest political level of the Continent. The Strategy incorporates key critical vectors for promoting blue economic development in Africa, including fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystem conservation; shipping, maritime safety and trade; climate change, environmental sustainability and coastal and marine tourism; sustainable energy and extractive mineral resources; governance, institutions finance, policies and job creation.

AU-IBAR, with support from the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (SIDA), is implementing a project on "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy", for three year's period. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

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

The project on "Conserving aquatic biodiversity in the African blue economy" is being implemented by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) with funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The project is aimed at enhancing the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of African Union member states (AU-MS) and Regional

Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

The project provides for the establishment of the Project Technical Committee (PTC) to support and guide informed deliberation of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) as well as generate synergies in implementation of activities between related projects and interventions by other partners. Thus, the main function of the PTC is to ensure coherence in the implementation of activities between the related projects, key implementing partners and relevant institutions at national, regional and continental levels. Additionally, the PTC develops recommendations for deliberation by the high-level PSC meetings.

Implementation of the project commenced on 15th October 2021, and it is now one year since its inception. It is important that the PTC meet to review progress of implementation, share and disseminate information among stakeholders, in addition to seeking views and guidance on necessary adjustment for effective, efficient, timely and satisfactory implementation.

In the above regard, the first Project Technical Committee meeting was held in Mombasa, Kenya on the 20th – 21st September 2022. The meeting was organized in hybrid mode, where participants attended both virtually and in-person.

## 2. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting comprised of 33 participants representing the following AU-MS and institutions: Four African Union Member States that included: the Government of the Republic of Kenya; the Government of the Republic of Uganda; the Government of the Republic of Gabon and the Arab Republic of Egypt. In addition, two Regional Economic Communities (RECs) attended and these included; the Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The meeting was also attended by Five regional fisheries bodies and these included; The Abidjan Convention, The Nairobi Convention, The Inter Governmental Oceanographic Commission United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT), and the Benguela Current Convention (BCC). Also in attendance were three non-state actors which included; the African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative (AFMESI), the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET), and the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone (PRCM). Others included the West Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) a research institute, the African Union Centre of Excellence-the Rhodes University, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Swedish Embassy to the African Union (SEAU); the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine management (SWAM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Experts recruited by the project and currently conducting studies and the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR),

### 3. OPENING SESSION

The AU-IBAR Ag. Director, Dr. Nick Nwankpa, gave the welcome remarks. He conveyed gratitude from H.E Ambassador Yosefa Sacko to the Kenyan Government for accepting to host the meeting in Mombasa. He expressed appreciation to the Swedish Government for funding the project, 'Conerving aquatic biodievsrty in African Blue economy', which is also supporting implementation of the African Blue Economy Starategy. He acknolwed the presence of the FAO Represenetative, the Regional Economic Communities and also welcomed all participants and thanked them for their time to participate in the meeting.

#### *Opening remarks by the FAO Regional Office for Africa Representative*

The FAO Regional Office for Africa Representative, Dr. Ndiaga Gueye, in his remarks noted the importance of conserving aquatic biodiversity not only in the African Blue Economy context, but across the globe. He reiterated the importance of aquatic food to global food security and FAO's continued collaboration and support for AU-IBAR's activities.

#### *Opening remarks by the Director General, Kenya Fisheries and Blue Economy - Mr. Daniel Ndung'u Mungai*

In his comments, the Director re-affirmed the importance of the fisheries sector and its contribution to the economic development regarding food security, nutritional value, and employment. He indicated that Kenya's fisheries sector plays a significant role in employment and income generation, supporting about 1.2 million people directly and indirectly, working as fishers, traders, processors, suppliers and merchants of fishing accessories and employees and their dependents. Mr. Mungai recounted the various efforts made by the Kenyan government towards conservation of aquatic biodiversity at the National level. He thanked AU-IBAR for implementing the aquatic biodiversity conservation project and also expressed gratitude to the Swedish government for supporting the project to ultimately achieve the objectives of the African Blue Economy Strategy.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### *Technical Session I - Setting The Scene Presentations*

The first set of presentations were delivered to set the scene for the meeting as follows:

#### **A. Objectives :**

The objectives of the 1st Project technical Committee (PTC) meeting presented by Mr. Eric Nadiope – AU-IBAR, gave the overall objective of reviewing and validating the terms of reference for the project technical committee and share information on the progress of progress of implementation since inceprion and other ongoing initiatives on the issues of conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental

protection on the Continent.

The specific objectives were to:

- Review and adopt the Project Technical Committee (PTC) Terms of Reference (ToR);
- Disseminate project information on ongoing and planned activities;
- Share information on ongoing and planned activities by partners;
- Map-out ongoing initiatives and identify areas of potential collaboration between the project and other initiatives;
- Develop complementarities and minimize duplication in implementation of activities; and,
- Develop recommendations for consideration by the project Steering Committee Meeting.

**B. Presentation of the Draft Terms of Reference for the Project Technical Committee.**

The draft terms of reference were presented by Ms. Hellen Moepi, AU-IBAR and in her presentation she stressed the importance of the Project technical Committee and that the establishment of the project technical committee was mandatory as per the financing agreement. After her presentation, the meeting the meeting approved and adopted the TOR as presented with the recommendations that;

- The chairperson to the PTC should be the Director for AU-IBAR or his/her representative
- AU-IBAR, as a secretariat, should be a member of the project technical committee
- SWAM should be a member of the project technical committee.
- Appointing technical participants on the committee on rotational basis interferes with institutional memory and continuity and therefore this should be sorted out using the AUC permanent members to represent MS on the PTC.

**C. Presentation of African Blue Economy Strategy**

The Environmental Expert of AU-IBAR Dr. Patrick Karani gave a detailed presentation on the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. He noted that Africa's Oceans, Seas, Lakes and Rivers are a source of wealth and livelihoods that are untapped. Yet, if well managed could increase on poverty alleviation, gender empowerment, jobs and wealth creation and improve the GDP of AU-MS.

He highlighted the objective of the BE Strategy that 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; exploitation and beneficiation of deep-sea mineral and other resources.

He noted that the BE strategy was defined by 5 thematic areas and these include; Fisheries and aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems; shipping/transportation; Coastal and marine tourism, climate change resilience, environment and infrastructure; Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries and Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing sectors which present opportunities for economic development.

He further observed that the challenges to the BE are both Strategic and Technical. The strategic challenges include; Blue governance, Economic and social, Nutritional, Environmental and climate change. And the technical challenges falling under; Assessing the Blue Potential, Accounting BE activities and components for better governance, Maritime spatial planning (MSP) and better coordination and synergy, Integrated and prospective approach to marine ecosystems, increasing safety and security through an integrated maritime surveillance and value addition.

