



In collaboration with
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



CONCEPT NOTE

IGAD BLUE ECONOMY HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE:

I. AWARENESS CREATION, APRIL 12-13, 2020

II. ADOPTION OF REGIONAL BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY, APRIL 14-15, 2020

Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti

<< Enhancing IGAD Blue Economy: Sustainable Prosperity - Resilience – Peace >>

1.0 Background

IGAD region is composed of eight (8) Member States, five (5) of them coastal, namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan; and three (3) land-locked, including Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. The region has diverse socio-ecological landscapes which are characterized as water-stressed, with harsh natural environments making it reliant on rain-fed agro-pastoralism for its economic development, further exacerbated by demographic pressure and climate risks. Over the past decades, the IGAD region has experienced an impressive average annual economic growth rate of 5 %, albeit insufficient to lift a significant proportion of its population of nearly two hundred and fifty million people (52% female) out of extreme poverty, hunger and insecurity. Addressing these challenges in the region calls for harnessing opportunities availed by different sectors of the economy that have hitherto no received adequate policy or programmatic attention.

The IGAD region stretches over a land area of 5.2 million km² which consists of 65% water-stressed and 35 % marginal lands. The combined inland water area is about 222,358 km² but is unevenly distributed across the region. The coastal states in the region have an aggregated Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.1 million Km², including 55,875 km² of in-shore waters and 6,960 km of coastline. This huge blue economic potential of the region provides an opportunity to improve the economic growth of the region to levels that can sustainably impact on poverty reduction and socio-economic transformation. Thus far, efforts have concentrated on addressing conflicts related to access to resources, land degradation, environmental deterioration and biodiversity loss, which pose some of the main challenges to achieve sustainable development, peace and security in the region. IGAD Member States therefore need a big-push to graduate from least developed and fragile States to developing and resilient economies. In this regard, leveraging the Blue Economy through *inter-alia*, sustainable management and responsible development of the fresh water and marine resources is key to ensuring a triple-win for the present and future generations of the region.



Funded by
the European Union

1.1 The IGAD Blue Economy Initiative

Cognizant of the important role that the Blue Economy can play in the socio-economic development and transformation of the region, IGAD has embarked on a two-pronged approach. This includes:

1. Development of a Regional Blue Economy Strategy, and
2. Organizing a regional Conference to create awareness among Member States and relevant stakeholders on the role of the Blue Economy in economic, social, political and environment development and transformation of the region.

1.2 The Development of the IGAD Blue Economy Strategy

With the assistance of EU-TCF, a consulting firm was hired to conduct a baseline study on the ***Contribution of Blue Economy - Assessing the value of Blue Economy in Member States and at Regional Levels***. The baseline study will inform the design of a ***5-Year Regional Blue Economy Strategy***. National assessment studies will be validated at Member States level while the regional strategy will be adopted through a Ministerial Meeting in accordance with IGAD policy formulation procedures.

1.3 IGAD Regional Blue Economy Conference

IGAD is organizing its first regional Blue Economy (BE) Conference to raise awareness on the prospects of ocean/inland waters-related industries and the Blue Growth principles for promoting and sustaining accelerated economic growth, shared prosperity, climate resilience and peace in the Horn of Africa. Moreover, at the technical segment of the Conference, Member States will present the status of the development of BE in their respective countries. The sustainable blue economic development initiative is aligned with and reinforces IGAD's overarching sustainable development agenda for the region. This initiative also complements the vision and aspirations contained in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water; and further the African Union Continental Agenda 2063, the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 as well as it will be aligned with AUC Blue Economy Strategy 2019.

1.4 The Conference Arrangement

The **four days** conference on BE is the first regional event and offers an opportunity to discuss BE development in the IGAD region at large as well as offers platform for the region to show-case its BE components and their linkages with different sub-sectors of the national economy. The first two days will be dedicated for awareness creation and sharing of best practices. The third day will be dedicated for the presentation of IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy to the MS's delegates for the preparation of the Ministerial meeting for the adoption of the strategy. The fourth day will be for the Ministerial Meeting to review and consider a report on BE by regional experts and there-after adopt the strategy and sign a Communique.

The event will unveil BE opportunities available in the region for governments, private sector investors, donors and development partners, civil society, academia and other actors. It will also provide an opportunity to learn and get information on global and continental good practices, lessons and experiences on BE development.



Additionally, the conference will provide a regional multi-stakeholder, multi-sector and multi-scale platform to identify potential BE priority areas in the region, as well as technical discourses on the prospects for mainstreaming BE potential priority areas into regional and national development strategies.

