











REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE FAIR THE BLUE ECONOMY, **SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES & AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

13th - 16th June 2023 Mombasa - Kenya



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ECOFISH INTEGRATED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT

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REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE FAIR - THE BLUE ECONOMY, SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES & AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

WORKING REPORT

13th - 16th June 2023 Mombasa – Kenya

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Knowledge Fair is organised by the ECOFISH programme in partnership with AU-IBAR and IGAD in Mombasa from thirteen to16 June 2023 under the theme:

"LEVERAGING BLUE ECONOMY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION TO BUILD THE AFRICA WE WANT 2063"

The share fair knowledge aims to harness their wealth of knowledge and innovations, policy guidance, experiential learnings, and best practices in the field of the Blue Economy, Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Aquatic Biodiversity conservation to contribute to the political, socio-economic and ecological aspirations of Africa Agenda 2063, Empowering Change through Effective Implementation! It builds on a seamless collaboration between EU-funded ECOFISH and FISHGOV 2 and the SIDA-funded Blue Economy and Aquatic Biodiversity projects to resonate the Team-Up Europe Initiative into a strong African Alliance to operationalise Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the continent from the Green and Blue Economy perspectives.

Documenting and sharing knowledge, lessons learned, experiential learning, and best practices is crucial to promote continuous improvement in policymaking and management decisions to drive sustainable development programmes and projects. The practical definitions of these terms are as follows; Knowledge encompasses factual knowledge, theoretical concepts, functional expertise, and insights from various sources, including research, education, and firsthand experiences. It refers to information, understanding, or skills individuals or communities possess through learning, experience, or study. Experiential learning is acquiring knowledge, skills, and insights through direct experience and reflection. It involves active engagement in real-life situations, direct activities, or practical tasks, allowing individuals to connect their experiences and the concepts or theories they are learning.

Experiential learning often emphasises reflection, analysis, and application of lessons derived from individual experiences. Lessons learned are the insights, conclusions, or recommendations derived from analysing and reflecting on past experiences, both positive and negative. For projects, they are specific takeaways or key findings that guide future actions. They may relate to project management, strategies, approaches, challenges, successes, or other aspects that can inform decision-making and improve future outcomes. Best practices refer to the recognised and proven approaches, methods, or techniques consistently producing superior results in a particular field or context. These practices are identified through experience, research, and evidence-based assessments. Best practices are considered benchmarks or standards to strive for, as they represent the most effective and efficient ways of achieving desired outcomes while minimising risks and maximising benefits.

2. BACKGROUND

The Knowledge programme has promoted the ECOFISH Fair in partnership with AU-IBAR and IGAD in Mombasa from 13 to 16 June 2023. The main objective of the forum is to harness their wealth of knowledge and innovations, policy guidance, experiential learnings and best practices in the field of the Blue Economy, Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Aquaculture and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation to contribute to the political, socio-economic and ecological aspirations of Africa Agenda 2063.

Empowering Change through Effective Implementation. The event is an outcome of the seamless collaboration between EU-funded ECOFISH and FISHGOV 2 and the SIDA-funded Blue Economy and Aquatic Biodiversity projects to echo the **Team-Up Europe Initiative** into a strong **African Alliance to operationalise Sustainable and Inclusive Development** of the continent from the Green and Blue Economy perspectives.

The partners have convened about 160 interdisciplinary experts, champions and delegates to this four-day brainstorming workshop, including representatives of public agencies, professional associations, business communities, research, science and academia, funding and donor agencies, non-state actions, project leaders and foot soldiers, etc.

The Knowledge Exchange aims to create a neutral platform for constructive discussion and farsightedness on the outcomes of the current programme, learning investments and best practices as a learning and adaptation process. It aims to brainstorm the challenges and opportunities for sustainable improvement of the socio-economic and ecological well-being of the African population.

The essential thinking of global sustainability is *that anything is connected to everything on our Planet. Therefore, every individual must* understand the causalities: effects and feedback loops. It calls for a new thinking or paradigm shift to transition from *business-as-usual, working in silos, one-size-fits-all and topdown* to more inclusive, integrated and circular approaches. The multistakeholder forum enables examining policy intricacies and experiential learnings on the three interconnected thematic areas as a test bench for mainstreaming the guiding principles of sustainable development in aquatic resources sectors.

The paper describes the *logical framework: Inputs – Process - Output Matrix and methodological approaches* of the forum following its provisional agenda. It also explains the *concept, scope and value chains of knowledge and information management* as a strategic tool for constant learning and adaptation of the principles of sustainable development.

3. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The terminology refers to *sharing and transferring knowledge between individuals, organisations, or communities*. It involves the exchange of *ideas, information, expertise, experiences, and best practices* to foster *learning (delearning and relearning), collaboration, and innovation.* It occurs through various methods such as *discussions, presentations, workshops, conferences, publications, online platforms, and interpersonal interactions.*

This IGAD-ECOFISH-AU IBAR Knowledge Fair aims to consolidate and disseminate the best available knowledge, experiences and best practices contributing to *improved decision-making, problem-solving and capacity-building*. It is a two-way process where both providers and recipients of knowledge benefit. Those imparting knowledge and strategic intelligence can gain insights, perspectives and feedback from others, while the recipients can enhance their understanding, skills and capabilities to address challenges or seize opportunities.

The critical elements of effective knowledge exchange include *clear communication, active listening, mutual respect, openness to diverse viewpoints*, and a supportive environment that encourages collaboration, learning and adaptation. It can take place in formal or informal/non-formal settings. The forum provides a neutral space for stakeholders to explore each other perspectives to build consensus and *recognise constructive disagreements as a new frontier of possibilities*. There is no instant solution to all multidimensional problems, and some questions remain unanswered. In the words of Einstein, the energy needed to understand a problem is the same for solving it. Quick fixes or short ones often create more significant problems in the long term.

4. EVENT HIGH-LEVEL Logical Framework

The Knowledge Fair leverages effective collaboration and cooperation in sharing knowledge, experiential learning and best practices to improve decisionmaking, management decisions and problem-solving in the Blue Economy, Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, African Fisheries Reform Mechanisms Architecture and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation.

The forum emphasises the outcomes of the EU-funded ECOFISH and FISHGOV 2 and the IGAD and AU-IBAR Aquatic Biodiversity projects supported by SIDA. It includes the contribution of the regional economic, fisheries and environmental organisations, development partners and non-state actors. The high-level logical framework is as follows:

4.1 Objectives

- *i)* Sharing and brainstorming **outcomes**, **lessons learned and best practices** among stakeholders in Blue Economy, Small-scale fisheries and Aquatic Biodiversity.
- *ii)* Showcase achievements and best practices (Exhibition/Demonstration Hall)
- *iii)* Networking, communication and interaction among practitioners, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and communities involved. (Regional Coordination Platform)
- iv) Fostering cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and integrative (Top-Down and Bottom-Up) Dialogue to enhance effective collaboration and cooperation.
 v) Promoting partnerships and synergies among key stakeholders to achieve greater outcomes and effectiveness. (Result and performance-oriented)

4.2 Expected Results

- *i)* Increased awareness and understanding of key concepts and best practices;
- *ii)* Strengthened collaboration and networking among stakeholders;
- *iii)* Enhanced capacity for knowledge sharing and utilisation;
- iv) Main challenges and opportunities in target areas addressed;
- *v*) Proper exit strategies, including replicating and up-scaling of shared knowledge;
- vi) Improve efficacity of development programmes and projects;
- vii) Streamline development cooperation approaches

4.3 Activities

- *i)* Organise **plenary and panel discussions** where experts, practitioners and community members can share their experiences, challenges and success stories. (Learning Investment)
- *ii)* Facilitate **structured discussions and dialogues** to promote understanding and cooperation among stakeholders with different perspectives and interests.
- *iii)* Facilitate networking sessions to encourage continued knowledge exchange and collaboration among participants. [Exhibition Centre]
- *iv)* Organise **plenary and panel discussions** where experts, practitioners, and community members can share their experiences and success stories.
- *v)* Organise **thematic breakout sessions** to promote interactions and knowledge sharing among target stakeholders.
- *vi)* Compile, **document and disseminate** knowledge and best practice to contribute to improving future project outcomes; [Project Tracking System]

4.4 Key Indicators

- (i) Number and Profile of participants attending the Knowledge Fair.
- (ii) Number of presentations, **case studies**, **policy briefs**, **technical papers** and communication materials shared during the event;
- (iii) Availability and utilisation of online resources and publications;
- (iv) Number of collaborations and partnerships initiated;
- (v) Participant satisfaction with the event, as measured through surveys and feedback;
- (vi) Evidence of knowledge application in decision-making processes and project formulation;

4.5 Assumptions

- (i) Participants are motivated and committed to Knowledge and Experience Sharing – Ready to brainstorm with honesty and an open mind.
- (ii) The expertise and experiences of thematic experts and participants are relevant and highly quality.
- (iii) The shared knowledge is accessible and understandable to a wide range of stakeholders.
- (iv) Participants will have the necessary skills and capacity to apply the shared knowledge in real-world contexts.
- (v) Effective networking and stakeholder collaboration will lead to sustained knowledge exchange beyond the event.
- (vi) The shared knowledge will be considered and incorporated into decisionmaking processes and project implementation by relevant stakeholders.

5. KEY THEMATIC AREAS

Theme 1 - Support the Blue Economy development Activities [Non-exhaustive]

- *i)* Identify and promote economic opportunities in sectors related to the blue economy, such as marine tourism, coastal development, renewable energy, and marine biotechnology.
- *ii)* Explore strategies for integrating small-scale fisheries into the Blue Economy and AfCFTA frameworks, considering social inclusiveness, equitable distribution of benefits, and sustainable resource use.
- *iii)* Facilitate partnerships and investments to foster Blue Economy initiatives, including access to finance, technology transfer, and market development.

- *iv)* Integrate the Blue Economy into national and regional Development Strategies to ensure accelerated sustainable, resilient and inclusive economic growth.
- *v)* Cross-cutting issues such as Innovative Financing, Science-Technology-Innovations, Capacity-building, Multilateral Cooperation, etc.,

Theme 2 - Enhance Sustainable Small-scale fisheries Objectives / Activities

- *i)* Invite representatives from projects and programmes to present their experiences and outcomes during dedicated sessions. [Ecofish Result 3 Demonstration Projects]
- *ii)* Showcase *innovative approaches, technologies, and tools* contributing to sustainable fishing practices, including low-impact fishing gear, ecosystem-based management, and responsible aquaculture.
- *iii)* Promote sustainable fishing practices through knowledge dissemination, capacity building, and awareness raising.
- *iv)* Highlight successful case studies and initiatives that have improved small-scale fisheries and aquaculture's ecological, social, and economic sustainability.
- v) Distribute educational materials, including brochures, pamphlets, and online resources, to raise awareness about sustainable fishing and fish farming practices.
- *vi)* Disseminate case study compendiums, policy briefs and success stories to inspire and inform other stakeholders.

Theme 3 - Strengthen conservation and management of aquatic biodiversity Objectives/Activities

- *i)* Present the outcomes of the SIDA-funded Aquatic Biodiversity projects implemented by AU-IBAR and IGAD;
- *ii)* Raise awareness about the importance of aquatic biodiversity and its role in supporting ecosystem health, resilience, and human well-being.
- *iii)* Share scientific research, monitoring approaches, and conservation strategies that contribute to protecting and restoring aquatic biodiversity.
- *iv)* Promote integrating traditional ecological knowledge and local community engagement in conserving and managing aquatic biodiversity.

Theme 4 - Policy and governance enhancement Objectives/Activities

- *i)* Facilitate discussions on policy frameworks, legal instruments, and governance mechanisms that support sustainable small-scale fisheries, blue economy development, and aquatic biodiversity conservation.
- *ii)* Identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities in existing policies and governance arrangements, and propose recommendations for improvement.
- *iii)* Foster dialogue between policy-makers, researchers, and stakeholders to promote these sectors' evidence-based decision-making, policy coherence, and adaptive governance.
- *iv)* Present the mandate and scope of the Africa Fisheries Reform Mechanisms Architecture as part of the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for the African Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector.

6. TECHNICAL SESSIONS

After the opening ceremony, a plenary session was organised to brief the participants on the logical framework of the event. It was followed by a presentation of the key partners and their programmes before the official inauguration of the Exhibition Centre. As per the Provisional Agenda, there were four breakouts covering the thematic areas as follows:

- i) Blue Economy IGAD
- *ii)* Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Best Practices ECOFISH
- iii) Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation IGAD and AU-IBAR
- iv) Fisheries Policy and Governance: AU-IBAR

The Thematic leader planned and coordinated their respective breakout sessions and collectively developed an agenda for the final plenary discussion, policy dialogue, integration and conclusion of the event.

7. STRUCTURE OF THE KNOWLEDGE FAIR

Based on the **Provision Agenda**, the layout of the event is as follows:

AGENDA ITEMS		DAY 1		DAY 2		DAY 3		DAY 4	
		II	Ι	II	I	II	I	II	
Opening ceremony									
Event Log frame									
IGAD									
ECOFISH									
AU-IBAR									
BREAKOUT SESSIONS									
BLUE ECONOMY]						
SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES									
AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY									
FISHERIES POLICY & GOV									
PLENARY SESs/ PANEL									
DIS.									
ITEM 1 – BLUE ECONOMY									
ITEM 2 – SSF & AQ									
ITEM 3 - FISH POL & GOV									
ITEM 4 – AQUATIC BD									
POLICY DIALOGUE									
INTEGRATION & RECOM.									
CLOSING									
EXHIBITION &									
NETWORKING									

8. THE WORKSHOP OPENING

- Welcome remarks
- Partners remarks

9. SPEECHES

Speech #1: Dr Fatuma – Head of Mission for IGAD - Kenya

- The blue economy (BE) is a realistic vision that would catapult the African continent to a prosperous and sustainable future.
- There is a need to build a knowledge base for a better Africa, especially in the stewardship of the BE sector comprising lakes, rivers, and oceans.
- There are several BE policies and guidelines that have been developed in Africa to streamline the BE agenda, namely:-
 - Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The African continent has devised a comprehensive blueprint and master plan to transform into a leading global force in the coming years. This strategic framework, known as Africa's blueprint, is driven by the continent's commitment to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. It embodies the ideals of pan-African unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity, which have long been pursued under the principles of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance.
 - Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) strategy (2050 aim strategy). The African Union (AU) endorsed the AIM in 2019 and adopted it by heads of state in 2020.
 - The Pan-African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy with the key Policy Messages of i) transition to sustainability, ii) profitability and iii) equitable Distribution.
 - African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter)
- All the above policies indicate the support of the BE sector. They would significantly contribute to African social and general economic development by developing the underutilized and untapped BE. It would contribute immensely to GDP and economic growth.
- Therefore, there is a need to capitalize and harness the BE sectors to assist in developing fisheries and alternative food sources and secure food security, alternative energy sources, desalination, and maritime transport and security.
- Important to share knowledge, technical expertise, and ideas and create a conversation towards synergizing the BE sector. Additionally, resource mobilization remains a challenge to the successful implementation of BE.
- IGAD has assigned a partnership to fund the African regional BE development. This partnership will seek to undertake a marine biodiversity baseline assessment and develop tools to monitor and mitigate plastic pollution.
- IGAD is also developing national MSP strategies aligned with the AU BE strategy.

The take-home message of the speaker was that the knowledge share fair should document the available expertise in the region for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Additionally, it should leverage the expertise to strengthen IGAD secretariat knowledge management.

Speech #2: Ambassador of Sudan to Kenya

According to the ambassador, Djibouti has assumed the Chair of the IGAD based on a resolution by heads of state. The BE strategy forum aimed to foster the exchange of ideas, experiences, and knowledge to shape a brighter future for the African Continent. The ambassador emphasized the vast investment potential offered by the BE and posed a crucial question: How can Africa effectively adapt to embrace the emerging opportunities and potential of the BE?

Speech #3: Mr Dev Phokeer – Director IOC

The Director of IOC highlighted several key points during his address:

- A sizeable portion, approximately 71.8%, of tourism in the region was coastalfocused, including eco-tourism.
- Renewable energy holds tremendous potential, with opportunities to harness tidal, wave, and offshore wind energy. Diversifying the energy sources would contribute to combating climate change and promoting sustainability.
- The maritime trade sector supports extensive import and export trade, contributing to economic growth and regional cooperation.
- The ambassador urged participants to discuss innovative ideas and methodologies to tackle challenges and offer local, regional, and global solutions for pressing issues such as climate change, employment, and biodiversity degradation.
- In particular, he emphasized the importance of maritime/sea jobs as a priority area for the IOC (International Oceanographic Commission), as it can provide professional training and create up to three million job opportunities for youth.

Speech #4: Ms Hellen Moepe-Guebama – Fisheries Expert AU-IBAR

The speaker highlighted the following points:

- The forum was a pioneering intercontinental initiative aimed at promoting the Blue Economy.
- The region boasts vast marine ecosystems (LMEs), such as the Somali Current LME, Benguela LME, and Agulhas LME, which provide numerous ecosystem services for the African people.
- The optimal utilization of African aquatic resources is crucial in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in addressing climate change and reducing hunger.

- The speaker expressed concern over the significant threats aquatic animals and environments face from overexploitation.
- Various efforts have been undertaken to develop the Blue Economy sector, including:
 - Establishing the African Blue Economy strategy fosters growth, inclusivity, knowledge advancement, environmental sustainability, shipping industry enhancement, fisheries management, and the development of aquatic spaces.
 - Deep sea minerals and mining have also been a focus of development.
 - A policy framework for fisheries has been implemented to ensure equitable resource access and exploitation.
- The forum provides an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and avoid duplications in efforts.

The Key take-home message from the speaker was that partnerships are crucial for collaboration and securing financing. The sustainable management of blue spaces is essential for the benefit of humanity.

Speech #5: Madev Baloo, Project Manager for ECOFISH

Madev Baloo, Project Manager for ECOFISH, gave an overview of R3 - achievements and learning investments, including the prospects and challenges for the replication and upscaling. Under ECOFISH Result 3 - Experimenting with Sustainable SSF Projects, several projects are being implemented in Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sudan, Zambia and Mozambique. These are various amounts of funding from 2023 to 2024. He explained several prospects and challenges and recommended building on these findings, scaling up successful initiatives and promoting knowledge sharing to ensure the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the region. It is also important to examine factors that may hinder or facilitate up-scaling successful interventions in other areas of the African continent.



10. SPEECH FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Mombasa governor, Hon Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir

- A governor delivered the speech at the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Blue Economy Knowledge Share Fair in Mombasa. The governor expressed pride and gratitude for hosting the event, emphasizing the city's resilience, rich heritage, and commitment to sustainable growth.
- The forum united nations as a collective voice with a shared purpose: leveraging the blue economy through efficient small-scale fisheries management and aquatic biodiversity conservation to build the desired Africa. This theme reflects the region's dedication to integrating economic development with environmental sustainability.
- The governor highlighted the recognition from the African Union of the pivotal role of the blue economy in advancing the continent. The African Union Agenda 2063 envisions an Africa with prosperous economies and long, healthy lives for its people, with the blue economy playing a fundamental role in achieving this vision.
- During the forum, the speech stressed the importance of sustainability and inclusivity in discussions, decisions, and actions. It emphasized the need to prioritize equitable access to aquatic resources, protect ecological integrity, and ensure the well-being of present and future generations.
- The governor highlighted the potential of the blue economy in small-scale fisheries and aquatic biodiversity. Small-scale fisheries provide livelihoods, nourishment, and cultural identity to coastal and lakeside communities. Efficient management of these fisheries enhances socioeconomic stability and the health of marine resources. Additionally, the conservation of aquatic biodiversity supports ecosystems, fisheries, tourism, and climate change mitigation efforts.
- The challenge was to find a balance between utilization and preservation, meeting current demands while securing the future. The speech emphasized the need for innovative thinking, collaborative efforts, and a strong commitment to addressing this challenge while acknowledging that the necessary knowledge and resources are available.
- The governor envisioned an Africa that thrives, coexists in peace, and champions sustainability. The destiny of Africa is closely tied to the well-being of its blue resources. By tapping into the blue economy judiciously and sustainably, the foundation for a robust, prosperous Africa that respects the balance of nature can be laid.
- During the forum, the governor called for participants to keep this vision in mind and emphasized that their actions today will shape the Africa of tomorrow. The speech portrayed the meeting as a transformative era marked by growth,

sustainability, and unity, with discussions and collaborations leading towards the desired Africa.