He in addition observed that coastal and marine pollution come from a wide variety of sources, from non-point sources (agriculture, storm water and runoff) to point sources (e.g. wastewater, solid waste, fishing gear) and that preventing waste from entering the Oceans requires a systematic approach that considers both land based and Ocean based sources. Plastic materials were cited among the major challenges of pollution. And that Oceans are experiencing severe threats from pollution (plastic, toxic, waste discharge, mining, gas and oil exploration) to indiscriminate illegal fishing and abandoned fishing gear hence, posing challenges to small scale fishers and associated livelihoods.

A glaring gap was observed that research, innovation and education has been given little attention in the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, and yet these were identified in AU Agenda 2063 as important areas; building capacity is critical to achieving inclusive blue growth in Africa

**D. Presentation of the project “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy” by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, AU-IBAR**

A brief background to the project on conserving aquatic biodiversity was presented and it was noted that the African Continent is adjacent to highly productive marine ecosystems including the seven African Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) viz., Agulhas Current LME, Benguela Current LME, Guinea Current LME, Canary current LME, Mediterranean Sea LME, Red Sea LME and Somali Current LME. The Continent is also endowed with networks of rivers and lakes These African aquatic ecosystems inhabit living and non-living resources;

However, the unsustainable exploitation of these resources is threatening the biodiversity, resources and environmental sustainability. These include: overexploitation of living species; pollutions from several sources (land-based municipal and agricultural activities); uncontrolled introduction of exotic species in aquaculture systems and effluents from mining activities. Other threats to aquatic biodiversity include; urban development and resource-based industries; coastal tourism activities; coastal infrastructure development that destroy or reduce natural habitats; Use of dynamite, poison and beach seine techniques to fish on coral reefs, with devastating impacts on valuable marine habitats, incurring losses. In addition, to air and water pollution, sedimentation and erosion and climate change that pose threats to aquatic biodiversity. Also of significance is the threat to women’s livelihoods and the imperative need to safeguard the vulnerable and marginalized groups, implement adequate compensation systems.

Issues raised after the presentation were that:

The members of the project technical committee endorsed the terms of reference of the Committee and formally established the Committee. The committee member acknowledged the importance of the project to Africa towards sustainable blue economy development for socio-economic transformation of the continent. The members of the committee however made the following observations:

- It was important to minimize duplication while implementing Regional Blue Economy development initiatives among RECs, examples include; IGAD and COMESA, in consideration of institutional mandates in this regard.
- That there exists weak regional coordination mechanism in blue economy development; the committee urged resource mobilization drive to support regional blue growth initiatives.
- And that Local Communities seem not to be addressed by the Africa Blue Economy Strategy hence, they do not understand the concept and what opportunities that accrue from the Blue Economy initiatives.
- In addition, the value of blue economy associated with mining, oil and gas exploration impact community's livelihood in relation to pollution. Scaling up knowledge platforms including community participation is therefore necessary.

## *Technical Session 2 - Progress of project Implementation*

The next set of presentations provided details on the progress of the project implementation as follows :

### **a. Presentation of findings from Scoping Missions by the Project – Uganda, Seychelles, Djibouti and South Africa.**

This was presented by Mr. Joel Mokenye, Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist of AU-IBAR who gave a detailed account of the scoping mission findings from the four Countries visited: First, he noted that apart from Seychelles which is at an advanced stage of MSP implementation, most of the other AU MS are at the initial stages of MSP processes. On MCS, generally there are notable ongoing joint transboundary/regional activities and at national level for example, there are joint MCS activities on lake Victoria between the three east African states and on Lakes Edward and Albert in the case of the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. On Global Instruments relevant to conservation of aquatic biodiversity, most Countries have ratified however, they are in the process of domesticating. Although, there are challenges with the procedures of domestication and implementation. Some of the Global Instruments ratified by most AU MS include: CBD, Ramsar, CITES, UNCLOS, UNFCCC; UNFSA; MARPOL; others have not been ratified because of limited knowledge on their existence and importance.

There was use of MPAs among the Countries visited though at variable scales, South Africa is advanced and has many MPAs, followed by Seychelles. Djibouti and Uganda are at early stage of developing protected areas to conserve aquatic biodiversity.

Gender mainstreaming in aquatic biodiversity conservation appeared to be low but with indications of picking as is example for Seychelles where both men, women and the youths are involved in some initiatives for conserving aquatic biodiversity. This is both in leadership/governance positions of aquatic biodiversity conservation.

Despite this progress so far, a number of challenges were observed across the AU MS visited both on implementing MSPs, MPAs, MCS, domestication of Global instruments and on gender inclusivity. The challenges include; Legal frameworks to implement all these processes, implementation frameworks e.g. guidelines for resources utilization, lack of resources –financial/capacity building for aquatic biodiversity conservation, lack of political will and lack of transboundary cooperation interventions/mechanisms.

Most of the AU-MS requested AU-IBAR to spearhead efforts for innovative financing mechanisms to foster aquatic biodiversity conservation within AU-MS and cooperation, among regional partners.

In conclusion, he indicated that the mission gathered baseline information which AU-IBAR is now using to guide the consultants in conducting detailed studies.

Finally, he emphasized the existence of challenges in the development and implementation of MSP, MCS, MPAs, gender inclusivity and Policy & Legal frameworks to implement initiatives aimed at conserving aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. Hence, AU-IBAR to develop mechanisms for working towards supporting all the AU-MS to unlock these challenges.

***b. Presentation of the activities planned to be undertaken in the first year of project implementation.***

This was presented by Mr. Kennedy Oroko, Planning Officer of AU-IBAR who provided an overview of the aquatic biodiversity project, and an outline of activities that were planned to be undertaken in the first year of project implementation. He stated that the aquatic biodiversity project was designed as a 36-months - 5.5 M USD project, running from 15<sup>th</sup>, October 2021 – 14<sup>th</sup>, October 2024. The project seeks to enhance the Policy, Regulatory and institutional capacities of AU MSs and RECs on conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity, the environment and ecosystems, in the context of the ABES.