2.0 Objectives

The main objectives of the event are:

- To create awareness on the role of BE in contributing to the socio-economic development of the region
- To explore the BE Concept and Blue Growth Principles in the regional socio-ecological context in common but differentiated approach
- To review the development prospects and challenges of well-integrated traditional and emerging BE sectors for leapfrogging accelerated and shared growth
- To identify the capacity needs and gaps for rolling-out the envisaged BE Strategy at the national and regional levels in the spirit of effective cooperation.
- To adopt five year IGAD BE Strategy by Ministers.

3.0 Outcomes

The envisaged Conference Outcomes include the following:

- 5 Year IGAD BE Strategy adopted
- The role of BE for sustainable socio-economic development understood
- Best practices documented and shared
- Network of professionals on BE created.
- Ministerial communiqué on the adoption BE strategy is signed



Conference Part A- Sharing of Best Practices and Awareness Creation (Day One and Day Two)

Themes and Topics

→ Setting the Scene

- Synopsis of the State of IGAD and its Strategy and Implementation Plan 2016-2020
- Review of IGAD Macroeconomic and Financial Performance
- Dynamics of the Global and Africa Blue Economy – Prospects & Challenges
- Status of IGAD Blue Economy – Synthesis of National Reports

→ Five main themes

Theme 1: IGAD Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

- IGAD Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy
- Inland capture fisheries and aquaculture value chains
- Marine Small-Scale fisheries value chains
- Inland Water Blue Economy: Case of Lake Victoria
- FAO Blue Growth Initiatives
- Blue Economy Experiences of Development Partners

Theme 2: IGAD Tourism Industry

- Review of the regional tourism industry
- IGAD Tourism Master Plan and selected success stories

Theme 3: IGAD Ports, Shipping and Global Connectivity

- Review of Ports, International Trade and Connectivity
- IGAD Region Ports, Shipping and Global Trade
- Oil spill and dumping of toxic materials (maritime litter)

Theme 4: IGAD Maritime Security and Governance

- IGAD Maritime Security Strategy and MASE Programme

Theme 5: Country Experiences on Blue Economy

- Status of BE in Djibouti
- Status of BE in Ethiopia
- Status of BE in Kenya
- Status of BE in Somalia
- Status of BE in South Sudan
- Status of BE in Sudan
- Status of BE in Uganda
- Blue Economy Initiatives and Experiences: Canada
- Blue Economy Initiatives and Experiences: Japan
- Blue Economy Initiatives and Experiences: United Kingdom
- Blue Economy Initiatives and Experiences: Belgium
- Blue Economy Initiatives and Experiences: Spain

→ Three cross-cutting issues

CCI -1: Linkages with the Global Agenda 2030 with focus on:

- Anticipating the Emerging Blue Economy Industries
- Blue Economy Contribution for Poverty Alleviation, Food & Nutrition Security
- Integrated Coastal Zones Management and Climate Adaptation & Resilience



- Contributions of BE in SDGs Implementation

CCI -2: Scope of Industrial Revolution on BE

- Role of Science-Technology-Innovations in Enhancing BE Development
- Contribution of BE for Human Capital Development and Job Creation

CCI -3: Social Innovations and Private Sector Development

- Community Development and Gender Equality
- Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development.

Conference Part B- Regional Blue Economy Strategy (Day Three)

On the third and fourth day of the Conference only Member States and IGAD Secretariat participants will attend. On the third day, the Regional Strategy will be presented, discussed and consensus built for onward transmission to Ministers for adoption on the fourth day. The presentations will include:

- Overview of Strategy Development Process
- IGAD Five Year Blue Economy Strategy
- Validation of the Strategy by experts
- Drafting Communique

Conference Part C- Ministerial Meeting (Day Four)

On the fourth day of the Conference Ministers will attend. The following agenda will be presented:

- Report of expert on BE strategy
- Communique from the Ministerial Meeting

The deliberations will focus on these key drivers of sustainable development:

- Political Will, Policy and Institutional Frameworks and Governance
- Multi-stakeholder Consultation, Participation and Partnerships
- Knowledge and Information Management
- Implementation Capacities, including Organisational, Human, Technical and Financial
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance, including Communication and Marketing.

Partners & Participants

The event is organized by IGAD Secretariat in conjunction with the Republic of Djibouti, Ministry of Environment and FAO; and funded by the European Union (EU-TCF). It will host about 80 participants, including 20 international and regional thematic experts, and 60 multi-disciplinary delegates from IGAD Member States. It will target policymakers, leaders and champions including:

- Ministers from MS, Public Agencies and Regional Organisations
- International and national Non-Governmental Agencies
- Science, Research and Training Institutions



- Development Partners and Funding Agencies
- UN Agencies.

Date and Venue

The Conference will be held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti from **April 12th – 15th, 2020** (tbc).