• Finally, the governor welcomed the participants to Mombasa, known for its hope, resilience, and diverse culture. The city symbolizes the vision for Africa—resilient in the face of adversity and hopeful for a prosperous future.

Remarks by the Lamu governor, Hon. Excellency Issa Timamy

- The governor's speech focused on the importance of regional integration and the role of subnational governments in contributing to economic growth and biodiversity conservation through shared blue resources. The governor recognizes the significance of regional bodies like IGAD and the African Union in addressing everyday challenges and promoting cooperation.
- The Africa Union Blue Economy Strategy, when implemented together with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is seen as a transformative approach to addressing challenges such as poverty, food security, clean energy, and climate change. The strategy aims to foster cooperation, collaboration, and sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the region.
- The speech highlights the efforts of subnational governments in addressing specific challenges and opportunities within their jurisdictions. For example, Lamu County has incorporated marine spatial planning into their development plan to ensure sustainability. Other counties with shared blue resources also focus on enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience for communities that rely on the blue economy.
- Strategic partnerships are emphasised to maximise cooperation for sustainable development. Collaborative management, knowledge-sharing, experience, and resources are essential to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources. Promoting sustainable tourism, fisheries, and aquaculture is crucial for economic growth and generating income for local communities. Protecting marine biodiversity and encouraging research and innovation, particularly among youth, are also highlighted as essential aspects of the blue economy sector.
- The speech concludes by emphasizing the need for partnerships and collaboration with all stakeholders to maximize the potential of blue economy resources in the region.

Remarks by H.E Salim Mvurya, Egh, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs,

- The speech by H.E Salim Mvurya, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs, highlights the significance of the Blue Economy Knowledge Sharing Fair and the importance of collaboration in mainstreaming the blue economy sector.
- The Cabinet Secretary welcomes the participants and emphasizes that this gathering brings stakeholders in the blue economy, fisheries, and aquatic development sectors and essential partners.

- The government of Kenya recognizes the blue economy's potential for economic growth, development, job creation, poverty reduction, and enhancing livelihoods.
- The speech outlines several policies, legal and institutional reforms the Kenyan government undertook to support the sustainable exploitation of blue economy resources. These include establishing new institutions, such as the Kenya Fisheries Service, Kenya Fish Marketing Authority, Fish Levy Trust Fund, Kenya Coast Guard Services, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, and Kenya Fishing Industries Corporation. The government also highlights the review of policies and programs to enhance food security, address climate change, and the development of a national Blue Economy Strategy.
- The fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors growth is mentioned, with increased fish production and ongoing capacity-building efforts for deep-sea fishing, infrastructure investments, and fish stocking programs. The government has adopted a value chain approach to budgeting, including the blue economy and fisheries value chain, focusing on employment, income generation, poverty reduction, and youth and women empowerment.
- The speech emphasizes the importance of partnerships with development partners, such as IFAD, World Bank, FAO, and the EU, to support the conservation, management, and development of fisheries and aquatic resources, blue economy sector development, and sustainable aquaculture.
- Challenges facing the blue economy and fisheries sector in Kenya are identified, including insecurity, inadequate financing, disconnected policy frameworks, habitat destruction, pollution, climate change impacts, over-exploitation, lack of quality fish feeds and seeds, illegal fishing activities, and invasive species.
- The speech highlights the success of the Mikoko Pamoja blue carbon project, which
 restores and protects mangroves in Kwale County. The project generates income
 from the sale of carbon credits, which is reinvested in the community for clean
 water access and education and has attracted eco-tourism and beekeeping
 activities.
- The Cabinet Secretary acknowledges that the blue economy sector in Kenya remains untapped and calls for knowledge sharing, collaborations, and behaviour change to promote wider ownership, participation, and investment in the sector. The speech expresses hope that the forum will facilitate deliberation, establish collaborations, and foster sustainable development of the blue economy in the region.

11.OPENING SESSION -LAUNCHING THE EXHIBITION





12. PARALLEL SESSIONS

Parallel sessions were organized to increase opportunities for intra- and inter-regional knowledge exchanges. The following sessions were conducted on Day 1 and Day 2:

- IGAD Blue Economy
- ECOFISH Small-scale fisheries management
- AU-IBAR Aquatic biodiversity conservation
- AU-IBAR African fisheries reform mechanism

Each session identified the gaps, areas, and issues to be addressed in the respective regions, a wrap-up and takeaways.



Building the Africa We Want

by leveraging the **Blue Economy**, Small-Scale Fisheries

Management & Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

THEME 1 Support the BLUE ECONOMY development

Theme 1 - Support the Blue Economy development

Member States National Blue Economy Strategies

1.1 Djibouti National Blue Economy Strategy

Presenter: Barwako Houssein Kidar, Sous-Directrice de l'Economie bleue

Djibouti BE is heralded as the engine for sustainable development, and a dedicated department has been setup specifically for BE national strategy formulation through a consultant. A national workshop has also been undertaken to take stock of BE progress and shared data. The vision and primary strategy have been shared with key stakeholders. Consequently, a national validation of the national MSP has been undertaken (May 2023)¹.

Djibouti has also developed a legal framework designed to protect natural resources and mitigate against pollution through eight (8) strategic objectives; -

- 1. Governance
- 2. Sustainable fish and aquaculture
- 3. Renewable Energy
- 4. Maritime trade
- 5. Tourism
- 6. Adaptation to climate change
- 7. Marine and Littoral Environment
- 8. Maritime Security

Djibouti BE sector also has a well-**defined governance structure comprising** of a line Ministry, the national commission for BE hosted under the office of the Prime Minister, and a technical committee composed of fifteen members from national institutions linked to BE good practices, including i) stakeholder engagement and ii) participative governance.

Djibouti is committed to protecting key marine resources and collecting baseline data and maps for a holistic MSP and BE implementation. They are also developing activities compatible with MPAs and protection of the MPAs consistent with environmental best practice laws, enacting laws for protected marine areas and mobilizing financial resources to support BE objectives.

¹ See <u>https://igad.int/djibouti-validates-and-technically-adopts-a-national-blue-economy-strategy/</u>

1.2 Ethiopia National Blue Economy Strategy

Presenter: Anene Kejela Wodajo - Ethiopia National Focal Point for BE

Despite being landlocked since 1991, Ethiopia has developed a comprehensive 5-year (2022-2027) BE strategy². The strategy involves collaboration between the government, NGOs, and development partners. Ethiopia's BE definition encompasses oceans, seas, coastlines, lakes, rivers, and groundwater, aligning with ABES guidelines.

Ethiopia's resource base for BE includes inland and international waters, river waters, lake water, groundwater, hydropower, fisheries and aquaculture, maritime ships, transportation and seafaring, and tourism. The strategic pillars of Ethiopia's BE are firmly rooted in creating conditions of social equity, environmental sustainability, gender inclusivity, and economic viability. The strategy promotes a circular economy, good governance, collaboration, and partnerships.

The ultimate goals of Ethiopia's BE strategy are to establish effective BE governance, identify and develop priority and flagship programs, foster social equity, environmental sustainability, and economic viability, and accelerate the sustainable utilization of BE resources. Additionally, Ethiopia intends to implement an action plan that includes sector-specific implementation, alignment with IGAD and ABES strategies, establishing coordination points and links with BE line sectors, allocating budgetary resources, defining objectives, roles, and responsibilities, developing a communication strategy, and implementing a monitoring and evaluation process.

Governance Structure

- National BE Forum comprising national governments and NGOs
- BE focal points and persons in line ministries (mining, water and energy, tourism, BE)
- Inter-ministerial forum of line ministries
- Development of a BE implementation framework and investment plan

Summary and Conclusion

- 1. Working on clear national goals and objectives, resource mobilisation, and investment opportunities
- 2. Formulation of a tailored value proposition;
- 3. Resource mobilization through government budgets, public-privatepartnership (PPP) investment and development partners.
- 4. Collaboration with neighbouring countries for regional integration;

² See <u>https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/eth215770.pdf</u>

1.3 Kenya BE Strategy

Presenter: Dorothy Muli - Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs

The Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of Kenya, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), held a one-day workshop on 15th February 2023 to validate the National Blue Economy Strategy 2023-2027³. Kenya's BE sectors encompass fisheries, maritime services, education, training, science and research, and offshore renewable energy. However, these sectors have encountered numerous challenges, including inadequate policies, limited investment due to being a new frontier, the impact of climate change, and concerns regarding maritime safety and security. The guiding principles of Kenya's BE strategy revolve around a circular economy, inclusive public participation that encompasses all demographics, and cross-institutional, inter-ministerial, and national collaboration and partnerships involving NGOs, CSOs, and development partners.

The strategic goals of Kenya's BE strategy include:

- 1. Development of fisheries and aquaculture resources through the promotion of appropriate technologies.
- 2. Establishment of effective and reliable maritime transport systems and enhancement of trade relations;
- 3. Utilization of renewable energy sources and sustainable extraction of BE mineral resources;
- 4. Integration of commercial BE tourism.
- 5. Enhancement of human resource capacity for sustainable BE;
- 6. Strengthening of coordination mechanisms.
- 7. Promotion of sustainable financing for BE initiatives;

Kenya aims to develop an integrated implementation strategy and plan in the short term. Kenya has led the MS by creating a national land-sea spatial planning process. This pilot project will be a model for scaling up similar efforts in other Member States.

1.4 Somalia BE Strategy

Presenter: Abdullahi A. Addow – Ministry of Fisheries and BE Somalia

Somalia provides an avenue to support rebuilding and stabilising the country. The Federal government has spearheaded the national BE strategy development⁴, validation, endorsement⁵ and integration of sectoral BE programs. Somalia's BE resource base includes an extensive EEZ (1.2 million km²), upwelling, coral reefs, marshes, ground

³ See <u>https://igad.int/kenya-validates-its-national-blue-economy-strategy-in-collaboration-with-igad/</u>

⁴ See <u>https://nec.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Establishment-of-a-Somali-blue-economy-framework-for-Somalia.pdf</u>

⁵ See <u>https://igad.int/somalia-endorses-its-national-blue-economy-be-strategy/</u>

water and surface waters (large rivers. Somalia's BE strategic Pillars include the establishment of a functional BE sector, promotion of social equity, acceleration of the exploitation of BE resources and building industries in the fisheries and aquaculture, renewable energy, and climate change thematic areas. With the assistance of IGAD, Somalia has formulated a comprehensive implementation strategy and plan.

1.5 South Sudan BE Strategy

Presenter: Jackson Muso – Ministry of livestock and Fisheries, South Sudan The country is landlocked (land linked) and has seven (7) biodiversity and resourcerich agroecological zones. Th country's national BE strategy (2023 – 2027)⁶ has been conceptualized based on these zones. Based on the Agro-ecological zones, the **South Sudan BE Sectors** include;

- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Wildlife, conservation, and tourism
- \circ Oil and gas
- Gender in BE and socio-cultural nexus
- o River navigation and port development
- Renewable and clean energy

South Sudan BE strategy has outlined its vision, mission and core values based on its contextual inland environment, and the main objectives seek to; i) create awareness and advance knowledge to uncover non-traditional potentials of blue economy and their contribution to the GDP of the country, ii) advance governance, cohesive, coordinated identification, preparation and implementation of national blue economy programs and activities, and iii) build aquatic biotechnical knowledge and capacities for innovative research and development in blue economy. The South Sudan BE strategy is anchored by three (3) Pillars, namely;

- 1. Management and protection of BE resources secure a long-term economic benefit.
- 2. Structure governing and coordination define the role and scope of each line Ministry and department.
- 3. Innovative economic diversification of the BE sector wealth creation, knowledge, and skills
- 4. Innovative economic diversification of the BE sector wealth creation, knowledge, and skills

The governance and operational structure of the South Sudan Bioenergy (BE) sector consists of an inter-ministerial Steering Committee led by the line minister, an inter-

⁶ See <u>https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/National-Blue-Economy-Strategy-for-Sudan-for-the-year-</u> 2023-2027.pdf

ministerial technical committee supervised by the Secretary of Fisheries and partners, as well as involvement from the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs). This coordination addresses various challenges, including bridging socio-cultural gaps, promoting gender mainstreaming, facilitating integrated water resource development and management, and fostering the diversification of renewable energy sources. However, South Sudan encounters obstacles in effectively implementing its BE sector, primarily due to limited capacity to secure financing and a lack of economic valuation for its bioenergy resources, which hampers potential investments. South Sudan actively collects and generates data through baseline surveys and resource quantification efforts to address these challenges. Additionally, the country is seeking assistance in developing specialized economic valuation toolkits tailored to its bioenergy sector.

1.6 Uganda BE Strategy

Presenter: Albert Orijabo –BE Focal Point Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda

Uganda is a landlocked (land-linked) country that developed a draft Uganda BE strategy in 2022. The BE Strategy validation was conducted in 2023⁷, and the strategy conceptual framework heavily borrows from IGAD and AU BE strategies. The identified BE Sectors in Uganda include tourism, petroleum, energy, and the resources in Lake Victoria, including fisheries. Therefore, Uganda derives their BE resource from two primary resources: water and fisheries. However, Uganda's BE faces contemporary challenges, including the encroachment of BE spaces and physical alteration, climate change impacts and lack of awareness.

Uganda has developed a BE toolkit; however, it did not adequately reflect the value quotations outlined in the BE strategy. As a result, there are plans to review and revise their strategy to address this shortfall. In Uganda, the governance and coordination of the BE sector involve a collaboration between the government and private partners. The BE Political Committee, consisting of line ministers, represents this collaboration. Additionally, line ministries contribute their technical expertise, while various government agencies (MDAs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively participate in the coordination efforts. Uganda's immediate focus is integrating BE interventions with existing sectors and aligning them with the government's current plans. Rather than implementing BE initiatives as independent endeavours, the aim is to complement existing plans and leverage synergies across different sectors. This approach seeks to optimize the effectiveness and impact of BE interventions within the broader national development framework.

⁷ See <u>https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Joint-Communique-fo-the-Ministers-of-Blue-Economy-Sectors-of-Uganda.pdf</u>

1.7 National BE strategy General summary

- Except for Eritrea, all Member States have formulated their national BE strategies. These strategies are currently in various stages of internal adoption, with the majority having already undergone validation and adoption processes.
- IGAD, through SIDA, supported the MS in developing their BE strategies.
- Most BE focal points are integrated within line ministries, emphasising BE and related sectors. This integration highlights BE's support, goodwill, and significance within the Member States (MS).
- Member States (MS) strategies recognize the significance of partnerships involving governments, NGOs, private sector entities, and development partners. However, one crucial aspect currently absent is the imperative of regional integration. Such integration would enable meaningful knowledge transfer, foster the sharing of best practices among MS, and facilitate the effective management of transboundary BE resources.

1.7 National Blue Economy Strategies (Q&A)

Comments by the Governor of Lamu County, Kenya, H.E. Issa Timamy

The Governor acknowledged the complexity and costs associated with Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) while emphasizing the need to build capacity for the task. He committed to seeking guidance from MSP experts to develop Lamu County's MSP. Additionally, the Governor highlighted the importance of ocean governance in addressing climate change and urged sustainable resource utilization and building resilience in ecological habitats and communities.

Comments by Ambassador Kamal Gubar, Embassy of the Republic of Sudan, Nairobi.

The Ambassador requested Sudan's cooperation in developing a strong Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning in the Red Sea. He highlighted opportunities in the fisheries sector and urged relevant organizations to include Sudan's maritime space in their African Blue Economy strategy. Additionally, he emphasized the need to improve ocean literacy in Sudan through initiatives like the Red Sea State University. The Sudan Embassy in Nairobi expressed readiness to facilitate collaboration and partnerships in Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning.

Dr Samuel Bassa, a Fisheries & Aquaculture Scientist at the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute in Jinja, Uganda, requested clarification from Ingela (SwAM) regarding the inclusion of riverine and stream pollution in the assessment of pollution sources and hotspots within the evaluated basin. Ingela explained that the current case study was conducted as a pilot project. A survey encompassing the entire basin would be required for comprehensive pollution monitoring on a larger scale.

South Sudan raised a question regarding the potential trade-offs between mitigating plastic pollution and preserving the socio-economic benefits associated with the plastic

industry. However, the plastic manufacturing industries provide employment opportunities and generate significant revenue. Ingela from SwAM (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management) emphasized the importance of considering a broader perspective beyond a circular economy approach. Instead, it is crucial to assess all steps involved in the value chains and the overall benefits of any initiative; transparency on stakeholder engagement (formal vs informal) and provision of roadmaps for awareness would be necessary for forfeiture benefits.

Dr Emmanuel Japheth, a Mangrove Specialist from Wetlands International, asked Tomas Anderson from SwAM about Sweden's experiences with Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and its ideal scope, considering the lack of a one-size-fits-all blueprint. Additionally, he inquired about the cost implications and lifespan of MSP Plans. Tomas explained that the scope of MSP depends on the context and objectives, citing Lake Victoria as an example of a broader scope due to transboundary resources and multisectoral demands. He noted the high costs of developing an elaborate MSP and mentioned that the Swedish MSP has an eight-year cycle, while the EU follows a tenyear cycle. However, he stressed the need for regular reviews based on necessity.

Albert Orijabo, the Assistant Commissioner at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Directorate of Water Resources Management, Uganda, inquired about coordinating Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) at the national level and its transboundary scope. He also asked about the institutional framework available to support this coordination. Tomas Anderson from SwAM explained that there are different perspectives on MSP coordination, including a top-down approach involving national coordination among key agencies and establishing a link between national coordination and line ministries. However, he highlighted that cross-sectoral coordination would be ideal to ensure all voices are heard. For example, he mentioned the Baltic Sea Regional MSP, which has a multi-country coordination framework encompassing various sectors, including environmental considerations.

Jenni inquired about achieving science and evidence-based resource allocation in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). Tomas highlighted the importance of collecting and utilizing data to make informed decisions within the MSP process. He explained that MSP processes can be customized and tailored to each region or country's unique characteristics and needs. Additionally, Tomas suggested that assigning actual value costs to ecosystem services would facilitate sector-specific resource allocation within the MSP.

Dr Okeyo Bernads, an Associate Professor at Pwani University, Kenya, raised two questions to the experts. Firstly, he inquired about remedies for current challenges in the Blue Economy (BE), minimal and inadequate markets and how women can access export markets. Ottilia from SwAM highlighted the importance of incorporating markets into value chains and ensuring the flow of information from general frameworks to local levels. Secondly, Dr Bernads asked Tomas from SwAM

about the possibilities of international financing for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Tomas suggested utilizing existing resources, such as collating available data and involving more stakeholders who possess valuable information. He mentioned that the World Bank offers provisions for MSP, including Blue Bonds. Tomas emphasized the need for countries to integrate budgeting and costs into their internal governance systems for sustainable MSP rather than solely relying on development partners for funding.