Key Areas of intervention:

- Supporting the Ratification and/or alignment with relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy thematic areas;
- Optimizing the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among other users of blue economy resources;
- Strengthening measures for minimizing the negative effects of Coastal and Marine Tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining, and Building Climate Change on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Enhancing gender inclusivity (women and youth) in aquatic biodiversity and environmental management

He informed the meeting that there are ongoing Expert studies:

- On the review and assessment of relevant continental and global biodiversity and environmental instruments to develop priority actions for enhanced ratifications of instruments by AU MSs and regional institutions in the East, West, Central, Southern and Northern Regions of Africa;
- Assessment of freshwater ecosystems and develop a proposal for establishing regional cooperation across transboundary freshwater ecosystems;
- Assessment to map Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) activities in the East, West, Central, Southern and Northern Regions of Africa; document lessons, best practices and develop guidelines;
- Review of existing MPAs, document lessons, best practices and formulate guidelines for their sustainable implementation and governance in the South-Eastern regions of Africa;
- The impact of climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment and to recommend mitigation strategies;
- Identifying priority issues and action for sustainable coastal, marine tourism and mining activities for aquatic biodiversity conservation and environment protection; and,
- Scoping missions were undertaken to Seychelles, Uganda and South Africa to assess the status of MCS; MPA; MSP; and factors affecting aquatic biodiversity and the environment sustainability.

He finally said that after undertaking studies then the following activities will commence:

- Continental validation and awareness enhancing workshops among stakeholders;
- Piloting and operationalization of the recommendations from the studies;
- Supporting AU MSs to review and align National Policies, Regulations with Global Instruments;
- Training identified negotiators to technically support AU MSs in global negotiations;
- Support AU MSs participation in Global negotiations; and,
- Developing frameworks and models.

**c. Presentation of progress of implementation of the Project.**

This was presented by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Fisheries Management Expert of AU-IBAR. He informed the meeting that the project had been delayed due to staff recruitment; that in the meantime, short term consultants for aquatic biodiversity, gender expert and a Policy, Legal and Institutional experts were procured to support project implementation; that the project has since commissioned various studies to enhance implementation of its objectives; that consultants have been procured and are now conducting these studies, some of the consultants even presented the progress of their assignments virtually at the meeting as follows;

- a. Studies on impact of climate change on aquatic biodiversity and mitigation strategies – Mr. Giorgio Brandolini, Climate Change consultant;
- b. Mapping Marine Spatial Planning MSPs in Africa, document lessons, best practices; case studies in West, Central and Northern Africa by– Dr. Joseph Ansong, MSP consultant;
- c. Studies to identify priority issues and actions for sustainable Coastal and Marine tourism, oil and gas exploration for aquatic biodiversity conservation and environment protection by – Prof. Adetola Jenyo-Oni, Sustainable coastal and marine tourism consultant;

- d. Assessment of transboundary environmental issues affecting biodiversity in selected shared freshwater ecosystems by– Dr. Ruby Asmah, Transboundary aquatic environmental consultant;
- e. Review of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), document lessons and best practices – case studies in East and Southern Africa by– Ms. Nathalie Maisonneuve, MPA consultant; and,
- f. Global instruments related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment sustainability – case studies in the East and Southern African regions by– Prof. Wilson Mwanja, on Global instruments related to environmental governance consultant.

However, Dr. Seisay informed the meeting that there were some delays in finding suitable candidates to undertake consultancies especially on MCS and others hence, causing delays in project execution.

The committee members noted and praised the progress that has been made in the implementation of the project through various studies. The meeting however, directed AU-IBAR to fast-track the process of procuring consultants for studies on MCS.

### *Technical Session 3 - Presentations By Partners*

In this session, the project partners presented on the current or planned intervention on issues relating to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental governance as follows: (Link to be provided)

- a. IOC/UNESCO by- Dr. Mika Odido
- b. PRCM by - Dr Khady Sané Diouf
- c. Nairobi Convention by - Mr. Bonface Mutisya
- d. Benguel Current Convention (Virtual Presentation) by - Mr. Xolela WELLEM
- e. AFMESI by - Dr. Chaimaka Mogo

The committee members noted the presentation by partners and emphasized the need for collaboration between the projects and related initiatives by partners.

## **5. ISSUES THAT EMERGED AFTER THE PRESENTATIONS**

The members of the project technical committee praised and acknowledged the progress made so far on project implementation and noted the challenges faced with specific regard to the coronavirus pandemic and the delay in recruitment of project fixed term staff. The members of the PTC took note of the ongoing expert studies on key areas of aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental governance.

The ensuing discussions after the presentations and the emerging issues were as follows:

- Who are the lead authorities on MSP in AU-MS and RECs? and what are the costs of doing an MSP considering transboundary issues and possible resource conflicts?

- There appears to be either inadequate number of qualified and technical experts on MCS for aquatic Biodiversity as manifested by the challenge in securing services of MCS consultant despite several recruitment calls by AU-IBAR.

## 6. KEY OUTCOME:

Following up on the above issues, the Technical Committee endorsed terms of reference of the PTC and thus, it was formally established.

The PTC approved the recommendations herewith provided below for consideration by the PSC.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PTC

1. The Director of AU-IBAR should be the chair of the PTC;
2. Protection, conservation and management of both marine and inland water bodies should be considered as priority in the aquatic biodiversity conservation project, and the project should explore synergies with existing initiatives by BCC, SADC, Abidjan Convention, Nairobi Convention, IOC/UNESCO, PRCM, FAO, AFMESI, among other initiatives;
3. There is need to support Research, Innovation and Education within the AU ABES. There is need to mobilize financial resources needed to support implementation of the BE thematic areas in particular, component on Research and Education – Building knowledge base and platforms; and Supporting adequate research in partnership with pharmaceuticals and biotech companies that will contribute to bridging capacity gaps;
4. The Regional Blue Economy Strategies should be aligned to the AU Africa Blue Economy Strategy and cascaded down to AU-MS that will support institutionalization and domestication of Country needs and priorities within the blue economy;
5. AU-IBAR to promote collaboration among RECs, RFBs and RSCs that is necessary to leverage on available resources, complement and supplement each other to cut down on research, operation and management cost;
6. Communities, Non-state actors, Private sector need to be sensitized on blue economy initiatives and benefits. There is need to develop tools that are required to address environmental issues. The tools could utilize EIA, SEA, Health Safeguards, among others, to ensure sustainability of the blue economy growth. There is need to scale up knowledge platforms including involvement of local and coastal community participation;
7. Some AU-MS need to be supported to collect data and identify existing data on institutional abilities and individual technical capabilities that will carry out MSPs;
8. AU-IBAR should fast track experts needed to carry out the assignment on MCS to avoid further delays in implementing the project and to prioritize IUU with heightened awareness on the UU and co-management;

9. There is need to support Cost Benefit Analysis research required to determine the benefits of MSPs and contribute to strategic interventions for financing of MSPs as useful planning tools for regional entities;
10. There is need to establish mechanisms for collaboration with partner institutions for implementation of the aquatic biodiversity project. For example, Nairobi Convention, Abidjan Convention, BCC, RECs among others;
11. There is need to expand the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) to engage relevant ministries and actors in charge of aquatic biosiversity and environmental management;
12. The AU-IBAR in partnership with IGAD, and other collaborating institutions should create a knowledge sharing mechanism with possibility of linking up databases to enhance sharing and dissemination of information. In addition, develop knowledge sharing platform on inland blue economy to bridge the knowledge gap; and,
13. The need to recognize that conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the blue economy is underpinned by some sound taxonomic studies which are required for SPs, MSPs, MPAs, EIAs, among others.