Harith Mohamed from SWIOTUNA posed a question to Dickson Waruinge from the Nairobi Convention regarding the inclusion of artisanal fishers in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and how the Blue Economy (BE) forum can be made accessible to small-scale and artisanal fishers. Mr Waruinge emphasised the importance of creating a nexus for artisanal fishers. This nexus should involve coordination at various levels, including the beach, county, national, and global. He mentioned that BE and MSP issues should be addressed on a larger scale. He also highlighted the FAO artisanal fisheries project, which focuses on integrating artisanal fisheries into the Blue Economy and MSP. Additionally, Mr Waruinge acknowledged the need for proper coordination among the various stakeholders and decision-makers in the sector.

1.8 Demonstration and Case Studies

Session Chair: Dr Wassie Anteneh

Rapporteur: Dr Amon Kimeli

1.8.1 *Presenter: Dr Ingela Isaksson:* Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)

The presenter introduced Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) as a government agency responsible for the national management of Sweden's marine and freshwater environments, including fisheries management. SwAM's research areas include plastic pollution, BE and river basin management. SwAM collaborates widely with regional partners, including UNEP's Nairobi convention, IOCARIBE, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and MS through SIDA, SEPA and the International Training Programme (ITP).

The ITP planning for a sustainable blue future in the WIO, which covers MS, namely Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Comoros, provide evidence of knowledge transfer and partnerships with IGAD MS. Other collaborative projects initiated through SwAM's collaboration are MSP capacity regional, MSP national capacity and the online resource the WIO-Symphony.

1.8.2 Presentation #1: Socio-Economic Analysis of the Costs of Inaction of plastic debris leakage: The case of Umungeni River catchment in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa

Presenter: Dr Ingela Isaksson

The study aimed to investigate plastic pollution's social and economic impact in the uMngeni River Catchment. The River Basin Management approach was used to pilot a study to determine plastic sources and mitigate and reduce marine litter. A combination of interviews, modelling, and literature reviews. Model scenarios on how plastic pollution can impact socially and economically on the communities were undertaken.

Main Results

- Plastic waste has a direct impact on socio-economic well as on ecosystem services in Durban and its surrounding areas.
- Plastic pollution affects peoples' dignity and perceptions of self-worth.

Recommended exit and up-scaling strategies for mitigation of plastic pollution

- Expansion of transformative river management
- Community cooperatives and engagement, e.g., recruiting local lorry drivers to clear waste
- Installation of basic, efficient, and maintained solid waste services (waste collection, recycle bins, etc.)
- Creation value chain for plastic waste

Knowledge resources available

- Socio-Economic Analysis of the Costs of the Inaction of Plastic Debris Leakage into the Mngeni River catchment in KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. Final report. Report 2022:8⁸
- 2. Institutional website9

1.8.3 Presentation #2: Blue Economy with Gender Lens

Presenter: Ottilia Thoreson

The study commissioned by SwAM Ocean on gender and poverty perspectives in MSP sought to evaluate the opportunities for MSP to contribute to more gender-equal societies and socio-economic development in the countries of the Western Indian Ocean region. The study found that MSP planners can use a scorecard to guide the social sustainability of the MSP process based on a criteria combination of power and voice, resources, opportunity and choice, community security and domestic harmony.

⁸ See <u>https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.2910eb4e18168d823c84a3ba/1655724001447/swam-south-africa-cost-of-inaction-study.pdf</u>

⁹ See <u>https://www.havochvatten.se/en/start.html</u>

Gender mainstreaming is helpful for MSP planners and decision-makers at the local and national levels for designing an inclusive MSP process.

The research findings indicated that when it comes to marine spatial planning, it is crucial to consider poverty and gender considerations while prioritizing social inclusion. To ensure the sustainability of marine spatial planning (MSP), the following aspects should be incorporated into the MSP design process:

- 1. Avoidance of exacerbating poverty and gender inequality: The MSP design should actively work towards minimizing any potential negative impacts on poverty levels and gender disparities. It should strive to prevent the worsening of these existing inequalities within coastal communities.
- 2. Consideration and engagement of marginalized groups: It is imperative to recognize and involve groups that may face marginalization or exclusion within the decision-making processes of marine spatial planning. By actively considering their perspectives and needs, the MSP can ensure a more inclusive approach that considers the diverse range of stakeholders.
- 3. Promoting social sustainability within the marine spatial plan: The MSP should prioritize social sustainability by incorporating strategies addressing poverty alleviation, gender equality, and overall well-being within coastal communities. It entails integrating measures and initiatives that uplift and empower disadvantaged groups, fostering equitable access to resources and opportunities.

In summary, by integrating poverty and gender considerations and promoting social inclusion, marine spatial planning can effectively contribute to sustainable development while addressing the needs and challenges of all stakeholders involved. The presenter further recommended that to properly mainstream gender into MSP and BE, gender-sensitive infrastructure needed to be incorporated into BE projects.

General comments

- MSP and BE are complementary in creating jobs, revenue generation and economic development
- Data collection is ongoing in IGAD MS to evaluate the gender incorporation into MSP and BE.
- Institutional and infrastructure settings still pose a challenge to holistic BE implementation. Kenya has started to develop a national MSP and will function as a model for the other IGAD states.
- Dr Eshete Dejan noted that gender is at the heart of IGAD operations and agenda, especially regarding land tenure. A dedicated programme for gender mainstreaming in the IGAD

Knowledge resources available

1. Poverty and gender considerations in marine spatial planning: Conceptual and analytical framework. Final Report 2022:20¹⁰

1.8.4 Presentation #3: Experiences of introducing and developing MSP in Sweden

Presenter: Tomas Anderson

During the presentation, MSP was introduced as a highly inclusive and public process to effectively manage human activities' spatial and temporal distribution in marine areas. The overarching goal of MSP is to achieve ecological, economic, and social sustainability. It was emphasized that MSP operates on different time scales, ranging from long-term visions to shorter-term objectives. For instance, MSP can encompass long-term plans like the Africa Agenda 2063, which outlines a comprehensive vision for the continent's development over several decades. It demonstrates the enduring nature of MSP as it aligns with long-term goals and aspirations.

Simultaneously, MSP can also involve medium to short-term strategies, such as those for 2030. These more immediate objectives provide a focused approach to address specific challenges, seize opportunities, and adapt to changing circumstances within a shorter time frame. The presenter highlighted that MSP drives development, creates job opportunities, and attracts investments. By effectively managing and coordinating human activities in marine areas, MSP can unlock the potential of coastal regions, promote sustainable economic growth, and enhance social well-being.

Swedish case study

The MSP framework depends on country and context; no "fit-all" blueprint exists. The Swedish need for an MSP is anchored on

- Demand for blue growth and regional development
- Claims to use the sea are increasing
- EU-Legislation

The Swedish MSP Best Practices

- Multi- and inter-sectoral integration.
- Environmental sustainability
- Involvement stakeholders
- Prioritization of the needs of all groups in society
- Provision of shared and integrated use, knowledge and decision making

¹⁰ See <u>https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.fe779651861e7d74907a368/1676196293304/swam-publication-poverty-and-gender-considerations-in-marine-spatial-planning.pdf</u>

The Swedish case study demonstrates the effective application of knowledge in decision-making and project formulation. The process includes using sector reports, MSP drafts, status reports, and thematic reports. The Swedish MSP took five years for consultation and two years for the government to study and adopt the recommendations. The approach involved considering neighbouring countries, national agencies, regions, municipalities, trade associations, NGOs, and research institutions. This inclusive approach ensures comprehensive planning and stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process.

SwAM, in collaboration with the UNEP Nairobi convention, has developed the WIO-Symphony. WIO Symphony is an online application facilitating marine spatial planning in the Western Indian Ocean region. Its primary objective is to evaluate the environmental impact caused by various human activities. The development of this tool is a collaborative effort involving the Nairobi Convention and its ten member states.



Knowledge resources available

- 1. WIO-Symphony Online Tool¹¹
- 2. Marine Spatial Plans For the Gulf of Bothnia, the Baltic Sea and the Skagerrak/Kattegat¹²
- 3. Road maps
- 4. Current Status reports

¹¹ See <u>https://www.havochvatten.se/en/eu-and-international/international-cooperation/swam-ocean---</u> improving-lives-through-sustainable-use-of-the-ocean/wio-symphony---a-tool-for-ecosystem-based-marinespatial-planning.html

¹² See <u>https://www.havochvatten.se/en/our-organization/publications/swam-publications/2023-05-31-marine-spatial--plans.html</u>
1.8.5 Presentation #4: Marine conservation – smart design for a smart future

Presenter: Jenny Hertzman

Sweden is committed to establishing a well-managed, ecologically representative, interconnected, and functional network of officially protected marine areas, encompassing a minimum of 10% of its marine waters. In this regard, it has developed a Framework for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)¹³. The Framework aims to support the development of a more robust and interconnected network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Sweden. It provides guidelines for strategic marine protection, emphasizing ecological representation, functionality, and effectiveness within the MPA Network. The Framework assists in evaluating the network and offers step-by-step guidance for designing and managing MPAs. It aligns with Sweden's potential goal of protecting 30% of marine waters by 2030, including 10% as strictly protected areas. The Swedish MPA processes demonstrate knowledge application through the national MPA framework implemented via marine spatial planning (MSP). This framework incorporates essential elements such as concepts, components, theories of change, guiding principles, processes, and methods. By integrating these elements, the framework facilitates effective knowledge application in managing marine protected areas in Sweden.

The Swedish framework's emphasis lies in comprehending the essential terms and criteria for establishing an MPA and its potential for growth and expansion. Creating a sustainable MPA involves considering several crucial elements, which can be summarized in the following checklist:

- Occurrence and spread of target species, habitat or ecosystem
- Health status of target species
- Existing regulation and protection status within MPAs
- Occurrence of threats within MPAs
- Potential impacts on target
- Targeted setup of MPAs to have areas for other uses things to consider climate refugia, connectedness, endemic species etc.

Other Presentations from NGOs, CSOs

1.8.6 Presentation #5: UNEP, The Nairobi Convention

Presenter: Mr Dickson Waruinge

The presenters introduced the Nairobi Convention (NC) as a contracting partner platform. It is a legal framework for dialogue and partnership between governments,

¹³ See <u>https://www.havochvatten.se/download/18.9d6062e17c13f61b9ec12c9/1634213662471/swam-report-2021-12-framework-marine-protected-areas.pdf</u>

civil society, and the private sector. NC's entry point in the BE sector and MSP is to promote preserving the ocean ecosystem and people's health.

The NC has supported several case studies in the WIO region, including;

- Supporting the development of BE strategy for Kenya by assessing the contribution of maritime sectors to Kenya's GDP, economic values and potential.
- Go Blue Project Blue carbon financing in Lamu, MSP Kilifi County.
- Establishment of constructed wetlands to mitigate pollution from urban developments
- Mangrove restoration and carbon projects Rufiji, Limpopo, Mahajanga
- Climate-Smart design for Diani-Chale marine ecosystem for coastal communities

The NC also collaborates with several institutions and contracting partners. The following projects show the project support footprint of NC with partners;

- 1. Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP)
- 2. The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE)
- 3. African Caribbean, and Pacific Countries Capacity Building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (ACP-MEAs 3)
- 4. The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) Partnership Project
- 5. The Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI)
- 6. Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NoCaMo) Project
- 7. WIO-Symphony

The NC has identified several challenges, including improved coordination within and between sectors and line ministries. Additionally, there is a lack of sufficient access to financing and numerous regulatory barriers that impede the growth of blue startups.

Knowledge resources available

- UNECA 2016 Blue Economy policy handbook for Africa¹⁴
- AU-AIMS strategy and Agenda 2063
- Nairobi convention COP8 decision on Blue economy 2015¹⁵

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¹⁴ See <u>https://repository.uneca.org/ds2/stream/?#/documents/b7cadbdd-00c4-59e7-84fb-</u>

¹⁵ See <u>https://www.nairobiconvention.org/CHM%20Documents/COP%20Decisions/COP%208.pdf</u>

1.8.7 Presentation #6: The Multi-Stakeholder Initiative for an Inclusive and Sustainable BE in the WIO

Presenter: Dr Edward Kimakwa – GIZ (Blue Future Project)

The Blue Future Project has established its presence in ten countries within the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, aiming to drive the transition towards an Integrated Sustainable Blue Economy (ISBE). As a multi-stakeholder initiative, Blue Future promotes an inclusive and sustainable blue economy by collaborating with public, private, and civil society sectors. The project fosters a diverse network of impactful partnerships, projects, and champions dedicated to realizing its objectives.

The project applies evidence-based knowledge through a coordinated system of collaboration, steering, and task teams. Its three pillars involve empowering stakeholders, supporting integrated ocean governance, and mobilizing resources and investments. Blue Future contributes to advancing a sustainable blue economy in the region by empowering stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and mobilising resources. The Blue Future case study offers valuable exit and upscaling strategies for promoting Integrated Sustainable Blue Economy (ISBE). Key strategies include fostering partnerships for regional integration, undertaking a multi-stakeholder approach, displaying successful BE actions, promoting BE financing, supporting co-design and partner-led transformation, developing bankable projects, and collaborating with the private sector. By implementing these strategies, stakeholders can drive the transition towards a sustainable blue economy by encouraging collaboration, attracting investments, and scaling up impactful initiatives.



Knowledge resources available

- 1. Blue Future Website¹⁶
- 2. Blue Future partners training on Sustainable Blue Economy¹⁷
- 3. From Linear to Circular: The Future for a Sustainable Blue Economy¹⁸
- Innovative approaches to the inclusive, sustainable blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region: An outcome of the Ocean Innovation Africa Summit¹⁹

1.8.8 Doreen Simiyu, the Network Coordinator of the Southwest Indian Ocean Tuna Platform presentation of Southwest Indian Ocean Tuna Platform (SWIOTUNA)

Established in 2010 and obtaining legal status in 2018, SWIOTUNA is a regional membership network. It brings together Civil Society organizations, Private Sector entities, and Communities, representing their collective resource user institutions. SWIOTUNA's influence extends beyond individual countries, encompassing Networks like the Tuna Fisheries Alliance of Kenya, Tuna Alliance of Tanzania, Forum for CSOs for Marine and Coastal Areas (FOSCAMC) in Mozambique, Coalition Nationale de Plaidoyer Environmental (CNPE) in Comoros, and Maison des organisations de la societé civile (MOSC) in Madagascar. The network collaborates with FPAOI (Federation des Pecheurs Artisans de l'Ocean) in Mauritius and Seychelles, Our Blue Future, and SWIO Community Livelihood Incubator to foster partnerships and advance its goals in the Southwest Indian Ocean region.

SWIOTUNA has demonstrated the application of knowledge, which holds the potential for upscaling through various initiatives:

- Capacity building: SWIOTUNA emphasizes capacity-building efforts to enhance knowledge and skills within its network. These initiatives aim to strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders in areas such as marine spatial planning (MSP) training in Mozambique, collaborative management in fisheries, and innovation summits.
- Innovative financial literacy: SWIOTUNA has pioneered innovative ideas, including promoting financial literacy through exchange and peer learning. By sharing experiences and knowledge, stakeholders gain valuable insights into economic management practices, contributing to the sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources.

¹⁶ See <u>https://our-blue-future.org/</u>

¹⁷ See <u>https://our-blue-future.org/2023/06/05/obf-partners-provide-training-on-sustainable-blue-economy-for-government-officials-and-civil-society-organisations-representatives-in-mozambique/</u>

¹⁸ See <u>https://our-blue-future.org/2023/05/18/from-linear-to-circular-the-future-for-a-sustainable-blue-economy/</u>

¹⁹¹⁹ See https://our-blue-future.org/2023/04/11/innovative-approaches-to-inclusive-sustainable-blueeconomy-in-the-western-indian-ocean-wio-region-an-outcome-of-the-ocean-innovation-africa-summit/

3. Fish handling techniques²⁰: SWIOTUNA has introduced innovative technologies that improve post-harvest practices. By implementing effective strategies, such as proper handling, processing, and storage methods, stakeholders can enhance the quality and value of their fish products while reducing post-harvest losses.

SWIOTUNA has laid the groundwork for scaling its efforts through these knowledge application initiatives. By continuing to invest in capacity building, promoting innovative practices, and fostering knowledge sharing, SWIOTUNA can effectively advance its goals and contribute to sustainable fisheries and marine resource management in the Southwest Indian Ocean region.

Knowledge resources available

- 1. Collaborative Fisheries Management in The SWIO Region Booklet²¹
- 2. Literature manuals (English, Swahili, and Portuguese)
- 3. Exhibitions
- 4. Policy Briefs
- 5. Articles

1.8.9 Ms Rose Machaku, on behalf of Dr Samantha Petersen, presentation on the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) SWIO Seascape Project.

Southern West Indian Ocean Seascape Project Area is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance. WWF has an extensive footprint, excellent capacity, and strong networks. The Objectives of the SWIO Seascape are to;

- Strengthening the voice and influence of civil society in decision-making
- Developing, adopting, and implementing SBE policies in SWIO Countries
- Ensuring major International Financial Institutions adopt the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) principles and catalyse an increased flow of investments and initiatives
- Ensure that fair and equitable access to sustainable fisheries resources in the SWIO region is facilitated through a collective approach and decision-making by the SWIO governments.
- Ensure at least three out of 5 SWIO countries adopt innovative and robust management measures to combat IUU fishing, including implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

SWIO Seascape, in collaboration with WWF, has made a dedicated commitment to aid the restoration of 9,400 hectares of mangroves by the year 2026. This ambitious goal

²⁰ See <u>https://swiotuuna.org/home/information_sheets</u>

²¹ See <u>https://swiotuuna.org/home/information_sheets</u>

will be pursued by implementing the project "Save our Mangroves Now," which places significant emphasis on policy-driven actions. Furthermore, SWIO Seascape, in partnership with WIOMSA, is actively promoting and establishing a regional vision for the SWIO Seascape, fostering collective efforts towards its realization.

The SWIO Seascape offers promising exit and upscaling strategies by aligning with global biodiversity and climate agendas and advocating for Integrated Ocean Governance (IOG). These initiatives aim to effectively address and mitigate the significant threats the SWIO region faces on a large scale.

Knowledge resources available

1. Unlocking a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Southwest Indian Ocean factsheet²²

2. WWF Website²³

1.8.10 Dr Japheth Michaels & Ms Shawlet Jerono from Wetlands International presentation on Living Blue: Mangroves for sustainable BE in the WIO region

Wetlands International is a global nonprofit organization committed to preserving and reviving wetlands. Their vision encompasses a world where wetlands are valued and cherished for their natural beauty, the diverse life forms they sustain, and the valuable resources they offer.

Wetlands International focuses on several critical areas to drive its actions forward. These areas encompass the pursuit of shared goals, the enhancement of collaboration and coordination, and the expansion of efforts and investments in the conservation of mangroves and ecosystem services (BE). During the presentation, it was highlighted that a major challenge lies in the lack of recognition accorded to mangroves as a significant contributor to a flourishing and sustainable ecosystem (BE). This situation risks marginalizing a crucial contributor to ecosystem health by neglecting carbon financing and climate mitigation initiatives.

The application of knowledge is demonstrated through various WI initiatives that have been implemented or are currently in progress. These initiatives can be upscaled and encompass the following:

- 1. The establishment of the Global Mangrove Watch (GMW) data portal.
- 2. Formulating a regional mangrove vision and strategy the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan (NMEMP 2017-2027) and the RMMP 2022-2026.
- 3. The integration of mangroves into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), such as the inclusion of mangrove conservation and management in the Lamu County 2022-2027 CIDP;

²² See <u>https://wwfafrica.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/swio_factsheet_1.pdf</u>

²³ See <u>https://www.wwfadria.org/water/?uNewsID=7896391</u>

4. The development of climate change action plans, exemplified by south-south exchanges, aimed at addressing climate-related challenges.

These initiatives serve as tangible evidence of the practical application of knowledge in the respective areas, reflecting a commitment to effectively manage and conserve mangrove ecosystems and addressing the impacts of climate change. WI has implemented innovative workflows to improve work processes, including a scienceto-practice-to-policy approach, documenting lessons from demonstrations, and replicating best mangrove restoration and conservation practices. These efforts aim to enhance efficiency, apply scientific knowledge effectively, and promote the widespread implementation of successful strategies.

Knowledge resources available

- Websites²⁴
- Global Mangrove Watch Portal²⁵
- The state of mangroves in the WIO 2022
- Mangrove Restoration Manual
- Global Mangrove Watch Integrating Mangrove Ecosystems into NBSAPs²⁶
- Using Global Mangrove Watch to prioritise blue carbon conservation action²⁷

Dr Simeneh Shiferaw & Titus Wamae from Wetland International presentation on Unleashing the potential of rivers, Lakes and wetlands: the crucial contribution to the BE the case of the Rift Valley Ecoregion

The Rift Valley (RV) ecoregion boasts over ten lakes on the Ethiopian and Lake Turkana on the Kenya side. This ecoregion possesses unique characteristics that provide a conducive environment for a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Various sectors within the RV ecoregion contribute to its development, including tourism, fisheries, river and lake transport, cultural and religious events, and hydropower.

However, the ecoregion faces several challenges. These include the physical alteration of lakes, escalating pollution from plastics, solid waste, agricultural runoff, unsustainable overfishing, sand mining, ineffective policy measures, and transboundary resource conflicts. During the presentation, the speakers displayed SIDA's successful implementation of the "Source to Lakes" projects, demonstrating a strong integration of knowledge into practical initiatives. These projects involved policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, restoration activities, capacity building through training programs, and knowledge generation through wetlands inventory and atlas development.

²⁴ See <u>https://www.wetlands.org/</u>

²⁵ See <u>http://staging.globalmangrovewatch.org/</u>

²⁶ See <u>https://www.wetlands.org/publications/integrating-mangrove-ecosystems-into-nbsaps-through-the-global-mangrove-watch/</u>

²⁷ See <u>https://www.wetlands.org/blog/using-global-mangrove-watch-to-prioritise-blue-carbon-conservation-action/</u>

The **strategies for exiting and upscaling** in the context mentioned involve several key aspects. These include developing and adopting technologies to reduce post-harvest losses, improving sanitation practices related to fish handling, delineating fish landing sites, and increasing engagements with local fishery management Units (BMUs).

1.8.11 Joseph Mahonga on behalf of Dr Jacqueline Uku (ChairpersonAfrica Ocean Decade Taskforce) Presentation on The Ocean Decade in Africa

The United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which commenced on January 1, 2021, and will run for ten years. One of its key objectives is to enhance scientific and institutional capabilities within member states.

In May 2022, the Africa Ocean Decade Roadmap was launched during the Africa Conference for Priority Setting & Partnership Development. This roadmap is a comprehensive framework for guiding the Ocean Decade initiatives in Africa. It presents a shared vision and strategic plan for various stakeholders, including governments, industries, philanthropic organizations, UN agencies, civil society, and the scientific community. The roadmap fosters collaboration around common priorities to implement the Ocean Decade in Africa effectively. Moreover, it is aligned with other regional frameworks, such as the AU Agenda 2063, 2050 AIMS, and the 2019 Africa Blue Economy Strategy, creating meaningful linkages and synergies.

The Africa Ocean Decade utilised knowledge application through a preparatory process involving a gap analysis and stakeholder surveys. These methods helped identify areas requiring intervention and gather insights from diverse stakeholders. The Decade aimed to resolve ocean-related challenges effectively and achieve impactful regional outcomes by employing these approaches. The Africa Ocean Decade encompasses several priority actions, including:

- 1. Promoting Sustainable Ocean Management.
- 2. Focusing on the relationship between the Ocean and Human Health.
- 3. Enhancing Ocean Literacy.
- 4. Improving Ocean Observation and Forecasting capabilities.
- 5. Harnessing the untapped potential of Blue Carbon.

To ensure effective implementation and coordination, a multi-tiered structure has been established, consisting of the following components:

1. Decade Coordination Unit: Responsible for overseeing the overall coordination of the Africa Ocean Decade.

- 2. Africa Decade Taskforce: Comprising 14 individuals and six institutional members, this task force plays a crucial role in advising and guiding the Decade's initiatives.
- 3. Decade Coordination Office: Serving as the central hub, this office facilitates the day-to-day operations and supports implementing the Decade's goals.
- 4. Decade Implementation Partners: Collaborating with various organizations and institutions, these partners contribute to the successful execution of specific projects and initiatives.
- 5. National Decade Committees: Operating at the national level, these committees ensure local engagement and tailor actions to specific regional needs.

For the Africa Ocean Decade to expand its impact and achieve long-term success, it is essential to ramp up engagement and outreach efforts involving multiple sectors and stakeholders. Developing concept notes and work plans will also facilitate effective planning and execution of initiatives. By capitalizing on these strategies, the Africa Ocean Decade can leverage exit and upscaling opportunities, leading to sustained progress in ocean conservation and sustainable management throughout the region.

Knowledge resources available

- United Nations Ocean Decade for Africa- The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want in Africa.²⁸
- 2. Africa Ocean Decade Roadmap²⁹

1.8.12 Demonstration/Case Studies Discussion (Q&A)

Mr Albert Orijabo, the Assistant Commissioner at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Directorate of Water Resources Management in Uganda, posed a question to Ms Rose Machaku from SWIO Seascape-WWF regarding the experiences with the adoption and replication of practices aimed at protecting critical habitats. WWF responded by acknowledging that interventions at the community level often face challenges in terms of adoption. However, they emphasized the significance of knowledge sharing and open discussions to address these challenges and find better ways to scale up and encourage adopting practices that protect critical habitats.

Mr Jackson Muso, the DG Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Government of South Sudan, asked Mr Dickson Waruinge from the Nairobi Convention about the basis of the UNESCO Ocean Decade's work on non-ocean blue carbon in Africa. In response, Mr Waruinge explained that UNESCO focuses on capacity building and developing policy competence. He further stated that all blue carbon initiatives are

²⁸ See <u>https://www.wiomsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UN-Ocean-decade-Booklet-LR.pdf</u>

²⁹ See <u>https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381488</u>

considered to transcend both marine and inland spaces, indicating that the work encompasses oceanic areas and non-oceanic regions.

Mr Stephen Loolel, a Senior Fisheries and the Blue Economy Officer from the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs in Kenya, asked Mr Titus Wamae from Wetlands International about the interventions implemented in the Lake Turkana catchment, specifically in the River Turkwell and Kerio areas. Mr Wamae responded that the interventions in Turkana began in 2022, and there are plans to conduct an inventory of the wetland while developing a comprehensive Lake Turkana management plan. Additionally, efforts are underway to designate the Lake Turkana wetland as a Ramsar site, recognizing its ecological significance and importance for conservation.

Mr Harith Mohamed from SWIOTUNA asked Mr Titus Wamae from Wetlands International about using restricted or banned monofilaments and metal racks for fish drying. In response, Mr Wamae explained that there is an ongoing campaign to limit the use of undersized fishing gear, including the phasing out of monofilament nets. The use of banned fishing gear, such as monofilaments, has been promoted due to lax enforcement. Regarding metal racks for fish drying, Mr Wamae mentioned they were part of a pilot initiative, and a new campaign is underway to replace them. He highlighted the need to develop best practices for fish drying, including using rustfree materials. Building the Africa We Want by leveraging the Blue Economy, Small-Scale Fisheries Management

& Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

THEME 2 Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries ECOFISH Theme 2: Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries ECOFISH Result 3/ Work Plan 4: Operationalising the Principles of Sustainable Development in Inland and Marine Small-Scale Fisheries through <u>nine</u> <u>Demonstration Projects</u> in Eastern Africa – Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region

2.1 Introduction

The event aims to harness the wealth of knowledge and innovations, policy guidance, experiential learnings and best practices in the field of the *Blue Economy, Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, Aquaculture Development and Aquatic Biodiversity conservation* to contribute to the political, socio-economic and ecological aspirations of Africa Agenda 2063. ECOFISH champions *Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries* in collaboration with other strategic partners. It underscores the achievements, experiential learning and best practices from nine demonstration sustainable small-scale inland and marine fisheries projects across the EA-SA-IO region to address the prospects and challenges for the socio-economic transformation of the sector.

Additionally, the ECOFISH programme imparts achievements and learning investments in advancing sustainable management of the inland and marine fisheries such as LVFO, LTA and Marine Fisheries/IOC work plans. The latter consists of several strategic actions to revisit the political economy of the industry. It includes reengineering the existing policy instruments to transition the small-scale fisheries from open- access and informal sector into a sustainable and resilient growth engine for shared prosperity; climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience measures in local fishing communities and strengthening coastal biodiversity conservation, restoration of degradation ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods nexus by involving fishing communities. ECOFISH will also capitalise on the sub-regional and thematic platforms established in the inland and marine fisheries in collaboration with the mandated Regional Economic and Fisheries organisations of the EA-SA-IO region. For instance, the IGAD Fisheries Coordination Platform (IFCP) has been established to facilitate effective collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strategic alliance among the member States in inland and marine fisheries. Furthermore, the collaborative arrangement between LVFO and LTA has been strengthened as a powerhouse for driving sustainable management of inland shared and internal fisheries resources in the ESA region. Moreover, a sub-regional platform involving these two RFBs and four ECOFISH inland SSF Demonstration Projects is active, providing a hands-holding ecosystem for mutual learning and capacity-building.

2.1.1 Principles of Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is defined as the development that satisfies the needs of the present generations without jeopardising those of the future generations. *Fundamentally, it is not about doing different things but doing things differently*. In order words, Humanity must thrive within the planet's carrying capacity. The global Agenda needed robust rule-based multilateral institutions and a local Agenda to roll it effectively at the grassroots. Also, the concept has been misinterpreted as trade-offs or balancing acts between the *Economy - Society - Environment* from a Top-Bottom perspective. The world is like a cruise ship, irrespective of being on the higher or lower deck. The craft is sinking steadily due to unsustainable behaviours and practices. Unfortunately, those developing countries contributing the least are exposed to existential threats.

The root cause of a dysfunctional world economy is the indiscriminate free economy and ultraliberal capitalism as a recipe for the post-World War II Economic Order for accelerated economic growth, prosperity and peace. However, the expected trickledown effects have not occurred. Instead, the rich-poor divide has widened, and the world is on the brink of the following human holocaust due to the increasing threats of *climate change, biodiversity loss and inequalities*. Those countries, which have contributed the least to the crises, are now facing existential threats. The process of applying the principles of sustainable development in the land-based natural resource sectors with a human face is referred to Green Economy. It is embedded in *SDG 15 - Life on Land*.

The concept recognised the interdependence between economic growth, social wellbeing and environmental health. Applied to marine resources and ecosystems, the concept is termed Blue Economy - **UN SDG 14 – Life Below Water**. However, the African Union Blue Economy Strategy 2019 incorporates the inland aquatic resources and habitats without a clear roadmap for its implementation. As a result, the Blue Economy is understood differently by diverse stakeholders. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) first coined the term since they are primarily ocean-based economies. But it can be relevant to the countries surrounding the African Great Lakes as the *Inland Ocean Economies*. Unfortunately, the international community has been steadfast in developing new concepts and approaches without facilitating their appropriation by the low-income and vulnerable countries mostly found on the African continent.

For Gunter Pauli³⁰, Sustainable Development is a myth because most consumer products that are good for the environment are expensive and unaffordable for lowincome people. On the contrary, which products have negative impacts on the natural environment are cheap. Therefore, sustainable development must be accessible and affordable (democratised) for the mass to expect significant transformative change. The question is how the market economy can promote sustainable development in Society. There is a need for social innovation and effective behavioural change to adopt the principles of the Moral Economy and high ethical standards evenly. *Blue or Green, the colour of a cat does not matter if it eats the rats! How can it serve the National Development Strategies of the island, coastal and landlocked countries of African countries judiciously?*

2.1.2 Overview of the Fisheries Sector in EA-SA-IO

The socio-economic significance of small-scale fisheries in the developing and fragile economies of the EA-SA-IO region can hardly be emphasised regarding their contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, cultural diversity, wealth creation and foreign exchange earnings. *Almost 100% of inland and 80% of wild fisheries resources are harnessed by small-scale fisheries, unregulated subsistence and traditional artisanal fishing in open-access and informal.*

With the high population growth rate and demand for fish and fishery products, the open- access to fisheries resources amount to the Tragedy of the Commons or a resource curse, exacerbating rivalry and social conflicts in local communities. Sustainably managed, natural renewable resources can contribute many folds to the local and national economies. However, the small-scale fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region are still in a cautious expansive mode. The fish stocks in the nearshore waters near densely populated areas are dwindling due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. But there are underfished and new fishing zones in deeper waters because of inadequate fishing assets, technologies, onshore infrastructure, and coordination. Therefore, the small-scale fishery industry should be promoted as a sustainable growth sector for shared prosperity.

³⁰ Gunter Pauli is Belgian Economist who defines Blue Economy as ZERI (Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives) in action. What if we did not produce any more waste? What if production systems regenerated our ecosystems? What if we replaced unemployment with an abundance of jobs and innovations that make sense? What if our economy generated more income and happiness for all?

On the African continent, over 70% of the labour force is engaged in natural resource sectors, such as rained-fed agriculture, farming, animal husbandry and fishing. However, they work only about four months a year. The post-harvest physical and economic losses in these sectors are about 40 % due to policy failure and a lack of essential socio-economic services and market coordination. However, *the objectives of Transforming Africa 2063 cannot be achieved without the sustainable and inclusive modernisation of the primary sectors, including fisheries.* Moreover, the misconception of the African Common market may negatively impact small enterprises due to indiscriminate corporatisation and financialisation of the primary sectors. Therefore, the local fishing communities must be supported to enhance their income-generating activities and well-being for the present and future generations amidst the growing challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and inequalities.

From the ECOFISH viewpoint, none of these demonstration projects is tackling all sustainability issues in the small-scale fisheries in their respective constituency. However, they have selected their priorities to usher in the desired transformative changes. However, the greatest challenge is anticipating a feasible exit strategy to up-scale and replicate these initiatives. In addition, the concept must go viral to mobilise additional resources and partnerships. The Community of Practice uniting all these projects and relevant institutional stakeholders, aims to work and learn together and anchor social and policy labs to design a model project for the sustainable and profitable development of small-scale fisheries across the African Continent. It will also inform donor and development agencies to focus on social and environmental impact investment as a game changer for Africa.

2.1.3 Synopsis of the ECOFISH Programme

ECOFISH is a cross-regional Initiative of the 11th EDF promoted and administered by EUD Mauritius and implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in partnership with the mandated regional economic and fisheries organisation. It leverages effective cooperation to foster sustainable management of the inland and marine wild fisheries resources to contribute to the Blue Economy of Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region. It attempts to operationalise the fundamental principles of Sustainable Development, i.e., the triple-bottom-line, Economic Efficiency – Environmental Health – Social Well-Being, in the fisheries sector amid the unprecedented challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and inequalities. It empowers institutional stakeholders at various governance scales to unleash the development potential of sustainable fisheries as a resilient growth engine for shared prosperity across the local and national economies.

Three expected results, Result 1 drive ECOFISH's global objective - Enhanced fisheries policy, institutional and governance frameworks; **Result 2** - Strengthened fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance capacities and **Result 3** – Call for Proposals for aspirational projects to operationalise sustainable and responsible management of small-scale inland and marine fisheries in local communities. These are delivered by

five synergistic work plans diversely managed by EUD - Mauritius through a decentralised project management and governance architecture to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability of actions.

Work Plans 1 and 2 support the sustainable management of the shared fisheries of LVFO and LTA. Work Plan 3 focuses on the coastal fisheries of the EA-SA-IO region and is implemented by the IOC Secretariat in collaboration with the four African RECs. It also facilitates consolidating and institutionalising the IOC - Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (PRSP). Work Plan 4/Result 3 relates to implementing and monitoring nine sustainable small-scale fisheries demonstration projects in the inland and marine sector of the EA-SA-IO region. Finally, Work Plan 5 consists of those functions facilitated by EUD - Mauritius, including a long-term Technical Assistance Team, grants provided to eligible PRSP participating countries to conduct regional sea and air fisheries patrols, capacity building, external evaluation, etc.³¹ Through this event, ECOFISH intends to share the learning investments of its aspirational sustainable inland and marine small-scale projects in the EA-SA-IO region with the rest of the African continent through collaboration with AU-IBAR and FISHGOV 2 and vice-versa. The main objective is to promote hand-holding ecosystems among stakeholders for a V shape transformative change in the African fisheries and Aquaculture on the margin of Africa Agenda 2063 and associated strategic policies such as AU-PFRS 2014, the Blue Economy Strategy 2019 and the AfCFTA 2020, etc.

2.1.4 ECOFISH Result 3 - Experimenting with Sustainable SSF Projects

Built on the learning investments of its predecessor, SMARTFISH, the ECOFISH programme dedicated about one-third of the budget to facilitate nine demonstration projects through a call for proposals. They are part of Work Plan 4, directly administered by EUD-Mauritius and coordinated by the permanent Technical Assistance Team. The main objective of Result 3/Work Plan 4 is to implement concrete actions impacting sustainable small-scale fisheries and the livelihoods and well-being of local fishing communities. They are guided by the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 1995, Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries taken up by the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for the African Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector 2014, including its 10-year plan for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and the UN Agenda 2030, particularly the SDG 14 – Life Below Water. The mandated objectives and guidelines (non-exhaustive) for Result 3 are summarised in the chart below:

³¹ Visit the ECOFISH's website at <u>www.ecofish-programme.org</u> for an update.



The location of these field projects is shown in the following chart.



2.2 Description and update on the Demonstration Projects

2.2.1 Project 1 - ActionAid - Zambia

ActionAid Zambia is part of the *ActionAid Global Federation*, working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. The objective of the ECOFISH project is to enhance sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in Zambia by strengthening *the management and governance systems* to protect livelihoods and build the resilience of local fishing communities while contributing to UN Global Agenda 2030 – No Poverty, No Hunger and Nobody is left behind. The project targets about *5,400 artisanal fishers*, both men and women in Zambia, who rely on inland fisheries for food and nutrition security, livelihoods and local economic development, which are still not correctly quantified. It also addresses climate change challenges, imminent drought, illegal fishing, overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. As of March 2023, the main achievements and milestones are as follows:

Output 1: Enhanced Livelihoods and Food Security of Vulnerable Small-Scale Fishing Communities through Sustainably Managed Small-Scale Fisheries

Seventy per cent of the targeted fishers now understand the voluntary guidelines for sustainable small-scale fisheries (VG-SSF), and at least 30% demand tenure rights by the end of the project in 2023. The VG-SSF guidelines have been translated into four local languages. Over 350 people have been trained, cascaded to ten committees in each of the seven districts to achieve 3500 beneficiaries.

Output 2: Women and Youth Small-Scale Fishers have Strengthened Capacities in Value Addition of Fish and Access to Markets Resulting in their Increased Contribution to Sustainable Growth, including to SDGs

Regarding poverty reduction and marginalisation, at least 10% of surveyed smallscale fishers, including 30% of women, recognised improved equity and genderfocused best practices in 2022. Twenty-three (23) Fisheries committees were surveyed and transformed into multi-purpose cooperatives (10 in Southern, three in Luangwa and ten in Western). Of the eight (8) women small-scale fishers surveyed during the monitoring field visit five (5) reported enhanced equity and an increase in income in the range of K 1,300 and K 12,000 from fish farming.