## 8. NEXT STEPS

The following next steps were agreed on at the meeting:

- Set up institutional roles, responsibilities, and timeframes for the activities of the above recommendations for actions and implementation.
- Prioritize recommendations.
- The recommendations were adopted and approved for the Steering Committee consideration.

## 9. CLOSURE

The Ag. Director of AU-IBAR in his concluding remarks expressed appreciation to the participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> PTC for successful deliberations. He highlighted the AU-IBAR's commitment to collaborate with AU MS and other partners in implementing the project "**Conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the African blue economy**". Finally, the Director officially closed the first PTC meeting.

**The meeting was closed at 17:00.**

# ANNEXES

## *Annexes I: Terms of Reference and Composition of memberships*

### **I. BACKGROUND**

The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized technical office of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission (AUC). 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 Member States of the African Union (AU MS). The Vision of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is an Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace. AU-IBAR's intervention in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is guided by the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) which is aimed at improving governance of the sector for increased sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. Also, within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) envisioned an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's economic growth and institutional transformation.

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2. Optimize conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes;
3. Strengthen measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment; and,
4. Strengthen gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

AU-IBAR is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Project.

## 2. ROLE OF PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (PTC)

### **Objective**

The PTC is a technical body aimed at ensuring coherence, synergies and minimizing duplications in the implementation of activities by the project implementation partners and other relevant institutions.

### **Mandate and Functions**

The PTC shall have the mandate to ensure informed, evidence-based decision making by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting. Specifically, the PTC will:

- Act as the project planning, monitoring and coordination platform;
- Conduct interactive discussions on project activities, including the annual workplans, budget, M&E framework, communication strategy and make recommendations to the PSC; and,
- Ensure coherence in the implementation of activities by the implementing partners and other institutions.

## 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

The PTC Chair is Director of AU-IBAR or his/her representative

The responsibilities of the PTC Chair are to:

- Chair the Project Technical Committee Meeting;
- Clarify and summarize presentations and deliberations during each meeting;
- Reviews the agenda for meetings in consultation with the Secretariat;
- States the purpose of meeting to members and also the agenda items at the beginning of meeting; and,
- Provides a summary of conclusions/recommendations and tasks at the end of each meeting.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The PTC Secretariat will be at AU-IBAR. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- Preparation of meeting agenda in consultation with the Chair;
- Preparation of invitation letters and sending invitations to members;
- Ensures that agendas and supporting materials are delivered to members in advance of meetings;
- Preparation of minutes of the PTC meeting and circulate to members; and,
- Captures and consolidates recommendations of the meeting.

## 5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Individual Technical Committee members shall have the following responsibilities:

- Represent the interests of projects' stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- Take a genuine interest in the project's outcomes and overall success
- Act on opportunities to communicate positively about the project;

- Check that the project is aligned with the organizational strategy as well as development policies of AU MS; and,
- Actively participate in meetings through attendance, discussion, and review of minutes, papers and other PTC documents.

## 6. GENERAL

### 6.1 Membership

#### 6.1.1 Project Technical Committee

The PTC will comprise of not less than 10 and not more than 15 decision making members. Membership will reflect the geographical diversity and representation, gender, technical and strategic interests of “Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity in the African Blue Economy Project” and will be jointly nominated by the Implementing Partner(s) of the project.

Members will be designated as follows:

#### 6.1.2 Decision making members

- a. Director of AU-IBAR or his/her representative;
- b. 2 Representatives of STC-ARDWE Bureau Member States (Selected 2 Directors in charge of environment or aquatic biodiversity): rotational;
- c. 2 Representatives of 2 RECs: rotational;
- d. 1 representative from Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) or Water Basin Commission (WBC) – rotational;
- e. 2 representative from Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) or Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)-based organization: rotational basis;
- f. 1 representative from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWaM);
- g. 1 representatives from AU Centres of Excellence in disciplines related to environmental or ecosystems management: rotational basis; and,
- h. 1 private sector.
- i. 1 representtaive from NSA

#### 6.1.3. Observers, non-decision members

- a. Representatives of other development or technical partners (e.g. EU, World Bank, FAO, UNEP, WWF, CITES);
- b. Swedish embassy to African Union / SIDA; and,
- c. Representative of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) namely ICCAT, IOTC, SEAFO and CCAMLR will be invited on rotational basis.

#### 6.1.4. Co-opted experts

The chair can invite an expert to provide an opinion on specific subject matters as deemed necessary.

## **6.2 Quorum and Decision-making**

A minimum number of 10 Technical Committee members are required for decision-making purposes. The quorum shall include the AU-MS, RECs, RFBs/WBC/RSC and Private Sector.

### *6.2.1 Decision-making Process*

- a. Decisions will be made by consensus.
- b. Meetings will be conducted in English and French languages.

## **6.3 Frequency of Meetings and Funding**

### *6.3.1 Meeting Frequency, Convening and Chairing*

- a. The PTC will meet once a year (physical or virtual as the case may be). The first meeting will be held as soon as practical after the establishment of the PTC;
- b. An extraordinary meeting may be convened as and when the need arises;
- c. The date, time and venue for each PTC meeting shall be determined during the previous meeting and should be included in the minutes of that meeting, apart from the first meeting for which these details will be communicated in a written invitation by the Secretariat at AU-IBAR; and,
- d. The payment of honoraria to the PTC Members is not envisaged. However, direct costs associated with travel and attendance at physical meetings will be met by 'Aquatic Biodiversity project'.

## **6.4 Agenda, Minutes, and Decision documents**

The relevant documents will be sent to members seven working days in advance of a PTC meeting. These shall include:

- Agenda for the upcoming meeting;
- Minutes of the previous meeting;
- A progress report for the project; and,
- Any other documents/information to be considered at the meeting.

### *6.4.2 Procedures for Agenda and Minutes*

- a. The Secretariat (Project Coordination Team at AU-IBAR) shall prepare the agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Chair. It will be circulated to implementing Partner(s) for agreement or amendment prior to distribution. The Draft agenda will be circulated to members of the PTC for their comment and adoption.
- b. The Secretariat for the PTC shall draft the minutes of each meeting and circulate to members of the PTC within 14 days after the meeting.
- c. The minutes shall record only deliberations reached against each agenda item, not the detailed discussion, unless so determined by the members during the meeting for specific issues.
- d. The AU-IBAR Aquatic biodiversity Project Team will act as Secretary of the Project Technical Committee meetings and will be responsible for keeping records and minutes.

#### 6.4.3 *Validity Period for comments on documents*

In the event of tasks assigned to the PTC or selected members (such as commenting on reports and documents, or endorsing project outcomes), the deadline for validating the PTC deliberations/contributions will be one month after circulation of the draft. If the deadline expires without the PTC members' reaction, the proposal will be considered approved.

#### 6.4.4 *Confidentiality*

PTC members are expected to treat any reports and other forms of information derived from the Aquatic Biodiversity Project activities with the utmost confidentiality.

## Annex 2: List of Participants

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## Annex 3: Speeches

### I. Welcome Remarks By AU-IBAR

**Delivered by Dr. Nick Nwankpa – Director, AU-IBAR**

Representative of the Kenyan Government; Representatives of AU member states; Representatives of Regional Economic Communities and Specialized Regional Bodies; Development and Technical Partners; Experts; Non-State Actors; Distinguished Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the first technical committee meeting of the “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy Project” organized by the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) here in Mombasa, Kenya. First of all, on behalf of Her Excellency the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, Amb. Yosefa Sacko, I convey sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for accepting my request to organize this meeting in Mombasa. We are indeed privileged to convene the meeting in this lovely, historically significant trading city along the Indian Ocean to deliberate on issues pertaining to the sustainability of our aquatic resources and their ecosystems.

I also wish to express profound gratitude to the Swedish government for their immense support to the development of Africa’s blue economy through the “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy Project”. To the representatives of the Regional Economic Communities, Regional Sea Conventions, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Experts, Non-State Actors, represented today, my sincerest appreciation goes to you for your unflinching support to AU-IBAR’s initiatives on projects and programmes relating to animal resources development, including fisheries, aquaculture, livestock and wildlife, and now all living blue economy resources. Your cooperation and support are most cherished.

Dear delegates, you may wish to know that the 3-year AU/IBAR-led project on “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy” with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), was launched in October 2021 with a vision to place conservation of aquatic ecosystems and their associated biodiversity on Africa’s blue economy development agenda. The project was developed in the wake of calls for sustainable development in the African Blue Economy development context, where resource use for socio-economic gains is balanced with conservation imperatives as expressed in the African Blue Economy Strategy (ABES). Conservation strategies to protect and conserve aquatic life are necessary to maintain the balance of nature and support the availability of resources for current and future generations. Ultimately, the project seeks 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. After nearly a year of implementing the Project, it has become necessary to convene a Project Technical Committee meeting to kindle operations

of the committee – the purpose for our gathering for the next 2 days.

The role of the Project Technical Committee is very instrumental in achieving the objectives of the “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy Project”, with the committee serving as a bridge between the technical experts and the largely strategy and policy-oriented Project Steering Committee. As a mechanism set in place to ensure coherence in the implementation of activities between the related projects, promoting collaboration in interventions among relevant institutions at national, regional and continental levels, the Project Technical committee supports and guide informed deliberation of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) as well as generate synergies in implementation of activities between related projects and interventions by other partners.

I am particularly excited about this meeting because we are offered a unique opportunity to appraise the direction of the project’s implementation and recommend the requisite actions for effective and successful implementation of the project over the period. Distinguished delegates, I humbly invite you all to engage actively in each of the activities lined up for this august meeting so we can collectively achieve the good purpose of the meeting.

On behalf of Her Excellency Amb. Yosefa Sacko, I thank delegates from AU member states, Regional Economic Communities, specialized institutions, experts and partners for your acceptance of the invitation to this important meeting. I wish to reiterate Commissioner’s gratitude to the Government of Kenya for the unyielding support to AU-IBAR in particular and to the larger African Union in general. At this juncture, please permit me to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the global body, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), for continuing collaboration with AU-IBAR particularly on matters of fisheries, aquaculture and blue growth development. Since my assumption of office at AU-IBAR, I have seen several invitations to my office requesting participation in FAO’s events.

Once again, welcome, Karibu as is said in Swahili.

I wish you successful meeting outcomes.

## **2. Opening Statement by the government of Kenya representative**

***Delivered by Mr. Daniel Mungai, Director General, Kenya Fisheries Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Cooperatives And Blue Economy During African Blue Economy***

The DIRECTOR AU-IBAR, DR. NICK NWANKPA; DELEGATES FROM AU MEMBER STATES; DELEGATES FROM REGIONAL ECONOMIC BLOCKS; REPRESENTATIVES OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS; NON-STATE ACTORS; ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

### Introduction

Globally, more than 250 million people depend directly on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods and millions are employed in fisheries and aquaculture value chains in roles such as processing or marketing. Kenya's aquatic ecosystems include freshwater habitats like lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, swamp, and marine habitats that comprise ocean, intertidal zone, reefs, and seabed, among other habitats.

The aquatic ecosystems support a rich biodiversity which sustains fisheries and Aquaculture Sustainable use and conservation of the aquatic ecosystems is vital for food and nutritional security and economic development.

### Why Conserve Aquatic Biodiversity in Harnessing Blue Economy Resources?

Fish make a vital contribution to survival and health of a significant portion of the World's population

Fish is a very important source of complete protein, also contains considerable amounts of vitamin B, Vitamin E, nutrients like niacin and minerals such as Copper, Iodine, Iron, and Phosphorus and Calcium.

In Kenya, the fisheries sector also plays a significant role in employment and income generation. The sector supports about 1.2 million people directly and indirectly, working as fishers, traders, processors, suppliers and merchants of fishing accessories and employees and their dependents.

Climate change has had adverse effects on aquatic freshwater and marine habitats, such as its coral reefs and mangroves.

National Fisheries and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Efforts That national law, the Fisheries Management and Development Act 2016, aims to conserve aquatic resources.

The Fisheries Law also controls harvesting of by-catch and outlaws catching of juvenile fish.

Kenya has also barked on ecosystem-based approaches to management of marine and coastal environment through spatial planning, establishment and effective management of marine protected areas, promotion of sustainable blue economy.

Participatory conservation of aquatic biodiversity is also through Co-management approach whereby the Beach Management Units (BMUs) develop and implement Co-management plans.

The BMUs work together with KeFS and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) to identify and protect critical fish habitats.

We undertake Monitoring, Control and surveillance (MCS) to ensure sustainable fisheries utilization and conservation.

Kenya conducts MCS nationally and regionally to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The Kenya Fisheries Service is committed to conservation of aquatic biodiversity through domestication and implementation of relevant regional and international conventions and treaties.

The Service currently implements the IOTC's conservation and management measures for Tuna and Tuna-like fisheries.