Output 3: Small-scale fishers, especially women and youth, are better able to advocate for the adoption and implementation of national and regional policy and legal instruments

Project Risks

- *i) Kwacha's fluctuation affects the EU project. However, kwacha strengthening did not translate into reduced inflation and goods and services remained high;*
- *ii)* High cost of fuel for both motor vehicles and speed boats (Some communities are found on islands;
- *iii)* Disconnect between local communities and government agencies; (What are the causes? How to rebuild trust and collaboration
- *iv)* Theft stocks being stolen from fishponds. Two communities reported incidents. Need to secure the fishpond using wire fences. What is the cost, and how can it be financed?
- v) Human-Wildlife Conflict in Luangwa. Farming has disrupted the migration patterns of elephants between Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In addition, it may affect attendance at meetings by community members as most are afraid of elephant attacks.

Project Opportunities

- *i)* Government's announcement to pass National Animal Health, Aquaculture and Fisheries Policies. It presents an opportunity to advocate for small-scale fishers' rights.
- *ii)* Communities' willingness to develop alternative livelihoods.
- *iii)* Establishment of National NSA Platform to advocate Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- *iv)* The VG-SSF Manual can help improve the relationship between Government and Communities.

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

- *i)* Effective collaboration with like-minded NSAs, Government Agencies to build synergies for achieving expected results/goals;
- *ii)* Participation of external facilitators from other organisations and Government Agencies is helpful for awareness-building and sensitisation of local communities;
- *iii)* Common but varied geometries different communities on the same landscape may have diverse challenges in terms of livelihoods;
- *iv)* Regular engagement and communication with communities can lead to desired behavioural change and social innovations, including inter-community interactions, participation and accountability;
- *v)* Involvement of traditional leaders in the project helps build stakeholder engagement.

2.2.2 Project 2 – ADPP Mozambique

ADPP Mozambique is a Mozambican Non-Governmental Association that works across Quality Education, Health and Well-being, Sustainable Agriculture, and the Environment. Established in 1982, it has grown steadily to employ 3,300 people, implement over sixty projects across all provinces, and benefit about 6.5 million Mozambicans annually. The objective of the ECOFISH Project, "to strengthen the economic, social and environmental sustainability of small-scale fishing communities in Cahora-Bassa and Magoé Districts, Tete Province, Mozambique," is supported by three interrelated expected outputs:

Output one. Enhanced empowerment and capacity of fishing communities for sustainable resources management. (Empowerment of Fishers Communities) **Output two.** Improved integration of fishing groups into value chains through market-related infrastructure and investments to ensure good quality fish handling and marketing under hygienic conditions. (Fish Value Chain and Market Development **Output three.** Increased access to drinking water for human consumption, productive use, and sanitation. (Basic social service and alternative sustainable livelihoods)

Implementation Modalities

Fisher Clubs are groups of fishers targeted with training and capacity building. As a result, they can aggregate more fish and supply stable quantities to contract buyers. In addition, they save money as a group and invest in production equipment such as cooling units. The project is working with five hundred fishers organized in 10 Fisher Clubs.

Project Achievements and potential impacts Output 1 – Empowerment and capacity-building of fishing communities

- *i)* Ten (10) fishers' clubs transformed into fishers' associations and cooperatives. They are prominent in providing a platform for **awareness-raising and** *capacity-building.*
- *ii)* 531 fishers trained in *community-based natural resources management*. Fishers are complying with authorised/recommended gear (simple gill-netting).
- *iii)* 270 fishers participated in **food crop production**. The farms are established in the fishers clubs along with **ten solar water pumps**.
- *iv)* Positive impact on *food and nutrition security*. The project has successfully integrated fishing households into agricultural production to diversify food sources. Last year, about *seven tonnes of vegetables were produced*.
- v) The operational capacity of the Community Fisher Councils has been enhanced. The project trained 10 Community Councils in Fisheries Monitoring.
- vi) 354 fishers have been licensed.

vii) Two thousand harmful fishing gear have been seized. It is evidence of the project's contribution to the reservoir fisheries resources and ecosystem protection.

Output 2 – Enhanced fish value chain and Market Development

- *i)* After several meetings with the local fisheries agency and authorities, a sustainable **fish marketplace design was approved**.
- *ii)* 291 fishers received basic literacy training. It enhances the fishers' ability to read and count. In addition, they are integrated into the government's 3-year literacy programme. (Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy, Community Value, etc.)
- *iii)* Ten fishers' clubs created savings and credit groups. They boost their members' capabilities to develop small businesses and trade in fishing gear.
- *iv)* Two big buyers/Distributors identified target fresh fish for urban markets after the marketplace construction is completed.

Output 3 – Increased access to drinking water and improved sanitation

- *i)* 1500 households have been granted access to clean water.
- *ii) Five (5) water committees* have been created and trained to benefit from the boreholes.
- *iii)* One hundred fishers have been trained in installing and maintaining **solar** water pumps.
- iv) 131 fishers adopted ecological latrines.
- *v)* Over five hundred fishers and 1500 community members were trained in COVID-19 prevention and open defecation.

Project Risks

The main challenges encountered in implementing the project activities are as follows:

- *i)* Delay in the construction of the market infrastructure The **administrative procedure of the National Institute for Fish Inspection** delayed the construction of the fish market. After several meetings with government bodies, an appropriate design has been developed and approved.
- *ii)* **Covid-19 restrictions** also needed change in some implementation strategies, e.g., the project had to do more door-to-door than big community-wide sessions.
- *iii)* The number of boreholes was reduced from ten as planned to five due to a higher cost per borehole. The Water Company had to drill twice or trice deeper to find water, yet it was salty or mixed.

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

i) Savings groups and Revolving

a) Savings and credit group activity in clubs was not planned as one of the critical interventions of the project.

- **b)** It contributes significantly to building resilience and developing small enterprises as a source of alternative income.
- *c)* Future projects must consider establishing Savings and Revolving credit or Micro Credit clubs (Consider Prof. Mohammad Ynus' Grameen Bank Model)
- *ii)* Fishers' Club Social Cohesion and Gender Dynamics
 - *a)* Behavioural change and social innovations to improve the ability of fishers and fish works to strengthen communities;
 - **b)** Sharing information, awareness-raising and capacity-building, including training in fisheries and agriculture [Local Sustainable Livelihood Approach]
 - *c)* Gender development and increasing women's participation and involvement in the fisheries sector;
 - *d)* Community values, Traditional knowledge, ethical and moral standards, and improved best practices based on cooperation and solidarity among the members;

Opportunities and Exit Strategies

ADPP has been proactive in resource mobilisation and fund-raising to anticipate upscaling and replicating ECOFISH activities by engaging NSAs, including donor and development agencies:

- *i)* **EDP** Energias de Portugal SA, through its A2E CSR Fund Programme," Renewable Energy Access for Productive Uses," implemented by ADPP. The project will assist small-scale fishing communities in developing fish value chains in the District of Magoe.
- ii) UNIDO Towards sustainable energy for all in Mozambique, promoting market-based dissemination of integrated renewable energy systems for productive activities in rural areas Call- A project proposal with a budget of \$ 155,000 has been submitted and is awaiting approval: The project aims to improve fish value chain by installing photovoltaic solutions in Magoe District
- iii) IDEPA ADPP is at the advanced stage of signing an MOU with the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (IDEPA) to introduce farmed fish in the clubs. It will positively impact women with another source of food and income. In addition, the Ecofish Fishers' Club members will receive cages for fish, training and fingerlings.

2.2.3 Project 3 – IGAD Co-management of Fisheries Transboundary Rivers

The Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) is one of the eight AU recognised Regional Economic Communities and a mandated partner of the ECOFISH programme. It also participated in the Result 3 Call for Proposals and became an awardee.

The project aims to *support the Sustainable Utilization, Development and Management of Two Transboundary Fisheries of the <u>Baro-Akobo-Sobat</u> <u>River Basin</u> (BASRB) between Ethiopia, South Sudan, and <u>Lake Turkana</u> <u>Basin</u> (LTB) shared between Ethiopia and Kenya.*

The global objective of the project is to develop gender-responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources and foster the use of fisheries for building resilience and bolstering *food and nutrition security* and local economies, especially for the fishing and "Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)" communities in the two basins.

<u>Result 1:</u> Finalise, adopt and establish *basin-wide fisheries co-management system* for each of the two basins with the needed "collaboration and communication arrangements" among critical stakeholders for sustainable fisheries exploitation, equitable access to fisheries resources, and efficient fisheries utilisation. The following outputs have been attained:

- *i)* Situation analysis and baseline study reports for both basins were reviewed, validated and readied to serve as a background document to develop Comanagement Plans.
- *ii)* The Basin Fisheries Co-Management Plans (BFCP) for both basins were prepared and validated by the three project implementation countries;
- *iii)* The BFCPs have become operational in the participating countries; *iv*) The Research Sub-Committee Members of the BFCP have developed fisheries data collection templates for both basins;
- *iv)* The project facilitated communication between the basin-sharing countries to discuss sustainable management of the underlying fish resources.

<u>Result 2</u>: Capacity building and integrated database established to address climatesmart, gender-responsive, socioeconomically equitable, and ecologically sustainable fisheries development and management for each of the two basins.

- *i)* Training on fisheries co-management principles and practices have been provided to the Co-Management Unit members (fish cooperatives and BMU members) in the three countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan)
- *ii)* Three studies in both Basins have been conducted and validated;
- *iii)* Socio-economic Situation, Gender Inclusivity and Indigenous & Traditional Knowledge (ITK) Integration in Fisheries Management in both basins;
- *iv)* Capacity Needs and Gaps Assessment for the fisheries sector, including climate-smart fisheries practices in the two basins done;
- *v)* Capacity Development Plan for fisheries management of Lake Turkana completed;
- *vi)* A Web-based database for BE and Fisheries is in the process of development
- vii) ICT equipment procurement is in the process;
- viii) Participation in two ECOFISH IGAG Fisheries Coordination Platforms;

viii Two policy briefs on fisheries co-management for the two basins were produced and posted.

Lessons learned and best practices.

i) Consolidation of Transboundary basin fisheries co-management requires adequate

institutional organisation, including regular consultation at all levels;

- *ii)* Establishment of a Biliteral Fisheries Coordination Platform, composed of fishing community leaders, researchers, and officers of two countries, is a realistic approach to transboundary fisheries co-management;
- *iii)* Indigenous knowledge (IK) from the local fishing Communities helps regulate the fisheries. For example, "The Fish Father' system in Baro River fisheries in Ethiopia
- *iv)* Beach Management Units (BMUs) already established in Kenya inland and marine fisheries may be customised accordingly.

Overall Performance

- i) 65 % of the activities have been completed
- ii) Fifty-five per cent of the budget has been consumed.

2.2.4 Project 4 - NNF Strengthening community fisheries in KAZA

The Namibia Nature Foundation is Namibia's leading conservation and sustainable development organisation. It promotes sustainable development, the conservation of biological diversity and natural ecosystems, and the wise and ethical use of natural resources along the Kavango water systems. The project aims to *strengthen fisheries management in the KAZA region through ecosystem-based adaptation, enhancing the socioecological resilience of communities*. Output 1 – Enhanced community governance [40 % achieved]

- *i)* Standardised tools and guidelines for increased community governance efficiency and effectiveness developed; [Completed 40%]
- *ii)* Functional Community Fisheries Committees with at least two in each KAZA country in place; [30%]
- *iii)* Fisheries integrated into existing Community-based Bodies dealing with natural resources management; [40%]
- *iv)* Well-structured joint venture partnerships with the private sector in place [0%]

Output 2 - Creation of a Community Fish Reserves Network [35 % achieved]

- *i)* Formal Community Fish Reserves, two in each KAZA country established 60%
- *ii)* Fisheries Management Plans, two fisheries in KAZA (embedding Community Fisheries Reserves in a network) developed – 30%

Output 3: Increased awareness and stakeholder engagement [15 % achieved]

- *i)* Economic study and documentation of the social and cultural value of fish to the region completed 25%
- *ii)* Support making the Zambezi Bream Festival a KAZA celebration and connection to the social and cultural value of fish to the people; 20%

Output 4 - Strengthening of research, monitoring and adaptive management of fisheries resources [45 % achieved]

- *i)* Protocols for joint research and monitoring taking place 30 % *ii)* Standardised community fisheries monitoring and evaluation protocols and actions across KAZA - 30 %
- *ii)* Development and iteration of management recommendations on various levels of interventions for adaptive management 35 %
- *iii)* Informed and improved decision-making regarding sustainable fisheries management:
 - a) Protocol for joint research;
 - b) Standardised Community Fisheries M & E;
 - c) Informed and improved decision-making;
 - d) Recommendations for adaptive management.

Output 5: Enhanced transboundary collaboration [10 % achieved]

- *i)* Effective running of Fisheries Sub-working group in KAZA with at least two meetings per year; [0 %]
- *ii)* Integration of fisheries issues into existing community transboundary forums [40 %]
- iii) Joint fisheries enforcement and patrol actions on the Zambezi [25 %]
- *iv)* Transboundary Fisheries Management Plan for the Cubango-Okavango River

Project Risks

- *i)* Visibility of short-term benefits;
- *ii)* Success rates of different models;
- *iii)* Invisible influential residents;
- iv) Law enforcement to be improved and formalised;
- v) Transboundary collaboration due to COVID-19;
- vi) Rivers are open- access
- vii) Equitable sharing of benefits
- viii) Sustainable financing mechanisms

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

- *i)* Fisheries contribute to socio-ecological resilience;
- ii) New rules are often traditional rules;

- *iii)* Adaptive management combined with traditional knowledge and (citizen) science;
- *iv) Peer-to-peer approach is the most successful;*
- *iv)* Window of opportunity due to depleted stocks

Conclusions

- *i) Harmonised policy and practices* for the management of shared rivers and resources;
- *ii)* **Ownership of communities** pivotal to successful management and governance of reserves;
- *iii)* Long-term sources of funding are needed;
- iv) Strategic documents for the Network of Fisheries Reserves;
- v) Capacity-building of partners and stakeholders required to create such a network;

Overall Performance

- *i)* Overall Budget execution 46%;
- ii) Overall achievement 45%
- iii) Fish stock enhancement 10%

2.2.5 Project 5 - Mwambao Coastal Communities Network

Mwambao Coastal Community Network brings together coastal communities & other partner stakeholders to improve sustainable coastal resource management. It is guided by principles of equity, empowerment and stewardship. It was one of the beneficiaries of SMARTFISH's pilot projects. The global objective of the project is *to transition from octopus closure to sustainable marine resources management planning* in selected communities in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. A total of € 349,088.40 was used to finance the project activities, where ECOFISH contributed € 231,949.61, which is equal to 66.4%, and other matching grants contributed € 117,138.78 which is equivalent to 33.6%

Output and Rate of Achievement

<u>Output 1</u> - Sufficient knowledge and incentives are imparted to enable 4 BMUs (Tanzania mainland) and 7 SFCs (Zanzibar), including 25% women membership, to engage equitably in collaborative marine resource management – (Achieved 81% Disbursed 71%)

<u>Output 2</u> - Local marine resource management plans were implemented for 4 BMUs (Tanzania mainland) and 8 SFCs (Zanzibar) (including fisheries closures where relevant), and the condition of marine resources improved - (Achieved 49%, Disbursed 17%)

Output 3 - Knowledge and perception of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fishers (VG-SSF) is improved amongst policymakers and small-scale fisheries stakeholders in North Tanzania – (Achieved 26%, Disbursed 7%)

Project Risks

- *i)* Community-based marine resource management approach takes a long time for the community to recognise, accept and adopt;
- *ii)* A lack of alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities in the local communities undermines conservation measures;

Opportunities

- *i)* Establishment of a Collaborative Fisheries Management Area (CFMA) for mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar;
- *ii)* Support alternative sustainable livelihood and economic opportunities to reduce community dependence on marine resources.

Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

- *i)* Establishing marine resource management measures can vary from one community to another. However, the need to have neighbouring communities and other users on board cannot be underestimated;
- *ii)* Marine resource users' conflicts within and outside the community hurt the locally-led community's marine resources management.
- *iii)* Effective stakeholder engagement and collaboration enhance livelihood opportunities and social mobility;
- *iv)* Awareness raising and education is a long-term process to address community marine resources management and conservation challenges.

2.2.6 Project 6 - Community Centered Conservation – Madagascar [C3M]

C3M is a registered non-profit organisation in Madagascar. The project's overall objective is to enhance the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries at three locally-managed marine areas in Northern Madagascar.

Expected Outputs

Output 1 - Small scale fisheries at the Bay of Rigny, Ambodivahibe and Nosy Hara were assessed for more effective management and monitoring measures. (Twenty-five per cent achieved)

i) Situation analysis reports describing the small-scale fisheries at each site and management recommendations, including monthly catch assessments and socioeconomic surveys of artisanal fishers.

ii) A long-term community-based monitoring protocol was developed, followed by training thirty landing site surveyors at each site and analysing data collected by enumerators.

Output 2 - Local fishing associations and management bodies trained in fisheries and marine ecosystem conservation and management, where relevant. Twenty-five per cent achieved)

- *i)* Improved capacity of communities for protected area management and monitoring, including training of fishers in basic marine ecology and the importance of fisheries management and community-based fisheries management structures;
- *ii)* Evidence-based policies for local management bodies recommending best practice management interventions, including documenting lessons learned in the community enforcement programmes and development of policy briefs in collaboration with local fisheries management bodies;
- *iii)* Awareness about LMMA and fisheries management must be supported by training local junior eco-guard teams (30 per site), focusing on fisheries management and quarterly sensitisation events at each location.

Output 3 - Management interventions implemented, focusing on opportunities yielding rapid, measurable results. LMMA and fisheries management programmes executed on the ground. (Twenty-five per cent achieved)

- *i)* Community and local management structure consultations and to identify critical areas to focus fisheries management and development of communityendorsed management plans, including:
 - a) At least one fisheries management measure implemented at each site;
 - b) Consensus attained on the management measure for success;
 - c) Measures implemented.
- *ii)* Ongoing monitoring of implementation success and impacts on fish stocks and catch, including Exchange visits held with other LMMAs through the MIHARI national network to share success stories and lessons learned and encourage replication of successful models;
- *iii)* Collaboration with MIHARI to promote exchange meetings with other successful LMMAs;

Project Risks

- *i)* Uncertainties regarding coordination of activities on sites, competition and reluctance to communicate openly;
- *ii)* Weak awareness of fisheries resources and marine biodiversity in local communities to build trust and cooperation for rolling out the project activities;
- *iii)* Conflict of interest with international NGOs causing delays in implementing the project activities simultaneously at all sites.

Opportunities

- *i)* Working with local fishing communities demanding assistance on the ground;
- *ii) Progressive approach to build trust and demonstrate results;*
- *iii)* A collaborative arrangement (MOU) with the Ministry of BE and Fisheries;
- *iv)* A four-year MOU signed with the Ministry of Education for the C3M's Junior Ecoguard programme

Conclusion

The overall implementation level is about 25%.

2.2.7 Project 7 - SOS Sahel – Sudan

SOS SAHEL is an African-born grassroots organisation with over 40 years of experience ensuring food and nutrition security in rural communities of Sub-Saharan Africa. The project aims to improve the artisanal fishers' economic resilience and food security on the northern Sudanese Red Sea Coast.