Other domesticated fisheries and aquaculture management measures include the EAC's regional Guidelines for cage culture that guide sustainable use of water bodies for culture of fish.

THANK YOU

### **3. Remarks by FAO**

***Delivered by Dr. Ndaig Gueye, Food and Agriculture Organization***

The FAO Regional Office for Africa Representative, Dr. Ndiaga Gueye, in his remarks noted the importance of conserving aquatic biodiversity not only in the African Blue Economy context, but across the globe. He reiterated the importance of aquatic food to global food security and FAO's continued collaboration and support for AU-IBAR's activities.

## Annex 3: Presentations from Consultants

### **I. Assessment of Regional, Continental and Global Conventions and Agreements related to Environmental and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation to facilitate their ratification, adoption and implementation (Southern and Eastern regions of Africa)**

**By Prof. Waiswa Wilson Mwanja - Busitema University Maritime Institute**

AU-IBAR with support from the SIDA, commissioned studies that were aimed at identifying challenges, proposals and recommendations for assisting AU Member States to come up with strategies for improving the ratification, adoption and implementation of key regional, Continental and Global Instruments for conservation and enhanced management of their vast Blue Economy Resources (BER). Under the “AU Blue Economy Strategy” (ABES), and guided by the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS).

One of the key challenges identified was comparatively lower rate of ratification, adoption and implementation of Regional, Continental and Global instruments for conservation of aquatic biodiversity by AU Member States due to a number of distinctive reasons. Conservation of aquatic biodiversity is crucial because the BES and BER are currently under increasing threat from environmental degradation and climate change impact, and yet they are critical to Africa’s realization of the African Union Agenda 2063. And as such, with adoption of the BE paradigm, Africa’s Member States have to invest in conservation and or protection of their BER. Unfortunately, AU Member States have not been able to adopt and domesticate the available supporting Global Instruments that would support conservation even for the transboundary aquatic resources .

Challenges identified for the lower rate of ratifying, adopting or implementing these instruments are; lack of or limited technical capacity; lack of effective coordination and collaboration among sectors at national level and or Member States at region level; over concentration of the mandates of these Global instruments in a few leading sector agencies without added staff and funding; lack or limited political commitment; lack of technical support from COPs or depositories, and; lack of prioritization and policy attention to BER and BES in some Member States, among others.

The study proposes the following recommendations for enhancing the processes of ratification, domestication and implementation of Global, Continental and Regional Instruments within the AU-MS.

#### **Ratification**

- Use of sub-regional, regional and international peer pressure and from the ‘Conference of Parties’ for ratification of key instruments;
- Support for cross-sectoral engagement and coordination at national level in identification and adoption of key instruments, and;

- Need to support AU-MS to conduct Valuation of the benefits of ratification, domestication and implementation of Global instruments and establishment of sub-regional and national committees to push/coordinate the ratification of selected key instruments.

### **Adoption**

- Sensitizing and engaging MSs to create awareness on benefits of ratifying, adopting and implementing Global Instruments in terms of economic and genetic benefits to the MSs targeting the heads of MDAs responsible generate the need to ratify, domesticate and implement global instruments, and;
- Support the development of national strategies which have cross-sectoral participation and ownership through wide circulation and engagement of all stakeholders.

### **Implementation**

- Establishment of an African chapter on the Global Instruments especially for the UN binding Instruments in order to facilitate a close monitoring, guidance and implementation as well as resource mobilisation and information sharing;
- Development of action plans so as to translate the national policies and strategies into actions with measurable targets for the different actors and stakeholders;
- Development of guidelines for implementation of specific global instruments;
- Development of indicators as a basis for monitoring, audit and refocusing objectives of different national and community level plans/programs and actions;
- Fostering good practice in implementation and management of aquatic biodiversity;
- Preferably the schedule of action should be for every three years as that between COPs is normally short to achieve stated objectives, and;
- Financial mechanisms for specific Convention's implementation should be viewed within a regional or sub-regional framework, that also includes a sharing mechanism.

### **Conclusions**

- There are number of challenges to ratification, adoption and implementation of the instruments for aquatic biodiversity conservation faced by AU Member States;
- Member States in eastern and southern Africa are comparatively much lower performance;
- The lack of technical backup and support from COPs and or Depository agencies of the relevant instruments is further compounded by lack of technical capacity at Member State level, and;
- There is need for a comprehensive AU framework to support Member States in process of ratification, adoption and implementation of instruments for aquatic biodiversity conservation.

### **General Recommendations**

- There is need for specific country studies so as to analyze the level and challenges of ratification, adoption and implementation of the different key international instruments;
- AU needs to put in place a regional or sub-regional unit (s) to support MSs and coordinate with the depositories and COPs in supporting MSs in the required processes;

- There is need for national and regional harmonization of roles of different sectors and agencies in a manner that promotes collaboration and creation of platforms for support of the processes;
- Member States need to designate specific sector managers and or desk officers for different instruments or groups related instruments, and link to their RECs and AU for technical support;
- Put in place an AU framework for support to the ratification, adoption and implementation of aquatic biodiversity conservation and management instruments, akin to the functioning of Global Environmental Facility of UN but tailor made for Africa with improvements in some of the elements of GEF, and;
- There is need for technical assistance and capacity building for key responsible agencies and experts in Member States in the ratification, adoption and implementation of international instruments for aquatic biodiversity.

## **2. Studies on the impact of climate change on the aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity and proposal of mitigation measures**

***By Dr. Giorgio Vincenzo Alberto Brandolini, Expert***

The impact of Climate change on the African aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity is affecting the livelihoods and welfare of the population depending on their services. The projects concerning the aquatic resources are trying to link conservation to local development to ensure the engagement of the local population in performing innovative mitigation and adaptation measures. The aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity already stressed by human impacts are the most vulnerable to the impact of Climate change.

Several practices have been successfully tested to reduce the impact of Climate change; among others they include; its mitigation through the adoption of circular economy short value chain solutions, the adaptation of economic activities to the changes in the biology of the aquatic organisms, the intensification of aquaculture production to reduce the extent of the fishery extraction areas.

The progress made in this field is little known and insufficiently disseminated to produce the large-scale changes needed to systematically improve the conditions of the aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity.

The AU-IBAR can contribute to filling in such gap by exploiting the existing multi-level dialogue tools and strengthening the interactive services provided by the existing knowledge management platforms to link the building of capacities and testing of best practices in this field to their dissemination at a larger scale. At the same, time, the evidence of the benefits of mitigation and adaptation measure disseminated across the continent should stimulate the engagement of African decision makers in dialoguing and joining forces to mainstream mitigation and adaptation measures in planning development, transboundary initiatives, etc. and in view of their participation to international fora, thus of promoting the common objectives and priorities enshrined in the Policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) and African Blue Economy Strategy (ABES).