Expected Outputs Output 1 - Improved practices and techniques applied

Target: 1015 fisheries. Achieved 906. (89%)

Output 2 - Packages of appropriate fishery inputs and technologies

Target: 725 fishers. Achieved: 1535. (212%)

Output 3 - Improved capacities of artisanal fishers to break highly dependent relationships with traders and gain access to services (financial, social, legal). Target: 735 fishers. Achieved 125 %; (29%)

Opportunities

- *i)* Many importers and traders supply diverse types of fishing gear;
- *ii)* Increasing demand for seafood;
- *iii)* Availability of ports for fish exports;
- *iv)* Existing financing institutions, especially microfinance;
- v) Support of donor and development agencies to the fisheries sector;
- vi) Extensive coastline of more than 740 km;
- vii) Policy and Regulatory Frameworks to drive sustainable fisheries;
- *viii)* Inter-agency and cross-sector collaboration (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Red Sea University, Marine Security);

Project Risks

i) Political instability resulting in contradictory policies and regulations;

- *ii)* Unsettled international maritime boundaries with neighbouring countries;
- *iii)* Illegal fishing activities carried by foreign boats;
- *iv)* Land-based pollution;
- *v)* Organised crimes and security issues;

Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

- *i)* Assisted people in taking time to change their mindset;
- *ii)* Entrepreneurship and private sector participation is critical to ensure sustainability beyond the project;
- *iii)* Fisher Associations have access to financing more easily than individuals;
- *iv)* A proper enabling environment and value chain approach are necessary for the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries;
- *v)* Stakeholder engagement is a significant determinant of the project's success.

Overall project performance

- *i)* Total Disbursement: 83%
- *ii)* Activities to expenditure: 93 %
- iii) Beneficiaries: 106 %

Impact indicators

- *i)* **Target fisheries have increased their fish yields** 51 % of the target fishers increase their catch from 70 kg to 171 kg per trip.
- *Target fishers have increased their net income* 36% of them raised their net income for SDG 20,200 to SDG 194,500 per day trip.
- *iv)* Food security in target fisher households has been reduced because of increased purchasing power - The food gap in target fisher households has been reduced from 66.5 % to 37.5%

2.2.8 Project 8 - WWF - Kenya [KECOFISH]

Worldwide Fund for Nature Kenya (WWF-Kenya) is a locally registered nongovernmental conservation organisation affiliated with Worldwide Fund for Nature International (WWF). WWF has worked in Kenya since 1962 alongside the government, civil society, private sector organisations and local communities to provide an enabling environment for sustainable natural resource management. The project title is "*Small-scale Fisheries for Sustainable Blue Growth improving food security and Livelihoods in Coastal Kenya and East Africa*." It aims to enhance the capacity of small-scale marine fisheries in Kenya and the Coastal East African region *to contribute to sustainable Blue Growth, Poverty Reduction, Food Security and Job Creation*. It focuses on two demonstration sites to deliver *organised and effective co-management and innovative solutions* to address sustainability challenges faced by local communities.

Output 1.0 - Community-led, low-cost fisheries data collection system implemented in at least 10 BMUs

- *i)* Improved fisheries data collection system (Catch Assessment Survey) in seven key strategic locations in Coastal Kenya;
- *ii)* Rolling out the mobile phone for data collection system to at least seven new BMUs;
- *iii)* Use of data by local communities to make informed fisheries management decisions.

The key achievements and works-in-progress are as follows:

- *i)* Training of data enumerators;
- *ii)* Monthly data collection initiated in 7 BMUs;
- *iii)* Mobile phones and associated equipment acquired;
- *iv)* Regular analysis of the data collected;
- *v)* Fisheries data to be used in creating the Joint Co-Management Area in Lamu

Output 2.0 - 20 Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLA) established (5 in Lamu and fifteen in Shimoni-Vanga for increased financial literacy

- *i)* Adaptation and roll out of the VSLA Model to form twenty new VSLAs, in the Lamu Seascape and the Shimoni-Vanga Seascape;
- *ii)* Roll out financial literacy and small business training for women and youth participating in the VSLAs;
- *iii)* Developing four bankable business plans and facilitating linkages to financial services

The following activities have been undertaken:

- *i)* A consultancy study was commissioned to review and document the achievements and impacts of VSLAs in the Lamu Seascape to establish relevance and key lessons;
- *ii)* 17 and 7 VSLAs selected in Shimoni-Vanga and Lamu seascape, respectively;
- *iii)* Business plans developed; One has been funded by the KEMSFED project approx— \$ 2500.

Output 3.0 - Capacity is built for at least two joint Fisheries Co-Management Areas (JCMAs)

- *i)* Building capacity of members and leaders of the 10BMUs;
- *ii)* Train at least 30 TOTs, who will then train 2500 fishers in both Lamu and Shimoni-Vanga Seascapes on responsible fishing;
- *iii)* Operationalising ecosystem-based co-management in the two existing JCMAs

The progress is as follows:

i) 25 ToTs in Lamu (13) and Kwale (12), followed by the training of at least 16 BMUs (9 in Lamu and seven in Kwale);

ii) Mentorship program to the BMUs underway; mentorship programme developed and rolled out;

Output 4.0 - New and innovative prototypes to address post-harvest losses and improved market access

- *i)* Building on lessons from other projects on efficient cooling solutions;
- *ii)* Demonstrate successful technologies prototypes;
- *iii)* Building capacity on post-harvest handling of fish and fisheries products;

The progress made is as follows:

- *i)* Consultative meetings organised by relevant partners;
- *ii)* Demonstration site selected, and the off-grid cooling solutions chosen;
- *iii)* Business plan developed for the proposed cooling system;
- *iv)* Training on fish post-harvest handling techniques and value addition (25 ToTs in Lamu (13) and Kwale (12), followed by training of at least 16 BMUs (9 in Lamu and seven in Kwale);

Project Opportunities

- *i)* BMU Leadership Training and mentorship programme;
- *ii)* Cross-fertilisation Synergies with other WWF practices such as food, Climate Energy and Oceans to facilitate a robust cross-learning in Kenya

Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

- *i)* The need to hire additional project staff in the marine programme;
- *ii)* Engage County Government officers who are not involved in ongoing projects;
- *iii)* Significance of manual data collection realised when the ODK system crashed;
- *iv)* Provision of species guide to data enumerator to ensure species identification for uniformity in the name of the species across different regions;
- *v)* Suggested re-allocation of funds to other more sustainable interventions;
- *vi)* Request for project extension at no additional cost.

2.2.9 Project 9 – UNDP - Mauritius

As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. The EUD-Mauritius has signed a contribution agreement with UNDP Mauritius for the project – "Supporting the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius." The main objective of the project is to support the artisanal fishing community in the sustainable management of coastal fisheries and to improve their economic situation, which will be achieved by:

Output 1 - Development of a community of empowered and environmentally responsible artisanal fishers who are economically independent

Output 2 – Support artisanal fishers' cooperatives to inform fishers of available financial support and to add value to their catch by the post-harvest process. The project comprises three (3) components.

Component 1 Harvest Phase

- *i)* Procuring two sets of single Buoy FADs fitted with satellite imagery devices. They were deployed in December 2022;
- *ii)* Relevant data is being received from deployed Single Buoy FADs;
- *iii)* Development of Mobile application for fisher community;
- *iv)* Training fishers in coastal FAD tuna long-line fishing started in February 2023;

Component 2 - Post-Harvest Infrastructure Development

- *i)* Supply, Installation and commissioning of solar-powered ice flakes-making machines. A containerised system has been recommended;
- *ii)* Procurement launched in November 2022 & Evaluation is ongoing, and award expected shortly;

Component 3 - Post-Harvest Processing

- *i)* Training of fishers, especially women and young people, in fish hygiene, fish processing and marketing;
- *ii)* Training syllabus and training materials submitted by Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and have been approved after incorporation of comments received;
- *iii)* The focus will be on training and capacity-building during 2023; *iv*) Sensitisation and awareness raising on reducing post-harvest waste through appropriate communication and social innovation strategies.

Project Updates as of December 2022

Total fund disbursement of EUR 720,926.00

Total expenditure: EUR 398,034.46 + EUR 114,000 in the Pipeline

Expected expenditure by 2023: EUR 789,187.41 and EUR 210,812.53 available for reallocation.

2.2.10 Project 10 - ECOPECHE - OI

The project is promoted by the small-scale fishing community of France/Reunion in collaboration with the ECOFISH TAT and facilitated by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF/INTERREG) since the latter as an EU territorial in the Indian Ocean is not eligible for European Development Fund reserved exclusively for ACP countries. The project will enable Reunion to participate in various components of the ECOFISH programme, Result 1 of the Marine Fisheries work plan and Result 3 / work

plan four. It embeds a pro-business approach to promote sustainable small-scale fish value chains through innovative financing and partnerships in the SWIO countries. The project is still in starting block because the 7th ERDF programme will be operationalised in mid-2023. Its high-level log frame is presented as follows:

Overall objective

To improve the socio-economic and ecological conditions of artisanal fishing communities and Society through the sustainable and inclusive development of smallscale fish value chains in Reunion Island and neighbouring countries in the South-West Indian Ocean.

Specific objective

To undertake sustainable, responsible, and inclusive modernisation of small-scale marine fishery value chains and supply chain logistics to optimise socio-economic benefits, including the creation of wealth, jobs, and cultural diversity by emphasising the protection of marine biodiversity and adaptation to climate change of the Blue Economy Strategy within the framework of the Regional Fisheries Program – ECOFISH.

Strategic Action 1 – Project/Business Incubator

Activity 1.1 - Promote an improvement in the Business Climate Activity 1.2 – Facilitate public-private projects and investments. Activity 1.3 – Set up a Techno-Economic Observatory / Technological Watch

Strategic Action 2: Technical and Human Capacity Building

Activity 2.1 - Professionalize and enhance the fishing professions.

- Activity 2.2 Strengthening Professional Organisations
- Activity 2.3 Exchange of knowledge and experience

Strategic Action 3: Valorisation of Fishery Products

- Activity 3.1 Raise awareness of market-related health and hygiene standards.
- Activity 3.2 Create a Regional Quality Label for targeted products.
- Activity 3.3 Develop a regional strategy for the marketing of export products.

Strategic Action 4: Awareness and Communication

Activity 4.1 - Create the Branding/Branding of the project and a website.

Activity 4.2 – Develop a Communication Strategy for Strategic Actions 1 to 3 Activity 4.3 - Raise awareness of the need for adequate policy and institutional frameworks.

Strategic Action 5 – Governance and Project Management

Activity 5.1 - Install the Project Office and governance procedures. Activity 5.1 - Ensure the implementation of strategic actions at the regional level.

Activity 5.3 - Organise statutory and technical meetings.

Moving forward, building on these findings, scaling up successful initiatives, and promoting knowledge sharing to ensure the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the region is essential. The Knowledge Fair is an interdisciplinary and multistakeholder forum that will assess the learning investments of these demonstration projects to determine their scalability and replicability. It will also examine factors that may hinder or facilitate up-scaling successful interventions in other areas of the African continent.

2.3 Presentation and plenary sessions

2.3.1 Enhancing sustainable utilization, development and management of two transboundary river basin fisheries in the IGAD region.

Presenter: Dr Wassie Anteneh

Overall objective of the project

To develop gender-responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and foster the use of fisheries for building resilience and bolstering food and nutrition security and local economies, especially for the fishing and "Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)" communities in the two basins.

Key research areas

They are Gender-responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, establishment of basin-wide fisheries co-management systems, capacity building, and integrated database establishment.

Gaps, areas and issues to be addressed

- Institutional Cooperation: Strengthening institutional frameworks and cooperation among countries sharing transboundary river basins is crucial. Establishing effective communication, coordination, and collaboration mechanisms among relevant stakeholders, such as governments, regional organizations, and local communities, is essential to address the usual challenges.
- Policy and Legal Frameworks: Developing harmonized policies and legal frameworks at the national and regional levels is necessary to guide sustainable fisheries management. These frameworks should encompass access rights, resource allocation, licensing and enforcement mechanisms. Clear guidelines for transboundary cooperation and conflict resolution are vital.
- Data and Information Sharing: Improving the availability, quality, and sharing of data and information related to transboundary river basin fisheries is critical. It

includes biological data on fish stocks, hydrological data, socio-economic information, and fisheries monitoring data.

 Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods: Addressing the socio-economic aspects of transboundary river basin fisheries is vital for sustainable development. Ensuring equitable access to fishery resources, supporting alternative livelihood options for fishing communities, and promoting value addition and market access for fish products can contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth.

2.3.2 presenting enhancing social, economic and environmentally sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in Zambia

Presenter: David Mwanamambor

Overall objective of the project

The project aims to enhance the social, economic, and environmentally sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in Zambia with a human rights-based approach. The presenter highlights the project's impact, including the understanding and demand for tenure rights among fishers, the training of community leaders, reduction in poverty, enhanced equity for women fishers, formation of committees, and increased access to fisheries resources.

Key research areas

- Socio-economic Dynamics
- Governance and policy
- Resource assessment and management
- Livelihood diversification and value chains
- Climate change adaptation
- Stakeholder engagement and capacity building

Gaps, areas and issues to be addressed

- Climate Change and Environmental Resilience
- Capacity building and awareness
- Market access and value chains
- Governance and policy

Availability of online materials and utilization of online resources and publications

- Baseline Survey
- Boosting indigenous fish species
- Effects of fish preservation
- Review of the Existing Policies and Identification of Gaps in the Policies on Sustainable Management for the Small-Scale Fisheries
- Value chain analysis on sustainable management of small-scale fisheries

2.3.3 Sustainable small-scale fisheries in Cahora-Bassa and Magoe Districts, Tete province, Mozambique

Presenter: Mario Jorge Carlos

Overall objective

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the empowerment and capacity of fishing communities for sustainable resource management, Improve the integration of fishing groups into value chains, access to drinking water for human consumption and productive use, and sanitation and contribute to strengthening economic, social, and environmental sustainability of small-scale fishing communities in Cahora-Bassa and Magoe Districts, Tete Province, Mozambique.

Key research areas

- 1. Sustainable Fishery Practices and Approved Gear:
- Assessing the adoption of recommended sustainable fishery practices and approved gear by fishers in the target districts.
- Identifying barriers and promoting the use of appropriate gear, closed seasons, and areas to ensure the conservation of fishery resources.
- Monitoring and surveillance activities to prevent overfishing and maintain biodiversity;
- 2. Integration of Fishing Groups into Value Chains:
- Evaluating the level of integration of fishing groups into value chains and marketrelated infrastructure.
- Assessing the quality of fish handling and marketing practices under hygienic conditions.
- Identifying market linkages and investments required to enhance fish sales and income generation for fishers.
- 3. Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation:
- Assessing the availability and accessibility of drinking water for human consumption and productive use in the target communities.
- Identifying challenges and opportunities for improving water infrastructure and water management practices.
- Promoting the adoption of sanitation facilities, such as latrines, to reduce open defecation and improve community health.

Gaps to be addressed

- Limited adoption of sustainable fishery practices and approved gear among fishers.
- Insufficient integration of fishing groups into value chains, leading to limited market access and low profitability.
- Inadequate access to drinking water for human consumption, productive use, and lack of sanitation facilities.
- Overfishing, biodiversity loss, and environmental sustainability in fishing communities are challenges.
- Gender disparities and discrimination in decision-making processes and economic opportunities.
- Limited skills and knowledge among fishers in improving fishing practices, accessing markets, and making informed decisions.

Availability of online materials and utilization of online resources and publications

- Publications related to sustainable small-scale fisheries management, value chain development, and water management.
- Research articles, reports, and case studies on similar projects or initiatives in Mozambique or other regions.
- Online platforms and databases to access scientific literature, policy documents, and best practices in small-scale fisheries and community development.
- Online training materials and resources can be utilized for capacity building and knowledge transfer to fishing communities.

Access: <u>https://ecofish-programme.org/workplan-4-demonstration-projects/adpp-mozambique/</u>

2.3.4 presenting strengthening Community Fisheries in KAZA

Presenter: Britta Hack Enberg

Overall objective of the project

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen fisheries management in the KAZA (Kavango-Zambezi) region, enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of communities through the conservation and sustainable utilization of community co-managed water bodies.

Key research areas

1. Management and Governance: Assessing community-managed water bodies' conservation and livelihood outcomes and exploring strategies to improve management and governance practices.

- 2. Fish Stocks Enhancement: Studying the establishment of fisheries reserves to increase fish stocks, particularly for crucial utilization species, in the KAZA region.
- 3. Socio-economic Impact Assessment: Evaluating the project's impacts on communities, including the availability of fish in local diets and the recovery of fish stocks within reserves.

Gaps, Areas, and Issues to be Addressed

- 1. Habitat Identification Criteria: Clarifying the criteria for identifying habitats in community-managed water bodies to ensure effective conservation and management measures.
- 2. Publication Dissemination to Communities: Developing strategies to effectively reach and disseminate project publications to the local communities, ensuring that the knowledge generated is accessible and beneficial to community members.
- 3. Policy Alignment: Engaging with relevant nature conservation authorities to align project activities with existing policies and regulations to ensure legal compliance and support from the government.
- 4. Legal Status of Fish Guards: Addressing the legal status and recognition of fish guards involved in community fisheries management, ensuring their roles and responsibilities are correctly defined and supported

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications

The project has produced eighteen publications, which serve as valuable resources for sharing knowledge and best practices within the project and potentially with wider audiences.

2.3.5 Promoting Equitable Governance of Tenure on a small scale

Presenter: Nyakorema Beatrice

Overall Objective of the Project:

The project's overall objective is to promote equitable governance of tenure in smallscale fisheries in the Lake Tanganyika region, focusing on enhancing sustainable fisheries, conserving aquatic biodiversity, and supporting the blue economy.

Key Research Areas:

 Governance of tenure: Study and analyze the existing policies, laws, and regulatory standards related to tenure rights in small-scale fisheries. Identify gaps and opportunities for improving governance and promoting equitable access to resources.

- 2. Stakeholder involvement: Explore ways to effectively involve stakeholders in the fisheries management process, ensuring their meaningful participation and representation in decision-making.
- 3. Sustainable fisheries management: Develop strategies and measures to address the decline in fish production, including reducing open- access, promoting responsible fishing practices, and supporting fish restoration initiatives.
- 4. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing: Investigate the prevalence of IUU fishing practices in Lake Tanganyika and develop collaborative approaches to deter or eliminate such activities through improved monitoring, control, and enforcement.
- 5. Socio-economic impact: Assess the socio-economic implications of sustainable fisheries management, including its contribution to the blue economy, income generation for fishers, and improvement of livelihoods in the region.

Gaps to be addressed:

- 5. Absence of up-to-date policies, laws, and regulatory standards at the national level.
- 6. Non-harmonization of policies, laws, and regulatory standards at the regional level.
- 7. Low compliance with fisheries laws and regulations and inadequate enforcement.
- 8. Limited effective involvement of stakeholders in the fisheries management process.
- 9. Due to endemic poverty and population growth, excessive pressure on fisheries resources and basin ecosystems.
- 10.Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices.
- 11.Declining fish stocks, destruction of critical habitats, and conflicts among stakeholders.
- 12.Insufficient scientific data for decision-making on sustainable fisheries management.

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

The project utilizes online resources and publications to support its objectives and research areas. These resources may include:

- 1. Scientific journals and research articles on fisheries management, governance of tenure, and sustainable development.
- 2. Reports and publications from international organizations include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA).
- 3. Online databases containing data and information on fish stocks, biodiversity, and environmental conditions in Lake Tanganyika.

- 4. Websites and online platforms of relevant stakeholders, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations working in fisheries and natural resource management.
- 5. Online training courses, webinars, and workshops related to sustainable fisheries, stakeholder engagement, and governance of tenure.

2.3.6 From Octopus Closure to sustainable marine resources management planning

Presenter: Juma Mohammed

Overall Objective of the Project:

The project's overall objective is to transition from octopus closure to sustainable marine resources management planning, focusing on improving the livelihoods of coastal communities in Tanzania. The project aims to enhance fishers' harvest, increase awareness, and promote community engagement and involvement in marine resource management.

Key Research Areas:

- 1. Participatory data analysis: Engaging community members in analysing data related to marine resources, fishing practices, and socio-economic aspects to inform decision-making and management planning.
- 2. Stakeholder engagement: Collaborating with national and international stakeholders to promote dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cooperation in sustainable marine resource management.
- 3. Capacity building: Providing training and capacity-building initiatives to local Beach Management Units (BMUs) to enhance their ability to identify and implement measures for sustainable resource use.
- 4. Active restoration and conservation: Implementing measures such as constructing artificial reef balls to promote the restoration and conservation of marine ecosystems.
- 5. Alternative livelihoods: Supporting communities in identifying and establishing alternative livelihoods to reduce fishing pressure and enhance sustainable economic opportunities.
- 6. Women's participation and role in conservation: Recognizing and involving women in conservation efforts, including education, awareness-raising, and active participation in decision-making processes.

Gaps, Areas, and Issues to be Addressed:

1. Limited involvement of women in resource management and decision-making processes.

- 2. Insufficient awareness and understanding among community members about sustainable fishing practices and the importance of marine conservation.
- 3. Alternative livelihood options are needed to reduce fishing pressure and enhance economic resilience.
- 4. Lack of capacity and resources at the community level for effective marine resource management and active restoration.
- 5. Challenges in working with individual stakeholders, highlighting the importance of establishing collective management structures such as Community Fisheries Management Associations (CFMAs).

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

The project utilizes online resources and publications to support its objectives and research areas. These resources may include:

- 1. Research papers, articles, and case studies on sustainable fisheries management, community-based conservation, and alternative livelihoods.
- Reports and publications from international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and local NGOs working on coastal community development.
- 3. Online databases and platforms containing information on marine conservation, sustainable fishing practices, and participatory approaches to resource management.

2.3.7 Sustainable Management of small-scale coastal fisheries in Northern Madagascar

Presenter: Gandy Arnaud

Overall Objective of the Project

The project's overall objective is to achieve sustainable management of small-scale coastal fisheries in Northern Madagascar through a community-based approach. The project aims to improve small-scale fisheries by conducting assessments, collecting data, raising awareness, and designing fisheries management plans.

- 1. Small-scale fisheries assessment: Conduct assessments to understand the current state of the small-scale fisheries and the marine resources in the area.
- 2. Data collection: Collecting high-quality fisheries and marine ecosystem ecology data to inform decision-making.
- 3. Fisheries management and monitoring regimes: Designing effective management and monitoring strategies for the small-scale fisheries.

4. Awareness raising: Educating local fishing syndicates, management bodies, and the Junior Eco-guard network about sustainable fisheries practices and marine biodiversity conservation.

Gaps and Issues to be Addressed

- 1. Lack of understanding among local fishers about the current state of marine resources and the need for change.
- 2. Insufficient data on small-scale fisheries and marine ecosystem ecology.
- 3. Limited awareness among stakeholders about sustainable management practices;
- 4. The need for effective fisheries management and monitoring regimes;
- 5. The desire to extend the project's work beyond the initial year of data collection;

Collaborations and Partnerships:

The project involves collaboration between Gandy Arnaud/Chris Poonian, local fishing syndicates, management bodies, the Junior Eco guard network, and other organizations or institutions involved in fisheries management and marine conservation.

2.3.8 Supporting the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius

Presenter: Jean Lindsay Azie

Overall Objective of the Project:

The overall objective of the project is to support the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community in the Republic of Mauritius by addressing the decline in catches, promoting sustainable fishing practices, upgrading fish landing stations and post-harvest facilities, and providing training and capacity-building opportunities.

- 1. Identification of new fishing grounds and methods to enhance catch efficiency;
- 2. Assessment of the impact of overfishing and pollution on lagoons and fish stocks;
- 3. Development and implementation of innovative fishing equipment and techniques;
- 4. Integration of renewable energy and sustainable infrastructures in fish landing stations and post-harvest facilities;
- 5. Training on fish processing, hygiene, and marketing to meet EU norms;
- 6. Evaluation of the effectiveness of technology applications, such as mobile and satellite-based systems, in improving fishing efficiency;

Gaps and Issues to be Addressed:

- 1. Declining catches due to overfishing, polluted lagoons, and ageing fishers.
- 2. Dependence on imports for food supplies, with fresh fish accounting for a sizeable portion;
- 3. Insufficient fishing grounds and outdated fishing methods;
- 4. Inadequate infrastructure and facilities for fish landing and post-harvest activities;
- 5. Limited knowledge and adherence to EU fish processing, hygiene, and marketing norms;
- 6. Gender disparities and the need for gender mainstreaming within the artisanal fishing community;

Collaborations and Partnerships:

The project is implemented by UNDP- Mauritius in collaboration with the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. The project also works closely with collaborators such as the Ministry, ECOFISH, and relevant fisheries officers.

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

Research papers, reports, and case studies on sustainable fishing practices, fish stock assessment, fishery technology applications, gender mainstreaming in the fishing industry, and best practices in fish processing, hygiene, and marketing are online.

2.3.9 Small-scale Fisheries for Sustainable Blue Growth improving food security & Livelihoods in Coastal Kenya and East Africa (KECOFISH) organization: WWF Kenya

Presenter: Sophia Kabibi

Overall Objective of the Project:

The overall objective of the KECOFISH project is to promote sustainable blue growth, improve food security, and enhance livelihoods in coastal Kenya and East Africa through implementing small-scale fisheries interventions. The project aims to address challenges in fisheries management, post-harvest losses, market access, and financial inclusion while promoting community-led co-management approaches.

- 1. Fisheries data collection and management systems.
- 2. Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs) and financial literacy.
- 3. Fisheries co-management approaches.
- 4. Post-harvest losses and market access.
- 5. Cross-learning and knowledge exchange.

Gaps and Issues to be Addressed

- 1. Limited availability of reliable fisheries data for effective management;
- 2. Lack of financial inclusion and access to capital for coastal communities;
- 3. Inadequate capacity for joint fisheries co-management;
- 4. High post-harvest losses and limited market access;
- 5. Limited knowledge exchange and cross-learning opportunities;

Collaborations and Partnerships

WWF Kenya organizes the KECOFISH project with the Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS) and other stakeholders. The project also involves engagement with community-based organizations, Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs), and grassroots-level extension officers. Additional partnerships with local governments and regional organizations may exist for knowledge exchange and cross-learning opportunities.

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

WWF Kenya and other relevant organizations provide online resources and publications on small-scale fisheries, sustainable blue growth, financial literacy, fisheries co-management, and post-harvest losses. These resources can be accessed through WWF Kenya's website, online databases, and other platforms. They can be valuable references for project implementation, capacity-building activities, and stakeholder knowledge sharing.

Link: <u>https://ecofish-programme.org/workplan-4-demonstration-projects/wwf-kenya/</u>

2.3.10 presenting fisheries governance project phase II- 2021, funded by the EU

Presenter: Mr Obina

Overall Objective of the Project

The Fisheries Governance Project Phase II, funded by the European Union (EU) in 2021, aims to enhance fisheries governance in fifty-five member states. The project aims to improve decision-making processes in fisheries management by promoting evidence-based approaches.

- 1. Fisheries Management: Examining current fisheries management practices and identifying areas for improvement;
- 2. Policy Analysis: Assessing existing policies and regulations related to fisheries governance and proposing recommendations for their enhancement.

- 3. Stakeholder Engagement: Promoting active participation and collaboration among stakeholders, such as government entities, regional organizations, and local communities, in fisheries governance processes.
- 4. Data Collection and Analysis: Developing and implementing a comprehensive database to collect, analyse, and disseminate fisheries-related data for informed decision-making.
- 5. Sustainability Mechanisms: Identifying and implementing strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources and governance systems.

Gaps, Areas, and Issues to be Addressed:

- 1. Lack of Evidence-Based Decision Making: Promoting scientific data and research findings to inform decision-making processes in fisheries management.
- 2. Inadequate Policy Frameworks: Identifying gaps in existing policy frameworks and proposing improvements to enhance the effectiveness of fisheries governance;
- 3. Limited Stakeholder Engagement: Encouraging broader participation and collaboration among national, regional, and local stakeholders to ensure inclusive and transparent decision-making processes.
- Insufficient Data Availability: Addressing the challenges related to data collection, management, and accessibility to support evidence-based decisionmaking in fisheries management;
- 5. Unsustainable Fishing Practices: Tackling unsustainable fishing practices and promoting responsible fishing methods to ensure the long-term health and productivity of fisheries resources;

Collaborations and Partnerships:

- 1. AU IBAR (African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources): Coordinating the implementation of the project.
- 2. Project Technical Coordinating Committee: Consisting of different AU member states, this committee is crucial in overseeing the implementation process.
- 3. Regional Economic Communities (RECs): Annual dialogue sessions are conducted with RECs to foster regional cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- 4. Platforms and Networks: Leveraging existing platforms and networks to facilitate information exchange, collaboration, and learning among stakeholders involved in fisheries governance.

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

The project utilizes online resources and publications to support its objectives. These resources include:

1. Databases: Developing and maintaining a comprehensive fisheries database to store and analyse relevant data for decision-making.

- 2. Research Publications: Accessing and disseminating research publications on fisheries governance, best practices, and policy recommendations.
- 3. Online Platforms: Utilizing online platforms for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and facilitating stakeholder discussions.
- 4. Open Access Journals: Engaging with open-access journals that publish research on fisheries management, policy, and governance.

2.3.11 presenting African Union Centres of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture

Presenter: Hellen Moepi-Guebam

Overall Objective of the Project:

The overall objective of the African Union Centres of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture project is to strengthen the capacity of African institutions to produce high-quality research, develop human capabilities, provide evidence for policy support, increase professionalism, improve networking and complementarity, and enhance regional integration in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Key Research Areas:

- 1. Aquaculture (Inland aquaculture and mariculture development)
- 2. Capture fisheries (Inland waters & fisheries development; Marine fisheries; large scale &, near and off-shore)
- 3. Aquatic Governance, Policy, and Fisheries economics (Policy, ocean & inland waters governance, biodiversity, EAF & fish conservation, IUU & MCS, data & data management, economics, sociology & trade, climate change, environment, and post-harvest)
- 4. Vocational training & human resources development in fields related to fisheries & aquaculture

Gaps, Areas, and Issues to be Addressed:

- 1. Weak marine and coastal security (MCS)
- 2. Low returns from resource exploitation
- 3. Ineffective institutional collaboration and networking
- 4. Lack of evidence-based decision-making on governance and policy issues
- 5. Untapped potential of small-scale fisheries
- 6. Undeveloped aquaculture sector
- 7. Logistics and infrastructure challenges
- 8. Lack of coherence and harmonization in management measures
- 9. Weak mechanisms for information sharing and disseminating best practices

Collaborations and Partnerships:

The project involves collaborations with various institutions such as the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (Uganda), Rhodes University (South Africa), University of Ibadan (Nigeria), Faculty of Fisheries Resources (Egypt) and Fisheries Institute (Cameroon), and (Gabon). These collaborations aim to enhance networking complementarity and regional cooperation in the sector.

Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

The African Union Centres of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture project would utilize online resources, academic journals, research papers, and relevant publications to support research, training, and knowledge dissemination activities.

2.3.12 Improved Economic Resilience and Food Security Coast Project of the Artisan Fishers in the Northern Sudanese.

Presenter: Dr. Soobaschand for SOS Sahel

Overall Objective of the Project:

The overall objective of the Improved Economic Resilience and Food Security Coast Project of the Artisan Fishers in the Northern Sudanese is to enhance economic resilience and food security among artisan fishers in the northern regions of Sudan.

Key Research Areas:

- 1. Improved practices and techniques in fishing
- 2. Appropriate fishery inputs and technologies
- 3. Capacity building of artisan fishers to break dependent relationships with traders and gain access to services

Gaps, Areas, and Issues to be Addressed:

- 1. Insufficient access to funding services for fishers
- 2. Lack of training and access to navigation devices for fishers
- 3. Low production quality resulting in fish price loss
- 4. Limited coordination mechanism among fishers
- 5. Low production levels and the need for improved productivity
- 6. Lack of training and opportunities for women in seafood processing and smallscale business
- 7. Need to upgrade foot fishers to deep water fishers
- 8. Dependence of artisan fishers on traders and the need for improved capacities to access services

2.3.13 Availability and Utilization of Online Resources and Publications:

The presentation does not provide information on the availability and utilization of online resources and publications. However, an organization focused on natural resource management and livelihoods has publications, reports, and online resources related to its work in the field.

2.4 Plenary Session's Observations and Recommendations

2.4.1 Value Chain

a) The value chain is essential and must be improved.

2.4.2 Co-management

- a) Co-management is required to address the exploitation and sustainable management of resources.
- b) Transboundary management was learnt; however, it can still be improved.
- c) Beneficiaries or small-scale fisheries operators must be encouraged to practice co-management and form partnerships and cooperatives for economic empowerment.
- d) Effective and good management practices must be shared.

2.4.3 Data Collection and information sharing

- a) Data collection is vital for sustainability. Information is essential for policy matters and decision-making.
- b) Spread information to a broader range for others to learn from the experience gained. Information sharing is knowledge for others.
- c) Experience sharing has proved essential, and this event has contributed a lot. To enhance such kind of platform in future for SIDs and landlocked countries;

2.4.4 Capacity building

- a) Capacity and technology are needed for data collection.
- b) Good practices and policies will benefit all.
- c) Socio-economic aspects are essential to consider for the progress of small-scale fisheries.
- d) Knowledge sharing and skills are essential; the "Knowledge Sharing Event" is an example and should be continuous.

- e) The concept of knowledge sharing is much appreciated, and this should be a continuous process.
- f) Business model must be consolidated, and professionalism is important
- g) Whenever a project is nearing completion, there should be a consolidated exit strategy for beneficiaries to stand alone and sustain the project's activities.
- h) Educate our operators to address conflicts between fishers and tourist activities (sport fishery).

2.4.5 Funding

- a) unds are essential for fishers to develop on their own.
- b) Cooperatives must be encouraged to access finance.

2.4.6 Others

- c) Food security is essential. Therefore, the development and sustainability of small-scale fisheries is significant.
- d) A comprehensive approach must be adopted for the development of small-scale fisheries.
- e) MCS must be worked together in transboundary fisheries.
- f) There must be harmonised strategies for the protection of habitat for fish to develop.
- g) Post-harvest loss is another critical issue which must be addressed in small-scale fisheries.

2.5 Conclusion and the Way Forward

The documentation of lessons learned and best practices is part of the certified deliverables of a project. These projects have been implemented by different Non-State Actors in diverse socio-ecological contexts across the EA-SA-IO region. Apart from delivering tangible benefits to target beneficiaries, these flagships aim to provide concrete examples or models to display the feasibility of sustainable practices that can be replicated and upscaled. They shined a spotlight on innovative approaches that enhance resource conservation, reduce environmental impacts, and promote social and economic wellbeing. Moreover, these projects raise awareness and knowledge about sustainable development principles among fishing communities, stakeholders, and policymakers. They help bridge the information gap by providing concrete examples and sensitised stakeholders about the benefits of sustainable fisheries management. These projects have involved active engagement of local fishing communities, industry representatives, government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. They have been instrumental in building effective collaboration and ownership of sustainable practices to influence decision-making.

These demonstration projects provide a big picture of the prospects and challenges the small-scale fisheries sector faces and practical approaches to address them effectively.

The artefacts of these projects are valuable materials for constructive discussion on the way forward to progress sustainable and integrated fisheries management at the grassroots level. The projects have shown the potential for sustainable resource management and improved livelihoods by combining traditional fishing practices with modern scientific insights. Recognising the Indigenous knowledge of local communities and incorporating it into policy and management frameworks is crucial for the success and resilience of small-scale fisheries. These projects have paved the way for a more inclusive, resilient, and ecologically responsible approach to small-scale fisheries management. By implementing measures such as gear restrictions, closed seasons, and size limits, the projects have demonstrated positive impacts on fish populations and the overall health of the ecosystems. These findings emphasise the need for effective management strategies that balance conservation with the socio-economic conditions of the local communities. In addition, they underscored the importance of involving local communities in decisionmaking processes, empowering them with knowledge and skills, and fostering collaboration between fishers, scientists, and other stakeholders. A participatory approach has improved the acceptance and compliance of fishing regulations and enhanced the overall well-being of fishing communities.

Moving forward, building on these findings, scaling up successful initiatives, and promoting knowledge sharing to ensure the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the region is essential. The Knowledge Fair is an interdisciplinary and multistakeholder forum that will assess the learning investments of these demonstration projects to determine their scalability and replicability. It will also examine factors that may hinder or facilitate up-scaling successful interventions in other areas of the African continent.



Building the Africa We Want

by leveraging the Blue Economy, Small-Scale Fisheries Management & Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation

THEME 3

Strengthen conservation

and management of

Aquatic Biodiversity

Theme 3 - Strengthen conservation and management of aquatic biodiversity

Mrs Hellen Moepi-Guebama moderated this technical session from AU-IBAR. Several presentations were made at the end, with questions and answers sessions.

3.1 AU-IBAR Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Project

Presenter: Dr Alberta Ama Sagoe, Gender Policy & Strategy Expert

The structure and activities of the Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Project. Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in the Context of the African Blue Economy Project, also known as the 'Aquatic Biodiversity Project' is implemented under two AU instruments;

- The African Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) and
- The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRFS)

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The project aims to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities to utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems sustainably.

The underpinning AU instruments for this project include the following:

- Agenda 2063 Aspiration 1, Goal 6: Blue economy for accelerated economic growth;
- Malebo Declaration Commitment number 3
- Commitment 3: Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025,
- African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa;
- 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy;
- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), 2003

The implementation dates of the project are 2021 –2024.

Funding support is from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Strategic objectives

The following are the four Strategic Objectives of the Aquatic Project:

- SO1. Support AU–MS to ratify and/or align relevant biodiversity related International/Regional Instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)
 - Mechanisms for active participation of MSs in regional and global initiatives related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental regimes (ABNJ, CITES, COP meetings relating to CC, BRS, etc.)
 - Ratification and implementation of conventions and agreements related to biodiversity conservation in AU MSs and RECs supported.
- SO2. Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes
 - Developing enforceable regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional MCS systems developed.
 - Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes
 - Establishing a national, regional and transboundary cooperation framework on Africa Blue Economy Strategy Thematic Areas.
 - Strengthening capacities for restoring and conserving threatened aquatic biodiversity and environment.
- SO3. Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and the environment
 - Implement measures for minimizing the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and the environment strengthened and implemented.
 - Develop strategies for an integrated strategic framework on sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining.
- SO4. Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management
 - Develop a continental strategy for gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity and environmental management.