The elaboration of such initiative should integrate the contribution of the regional, subregional and national actors in the transfer of knowledge and technology.

### **3. Assessment to Map the Extent of usage of Marine Spatial Planning (MSPs) in Africa as a Management Tool for Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity and ecosystems - Western, Central and Northern Regions of Africa**

*By Dr. Joseph Kofi Ansong – Consultant, Howell Marine Consulting/University of Liverpool*

Marine Spatial Planning is labelled as ‘an idea whose time has come’ based on its applicability to address spatial conflicts and deliver sustainable use. Whilst MSP is relatively well known and practiced globally, only 18 Coastal States out of 38 in Africa are engaged in various stages of MSP development. To that end, this study gives an overview of the status of MSP in West, Central and Northern African countries. It does so by using country cases from Cape Verde, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe to demonstrate how MSP is being developed and initial consideration of aquatic biodiversity and transboundary issues.

It further identifies gaps, challenges and best practices emerging from identified MSP cases. Existing gaps and challenges identified from the study included: lack of sustainable financing to finalise and adopt draft MSP, limited consideration of the spatial aspect of biodiversity, limited marine data and evidence, limited holistic multi sector analysis, lack of political direction and legal framework for MSP, fragmented marine governance structure. Initial key findings and next steps for advancing MSP include the following:

1. There is existing spatial management experience in most of the Member States but mostly focused on MPAs and coastal planning. MSP could play a role here in advancing the limited marine assessment and aquatic biodiversity consideration
2. There is the need to give careful thought and map out how all the different marine governance strands such as Blue Economy, MSP, MPAs, EBSAs, Coastal Zone Management fits together for each of the Member States
3. Advancing MSP would require setting up a road map for MSP implementation where the lead MSP authority, legislation, planning approach, stages, timeline for MSP process are defined.
4. There are good practices on transboundary cooperation for aquatic biodiversity conservation where MSP can strengthen existing activities. These good practices include: The Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Benin/Togo), Senegal Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Senegal/Mauritania), Aby Lagoon complex (Ghana & Côte d’Ivoire) and the Nigeria – São Tomé & Príncipe Joint Development Zone (JDZ)
5. There is a need for capacity building and guidance on the role of MSP in supporting MPA designation and identification of sensitive areas and hotspots.

### **4. Studies to Identify Priority Issues and Actions for Sustainable Coastal and Marine Tourism and Mining Activities**

*By Prof. Adetola Jenyo-Oni – Head of Department, University of Ibadan, Nigeria*

African countries have vast natural and undisturbed resources attractive to coastal and marine tourism. Coastal and marine tourism (CMT) is one of the key sectors contributing towards the development of the oceans economy. In spite of being economically profitable, tourism sector generates considerable

environmental damages and it is overly dependent on natural resources.

Coastal and maritime tourism generates indirect land activities linked to infrastructure constructions that are responsible for considerable amounts of pollution and destruction of natural habitats. For these reasons, a global effort is needed to promote genuinely sustainable tourism development. Despite this, more work needs to be done in making the case for the travel and tourism industry. The present study investigated priority issues and actions for sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining activities.

Major constraints to coastal and marine tourism, and mining activities identified includes: poor policy coherence and stakeholder collaboration issues; lack of coordinated/harmonized regional template for integrated coastal and marine planning through an ecosystem approach; poor regionally coordinated monitoring, evaluation and statistics schemes ; Ineffective platform for identification, supporting and disseminating sustainable practices; lack of robust financing platform for sustainable blue tourism activities, strategies and actors and poor knowledge base of regional institution to involve, prepare and empower travelers, the industry and key stakeholders.

The strategic direction suggested in the study is developing an integrated and sustainable coastal and marine tourism, mining, oil and gas exploration, for aquatic biodiversity conservation and the successful implementation of this is expected to achieve the following: establishing regional partnerships and charter for good practices in coastal and marine tourism and mining activities; developing pathways for sustainable development financing through public and private sector's investments in intra-regional coastal and marine tourism and with increase in quality and affordable infrastructure services; improved incentives provided to stakeholders, along with appropriate capacity strengthening for the integrated and sustainable coastal and marine tourism, mining, oil and gas exploration, for aquatic biodiversity conservation; complementarities and synergies between and among development partner's support to coastal and marine tourism and sustainable mining, oil and gas exploration enhanced.

## **5. Summary of the study on continental review of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), document lessons, best practices and formulate guidelines for their sustainable implementation and governance in conservation of aquatic biodiversity resources within the African Union member states (AU MS) and regional levels.**

***By Ms. Nathalie Maisonneuve***

Marine Protected Areas are effective tools for conservation and protection of vulnerable living resources in aquatic ecosystems. They are set up to protect vulnerable life-history stages of living aquatic species and ecosystems, to conserve aquatic biodiversity and minimize extinction risk, to re-establish or restore ecosystem integrity, depleted species and to enhance the productivity of fish and other living aquatic populations. The current study established the existence of the following MPAs in Kenya; Watamu Marine NP & Reserve, Malindi Marine NP & Reserve, Mombasa Marine NP & Reserve, Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park; Kiunga Marine National. There are MPAs in Tanzania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Madagascar, Seychelles and South Africa that will be document at a later stage.

The study found the following as serious threats to MPAs in the East and Southern regions of African; poaching, encroachments, coastal development, increase in population, climate change, high poverty levels, illiteracy among local communities, resource use conflicts, terrorism, resource over exploitation.

In regard to the above, the following recommendations have been suggested; review the institutional management of MPAs - reforms have to be done at the macro level, implement management plans for each MPA and do specific assessments regularly, support transboundary MPAs initiatives, enhance stakeholder and community participation the MPA management, develop AAL – Additional and Alternative Livelihoods for the communities, develop ecotourism and community-based activities and finally enhance capacity building activities.

The next step in this study will include: efforts to continue to collect data, especially on transboundary MPAs and in some countries where none information has been shared e.g. Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles; interview IUCN to obtain information MPAs classification; conduct interviews with mandated institutions/ organizations to collect more information on the governance management systems and the institutional framework at the large-scale level.

## **6. Assessment of Transboundary Environmental Issues Affecting Biodiversity in Selected Shared Freshwater Ecosystems Towards Formulating Harmonized Regional Strategy for Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity and Joint Action Plans**

**By Dr. Ruby Asmah, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research**

Transboundary freshwater basin account for about 60% of global freshwater flow which spans more than 150 countries, covers 46% of the world's land area and serves about 42% of the world's population. Of all the continents, the African continent has the largest number of transboundary basins and these support a population of over 800 million. Poorly managed transboundary water supplies are projected to be potential sources of conflict and social strife among countries. Their management is thought to be more complex than freshwater basins at the national level since the water management regime, priorities and cultures usually differ more between than within countries. Transboundary management of water resources, therefore, require coordination across different political, legal, institutional, and technical settings. The study assesses transboundary freshwater ecosystems in the Africa region to identify critical aquatic environmental issues affecting biodiversity and presents a framework for management of transboundary freshwater aquatic ecosystems for conservation and joint action plans.

Data for the assessment were sourced from literature, stakeholder engagements through questionnaire survey and field visits. Key environmental stressors identified from the survey results were Illegal Unregulated Unreported fishing, changing climate, over-exploitation of freshwater resources, pollution from point and non-point sources, destruction of habitats, invasion of exotic species and emergence of diseases that affect freshwater biota especially fish among others. There are however some environmental monitoring activities being undertaken in selected basins and this included rehabilitation and strengthening the resilience of socio-ecological synthesis of the Lake Chad Basin and reversing ecosystem and water

degradation in the Volta Basin.

The results further showed that most of the transboundary freshwater basins on the continent had some forms of management agreements among riparian countries, but these were basin specific and lack of resources to support national and regional strategies, non-designation of protected areas, unregulated access to resources, inadequate governance and bad riparian community organizations, hampered management of these reservoirs.

Some proposed regional strategy for conservation of aquatic biodiversity and joint action plans are:

1. Set up institutional structures that promote stakeholder engagement at the local level and the need for well-defined objectives for biodiversity conservation.
2. Develop strong and balanced capacity building among associated institutions in different countries.
3. Need for improved and integrated monitoring and evaluation systems that meet accepted standards.

## Annex 4: Agenda

Time	Activity	Facilitator
<b>Day One</b>		
08:30-09:00	REGISTRATION	AU-IBAR
	OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION	Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Seisay
09:00-09:45	Welcome remarks by AU-IBAR	Director, AU-IBAR
	Statement by DARBE	Director, ARD
	Opening Statement by representation of the Kenyan Government	Mr. Daniel Mungai, Director General, Kenya Fisheries Service
	Objectives of the meeting	Mr. Eric Nadiope, Legal and Institutional Officer
<b>Technical Sessions</b>		
<b>SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATIONS</b>		
<b>Moderator/Presenters: Dr. Sadiki Mohamed, COMHAFAT</b>		
09:45-10:15	Presentation of the Draft Terms of Reference for the Project Technical Committee	Ms. Hellen Moepi, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer
10:15-10:45	Presentation of African Blue Economy Strategy	Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental expert
10:45-11:15	Presentation of the Project 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in Africa Blue Economy	Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Aquatic Ecosystems Management Expert
11:15--11:30	<b>FAMILY PHOTO AND TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 2: PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
<b>Moderator/Presenters: Dr. Sadiki Mohamed, COMHAFAT</b>		
11:30-12:00	FIRST YEAR WORKPLAN	Mr. Kennedy Oroko, Planning Officer
12:00-12:30	Presentation of progress of implementation of the Project	Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Aquatic Ecosystems Management Expert
12:30-13:00	DISCUSSIONS	
13:00-14:00	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>PRESENTATION OF SYNOPSES OF ONGOING STUDIES AND INITIATIVES – VIRTUAL PRESENTATION:</b>		
<b>Moderator/Presenters: Mr. Kennedy Oroko. Planning Officer</b>		
14 :00-14 :15	Studies on impact of climate change on aquatic biodiversity and mitigation strategies	Mr. Giorgio Brandolini. Climate Change consultant
14:15-14:30	Mapping MSPs in Africa, document lessons, best practices; case studies in West, Central and Northern Africa	Dr. Joseph Ansong, MSP consultant

Time	Activity	Facilitator
14 :30-14 :35	Studies to identify priority issues and actions for sustainable Coastal and Marine tourism, oil and gas exploration for aquatic biodiversity conservation and environment protection	Prof. Adetola Jenyo-Oni, Consultant for sustainable coastal and marine tourism
14 :35-14 :50	Assessment of transboundary environmental issues affecting biodiversity in selected SHARED FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS	Dr. Ruby Asmah, Transboundary aquatic environmental expert
14 :50-15 :10	DISCUSSIONS	
14 :50-15 :05	Review of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), document lessons and best practices – case studies in East and Southern Africa	Ms. Nathalie Maisonneuve. MPA consultant
15 :05-15 :20	Global instruments related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment – case studies in the East and Southern African regions	Prof. Wilson Mwanja, Consultant on global instruments related to environmental governance
15 :20-15 :35	Findings from Scoping Missions by the Project – Uganda, Seychelles, Djibouti and South Africa.	Mr. Joel Mokenye, Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist
15 :35-15 :50	Strengthening cooperation to stop IUU fishing & to build sustainable blue growth in the SADC region	Dr. Motseki Hlatshwayo, Senior Technical Advisor : Fisheries and Interim Project Coordinator : PROFISHBLUE
15 :50-16 :00	<b>TEA-BREAK</b>	
16 :00-16 :50	DISCUSSIONS	
16 :50-17 :00	<b>AND CLOSURE FOR THE DAY</b>	
<b>Day Two</b>		
<b>PRESENTATIONS BY PARTNERS; on current or planned intervention on issues relating to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental governance</b> <b>Moderator/Presenters: Dr. Patrick Karani</b>		
09:00-09:15	RECAP	Dr. Alberta Sagoe, Gender Policy and Strategy Expert
09 :15-09 :30	SWAM	Dr. Katrin Eidem Holmgren
09:30-09:45	IOC/UNESCO	Dr. Mika Odido
09 :45-10 :00	PRCM	Dr Khady Sané Diouf
10 :00-10 :15	Nairobi convention	Mr. Bonface Mutisya
10 :15-10 :30	BCC (Virtual Presentation)	Mr. Xolela WELLEM
10 :30-10 :45	AFMESI	Dr. Chaimaka Mogo
10 :45-11 :15	<b>TEA-BREAK</b>	
11:45-12:45	DISCUSSION	
12:45-13:45	<b>LUNCH</b>	

Time	Activity	Facilitator
<b>DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>Moderator/Presenters: Mr. Admore Chakadenga</b>		
13:45-14:15	Expert Presentation - African Coral Reefs: degradation and restoration	TBD
14:15-16:45	DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE	Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental Expert and the Team
16:15-16:30	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
16:17:00	PLENARY FOR REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS	
17:15-17:30	<b>CLOSURE</b>	
	Chairperson's Closing Remarks	Director, ARD
	Closure by the Government of Kenya	Representation from the Ministry in charge of Blue Economy, Kenya



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