More information can be obtained from <u>www.au-ibar.org</u>

3.2 The Master Plan for Sustainable Coastal and Marine Tourism

Presented by: Dr Alberta Ama Sagoe, Gender Policy & Strategy Expert, AU-IBAR

Dr Ama Sagoe reported that 3 Member States, namely Kenya, Nigeria and Gabon, are being supported to develop Masterplan for Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism and Mining activities under Strategic Objective 3. The plan is being developed in stages as follows:

- International Consultant was hired to carry out a continental Study on Coastal and Marine Tourism and Mining activities which produced the following outputs:
 - Study Report
 - > Policy Brief on CMT & Mining in Africa
- National Baseline Study on Coastal & Marine Tourism and Mining Activities
 Nigeria, Kenya, Gabon
- National Stakeholder Consultative Workshops
 - National Masterplans on Sustainable Mining Activities for Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The stakeholder workshops have been held in all three countries as follows:

- Kenya 22-24 March 2023
- Nigeria 20-22 March 2023
- Gabon 29-31 March 2023

The workshops were informed through the process of:

- Technical presentations,
- Group discussions (identification of issues/gaps/actions)
- Group presentations

All three countries have produced both draft Master Plans and Policy Briefs. Some of the Knowledge Products include the following publications:

- AU-IBAR. 2023. A masterplan for sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining activities towards conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental protection in Nigeria
- AU-IBAR. 2023. Policy Measures to strengthen regulatory frameworks for sustainable coastal marine tourism and mining activities towards aquatic biodiversity and environmental protection in Nigeria

3.3 Sustainable Coastal, Marine Tourism and Mining Activities, and Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks Towards Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems in Kenya

Presenter: Prof. Bernerd M. Fulanda, Pwani University, Kenya

Dr Fulanda explained the overall objective of the Masterplan for Kenya is to promote sustainable coastal and marine Tourism and Mining Activities (including oil, gas exploration and mineral mining) and Strengthen Regulatory Frameworks towards Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Sound Environmental Management in Kenya. It was reported that a consultative workshop was held on 22-24 March 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, supported by the AU-IBAR Biodiversity project.

The objective of the Workshop (NCW) was to develop a national master plan for sustainable coastal, marine tourism and mining activities towards aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems conservation in Kenya and a regulatory framework (policies, regulations) for Kenya.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- Create awareness on key issues, impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration on aquatic biodiversity, environment
- Identify national priority issues and actions for the development of sustainable coastal, marine tourism, oil, and gas exploration;
- Develop national master plans for sustainable coastal, marine tourism, oil, and gas exploration; and,
- Develop regulatory and policy guidelines for sustainable mining and oil and gas exploration policy and practice in Kenya.

The workshop was attended by 31 Government, NGOs, and Private sector participants. It was explained that as a planning framework, the master plan is designed to achieve the following:

- Regulatory and policy guidelines to the Republic of Kenya to strengthen environmental sustainability in the sector;
- Avenue for focused and rationale intervention for the maximization of tourists satisfaction and attractions through healthy ecosystems, & conservation;
- Mechanism for advocacy protection and compensation of project-affected persons (PAPs) and communities in impacts attributable to the development of CMT & OGM
- Advocacy towards environment-friendly CMT OGM sector + spatial plans to minimise impacts on aquatic biodiversity and environments for sustained social and economic growth

Some conclusions and recommendations were drawn from the workshop as follows: The Coastal and Marine Tourism sector faces several challenges:

- Inadequate information dissemination mechanisms;
- Flawed policies on ocean governance;
- The absence of compliance frameworks augments low compliance; mechanisms, weak enforcement, lacking regard for Indigenous knowledge, inadequate incentives,
- compensation;
- Inadequate safety & security frameworks & measures to counter transboundary crimes, illegal trafficking;
- Inadequate capacity building and knowledge, ecotourism promotion and sectoral approach in handling issues;

Coastal and Marine Tourism Sector Proposed Strategy:

- Enhanced information packaging targeting all stakeholders,
- Capacity building
- Development of sound ocean governance policies enhanced Interagency approaches to enforcement while incorporating community knowledge in decision-making organs;
- Mangrove rehabilitation campaigns/awareness;
- More vigorous enforcement (MCS) of existing laws & regulations on reefs and coral ecosystems, especially;
- Enact stricter antifouling paint standards;
- Facilitate participation in regional and international processes

In the Oil and Gas sector, the key issues: -

- Lack of spatial planning leads to conflicts in resource use,
- Habitat degradation / Biodiversity loss,
- Loss of ecosystems services and biodiversity,
- Increasing competition for maritime space;
- Unequitable resource sharing and benefits,
- Loss of cultural and genetic resources; and
- Pollution.

Interventions Oil and Gas Sector:-

- Establishment of an MSP inter-agency & Multi-sectoral MSP Working Group, Location-specific baseline Database for habitats, ecosystems and species;
- Mapping of species migratory routes, conducting marine mammal census;
- Fast-track, domesticate, and implement international conventions related to biodiversity conservation,
- Stricter enforcement of existing regulations polluter pays principle;

- Manage, maintain, exercise, and periodically review and update the Oil Spill Response Contingency Plans;
- Maximize Kenya's marine pollution response capability
- Conduct public awareness campaigns on ship source and land-based oil/chemical pollution;
- Ensure proper environmental impact assessment (EIA) on offshore projects with Enhanced review of environmental impact assessment reports;
- Enact a compensation fund/authority and advance implementation on Access and Benefit Sharing;
- Develop curricula for local institutions, TVETs and Universities to produce quality skills; Develop interagency data sharing protocols and Establish an open-source data access platform/repository

In the Mineral Mining sector, the big challenges: -

- Illegal mining, especially with regards to de-classified materials such as sand and building stones;
- Non-compliance due to low capacity to enforce standards and regulations;
- Over-exploitation in disregard of mining guidelines and regulations; increasing conflicts between landowners' compensation and resettlement;
- Lack of harmonization in revenue/benefit sharing mechanism between National government/Counties/Community augmented by poor remuneration; all leading to increasing biodiversity loss and alteration of the physical landscape, uncontrolled erosion,
- Storm-water; Sedimentation;
- Pollution from dust emissions, oil spills and other chemicals; poor mine-waste management practices;
- Use of child labour, gender issues relating to lack of inclusion and parity,
- Poor access to financing, Lack of direct access to markets;
- Lack of technology/ expertise, especially in the artisanal mining sector; Environmental pollution;
- Land degradation, Intrusion of seawater into the groundwater, Inadequate geological data on mineral distribution,
- Conflicts with community & non-documented heritage sites.

Mineral Mining Proposed strategies include:

- Enhanced enforcement of the Mining Act;
- Improve community sensitization,
- Formalization of artisanal mining activities;
- Establishment and implementation of benefit sharing framework, e.g., Coast Development Authority;

- Integrate landowners in the BE dialogue for mineral/land compensations; Enforcement of ESIA/EIA;
- Enhance environmental rehabilitation plans,
- Biodiversity conservation and management Plans,
- Mine waste management Plan, Community integration in BE process development & minerals;

Mineral Mining Proposed Strategies

- Formation and gazettement of Artisanal Mining Committees; Sensitization/ enforcement of Children's Act;
- Enhanced research to provide information on the impact of various mining activities (including seawater mining) for sound policy formulations;
- Adherence to/and continuous improvement exploration and mining standards;
 Geological mapping & Mineral exploration;
- Map out Sensitive habitats & develop disaster resilience plans; Gazettement of heritage sites;
- Develop capacity for health & safety mining & Continuous audits and inspections to improve conditions.

Successful implementation of the Masterplan calls for:

- Adopt/Adapt & incorporate modern technology into marine and coastal tourism development, oil and gas exploration, and mining activities;
- Adapt biodiversity conservation-friendly technologies and approaches in their operations in all sectors;
- Identify and document all actors for engagement while integrating all Civil Societies, CBOs etc., tap Indigenous knowledge;
- Develop sound Marine Spatial Plans (Coastal marine tourism, oil and gas, Mineral mining, shipping and maritime logistics, Conservation (MPAs), Security etc.;
- Enhance Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) with adequate funding linked/drawn from the blue economy sectors;
- Enhanced Environmental awareness programmes, enactment of the Polluter-Pays-Principles, Coastal; cleanup programmes for marine debris and plastics;
- Modernization of Disaster preparedness systems, including Oil spills, Port pollution, fires, etc., with more robust regulatory/ punitive measures for infringements;
- Regularize artisanal mining, esp. coral mining, cut stone, shell collectors etc., to curb the destruction caused to aquatic ecosystems and enhance the OSH of the miners.
- Strengthen synergies between Community, Primary, High School, TVET institutional, and Tertiary Education and training to incorporate enhanced Conservation studies into the system; o Enhance inter/intra institutional

(National, County and Local governments; Ministries, Departments, CBOs, CSOs, etc. strengthen multi-agency conservation approaches;

- Gender mainstreaming in All sectors of the Blue Economy; stronger emphasis on Livelihoods, Livelihood Restoration Programmes, among others.
- Enhance interproject linkages to ensure constructive collaboration within the Blue Economy Sectors, e.g., Aquatic Biodiversity, Go-Blue, etc., for better results;

3.4 Policy measures and strategic actions for the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental sustainability in transboundary aquatic ecosystems (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania)

Presenter: Dr RUKUUNYA EDWARD, LVFO, Director of Fisheries Management and Development

Dr Rukuunya reported that AUIBAR supported an In-depth review/study that assessed transboundary freshwater ecosystems in the African region to help in developing a framework for the management of transboundary freshwater aquatic ecosystems for conservation and joint action plans;

Based on this study, the Republics of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania were supported from January to April 2023 to develop policy guidelines and regulatory frameworks for the consolidated national strategy on conserving aquatic biodiversity and environmental management for Lake Victoria.

The national strategic models comprised the following items:

- Vision
- Mission
- Core Values
- Key Result Areas
- Strategic Objectives
- Strategic Goals and Actions
- Proposed management strategies
- Implementation and Coordination Framework
- Role of Government institutions
- Roles of Private sector and non-State actor
- Roles of Regional Bodies
- Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation
- Monitoring and Evaluation Institutional Framework
- Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting

There were some variations and similarities in the formulations of these items from one country to another.



Similarities and variations in formulations of strategic items;

The reports had a regional consultative process at formulation and were finalised with additional input, but there may be a need for national and regional validation.

3.5 Mainstreaming Gender in aquatic biodiversity conservation - Support to AU-MS to develop National Strategies for mainstreaming gender in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management (Malawi)

Presenter: Dr Alberta Ama Sagoe, Gender Policy & Strategy Expert, AU-IBAR

The Strategic Objective 4 of the AU-IBAR Biodiversity project is Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management, of which the main output is to Develop a continental strategy for gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity and ecological management.

The following chronology of events has been realised:

- 1. Continental Study to identify priority issues and actions for enhancing the role of women in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.
- 2. Expert consultative workshop to develop a continental strategy on gender mainstreaming in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

- 3. Validation of the Study Report and Continental Strategy (Study report; Continental Strategy; Policy brief)
- 4. Rolling out the Continental Strategy:
 - i. Support to 3 AU-MS to develop National Strategies on Gender Mainstreaming in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management
 - ii. Technical support to environmental-based NGOs to develop gender-sensitive work plans

A national consultative workshop was held for Malawi on 3-4 May 2023 as part of AU-MS support. The outputs of the workshop were;

- Awareness created on AU-IBAR's continental strategy on Gender mainstreaming in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management;
- Priority issues and actions for enhancing the role of women in aquatic biodiversity and environmental management identified;
- Important entry points for enhancing the role of women and youth in inclusive aquatic biodiversity conservation and integrated management in the context of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan identified;
- Gender initiatives, programmes and aspects of aquatic biodiversity conservation are outlined to be included in the revised NBSAP.
- Draft of National strategy for mainstreaming gender in Malawi's aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management developed.

3.6 Support to Ongoing NGO Initiative to Develop Gender Sensitive Workplans – in Collaboration with IUCN

Management of Mangrove Forests from Senegal to Benin' Project (2019-2024) The aim was to enhance mangrove governance structures in the Anlo-Keta Landscape (Ghana), with the Ghana Wildlife Division as a leading partner.

Activities

- Support the establishment of one Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) in the AnloKeta Landscape.
- Support drafting of a clear gender-sensitive management plan for the CREMA
- Enhance training of the CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) and Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) to build their capacities on gender roles in decision-making.

3.7 KMFRI Carbon Credit Programme and SIDA funded Sub-project on Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration

Presented by: Anne Wanjiru, KMFRI/Mikoko Pamoja

Mikoko Pamoja: A small-scale blue carbon project in Kenya

"Mangroves Together" is the first mangrove PES project in the world. It is a community-led project in south coast Kenya, Gazi and Makongeni villages. The objective is the restoration and protection of mangroves by selling carbon credits. It has been verified 20yrs by Plan Vivo standards. So far, Carbon sold into the voluntary market is 2,500 tCO₂.

Some of the activities undertaken included:

- Reforestation of degraded mangrove areas
- Avoided deforestation
- Surveillance of the forest against illegal activities
- Education and Awareness
- Forest monitoring
- Carbon trade
- Community consultations

In the reporting period 1st January 2022– 31st December 2022, the following statistics are provided, i.e.

	Historical	Added/	Total
	(2014-	Issued this	
	2021)	period	
		(2022)	
Area under management (ha)	117.4ha	0	117.4ha
(where PES agreements are in place)			
Total PES payments made to participants (USD)	119,324	24,652	USD 143,976
Allocation to Plan Vivo buffer (tCO2)	2,852	369	3,221 tCO2
Saleable emissions reductions achieved (tCO2)	16,009	2,043	18,052 tCO2
Total Unsold Stock at time of Submission (PVC)**	0	287	287
Total Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs) issued	16,009	2,043	18,052

- All community members actively engage from during project design to implementation.
- Women engage in prioritizing community projects
- Forty per cent of committee members are women.

Impacts

- Impacts seven thousand people
- Water: 2 villages; 3 schools ~1000 students and built Public toilets
- Education; books; classroom renovated; desks
- Job creation-directly and indirectly
- Support other IGAs
- Mikoko Pamoja project conserves 117 ha of mangroves and has restored 0.4ha annually.
- The project has saved 22,500t CO2 emissions during the nine years of operation.

Knowledge and Capacity Building

- Community-engaged in tree planting, nursery establishment & monitoring activities to enhance skills and knowledge for improved forest governance
- Currently running a forest scholars program that seeks to impact skills to youths in the project area.
- Ocean Literacy program for schools

SIDA funded Sub-project on Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration

The project is funded under the AU-IBAR Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems in the African Blue Economy.

The overall aim is to Improve the management of the blue carbon ecosystem. It would respond directly to all thematic areas of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES), particularly thematic area **one.** (Fisheries and Aquaculture) and **3 (climate change and environment).**

The **overall objective** of the proposed project is to restore the functionality of blue carbon ecosystems for community development and environmental sustainability. More specifically, the project will:

- 1. **Establish ecological baselines** and characterize degraded mangrove areas in Gazi Bay;
- Educate, train and demonstrate community-based ecological restoration of mangrove forests;
- 3. **Establish community woodlots** in schools and community land to provide alternative sources of wood and livelihood opportunities;
- 4. Reduce pressure on mangrove resources through the promotion of **nature-based enterprises.**

Knowledge Products

Guidelines on mangrove ecosystem restoration for the Western Indian Ocean region

- Seeks to address challenges associated with mangrove restoration
- Provide procedures for establishing successful mangrove restoration projects
- Includes choosing the right species, site preparations, nursery establishment and maintenance, out-planting and monitoring
- The current project will domesticate the use of these regional guidelines to enhance mangrove restoration

3.7 Overview of relevant Continental and Global Instruments related to aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems conservation and environmental management

Presenter: Eric Nadiope, Policy, Legal and Institutional Officer – Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation, AU-IBAR

Under Strategic Objective 1 of the Aquatic Biodiversity project, AU-IBAR is supporting AU-MS to ratify key global instruments. Here ten countries will be supported.

The intervention is designed to achieve the following:

- 1. Enhance awareness to African Union-Member States on the benefits of ratifying, Domestication and implementation of Continental and Global Instruments;
- 2. Support AU-MS to align their National Instruments to Global Instruments and, in a way, Implement these Global Instruments as well as participate in Global Fora to accrue benefits;
- 3. Supporting Members States on the improved management of transboundary aquatic resources through Institutional Strengthening and Regional collaboration.

The following baselines were determined during the review.

Status of ratification and implementation of identified Instruments for aquatic biodiversity management and conservation by AU-MSs in North, West and Central Africa

Member States	Number of Instruments		Implementation Status	Key challenges raised	
	Ratified	Adopted	Implemented		
Cameroon	25	7	18	Low	Lack of financial, technical capacity, unaware of the Instruments
DR Congo	31	9	14	Low	Lack of financial, technical capacity, unaware of the Instruments.
Ghana	29	11	14	Low	Lack of financial, technical capacity, unaware of the Instruments.
Tunisia	43	34	39	High	Review existing Laws (Transport, Maritime, Environment, Trade and Finance.

Status of ratification and implementation of identified instruments for aquatic biodiversity management and conservation by AU-MSs in Southern and Eastern Africa

Member State	Instruments ratified	Implementation status	Key challenges raised with ratification, adoption and implementation
Djibouti	Most of the Instruments	Low	Lack of financial, technical capacity,
Somalia	Most of the Instruments	Low	Lack of financial and technical capacity
Ethiopia	Several Instruments	Fair	Limited financial and technical capacity, not a priority
Lesotho	Several Instruments	Fair	Lack of technical capacity & cross- sectoral coordination
Eswatini	Limited number	Low	Lack of financial, technical and cross-sectoral coordination
Uganda	Several Instruments	Fair	Lack of financial, technical and cross-sectoral coordination
Tanzania	Several Instruments	Fair	Limited financial and technical capacity, not a priority
South Sudan	Limited number	Low	Limited financial and technical capacity, lack of cross-sectoral capacity
Kenya	Most of the Instruments	High	Limited financial and technical capacity
Namibia	Most of the Instruments	High	Limited financial and technical capacity
South Africa	Most of the Instruments	High	Limited cross-sectoral coordination

So far, the Republic of South Sudan and the Arab Republic of Egypt have been supported in aligning their national and domesticating Global instruments. Other AU-MS to be supported during this fiscal year are the Republic of Cameroon, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Djibouti. The above will be selected and supported during the next budget year.

In addition, under SO1, AU-IBAR is supporting AU-MS to participate in the Global fora. Training of pre-determined negotiators was undertaken, and what remains is to support participation in the forums.

Recommendations

- National-level status and valuation studies on ratification, adoption and implementation of the different key International Instruments.
- Put in place a Regional or sub-regional unit to link with the Depositories on behalf of AU-MSs
 - To provide technical guidance and support to Member States in ratifying, adopting and implementing key selected Instruments.
- Support National, sub-regional and Regional harmonization of roles of different actors.
 - In a manner that promotes collaboration and the creation of platforms, support the ratification, adoption and implementation of the different Instruments.
- AU-MSs should designate specific sector managers and or desk officers
 - Responsible for coordination of ratification and implementation of different Instruments.
- Each AU–MS should be supported and encouraged to establish a platform for resource mobilization and coordination of ratification and implementation.
- Put in place an AU-based financing mechanism and framework to support the ratification, adoption and implementation of aquatic biodiversity conservation.
 - Akin to the functioning of the Global Environmental Facility of the UN but tailor-made for Africa with improvements in some of the elements of GEF.
- Provide AU-MSs with technical assistance and capacity building for key responsible Agencies and Experts

3.8 Country Initiatives on Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation – The Gambia

Presenter: Mr Alieu Sowe, National Coordinator, Gambia Fisher Folks Association & WFF/AAG

Mr Sowe reported that the Gambia biodiversity action plan is, among others, aimed at slowing down the rate of biodiversity loss, sustainable utilization and conservation of the resource base and providing an integrated operational framework to set priorities and guide investments.

Additionally, the plan aims to enhance national capacities for biodiversity conservation and provide an opportunity for the public sector and international conservation organisations to work together as real partners and set a course for biodiversity conservation in the Gambia. Additionally, the plan aims to enhance national capacities for biodiversity conservation and provide an opportunity for the public sector and international conservation organisations to work together as real partners and set a course for biodiversity conservation in the Gambia.

Although the plan is directed to all strata of Gambian society (from decision makers to rural farmers) that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is the duty of every Gambian, the projects and programs proposed are designed for local communities as essential stakeholders whose livelihoods depend on the conservation and sustainable of biodiversity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with the Government of the Gambia, Fos, CSOs, NGOs etc, on a Green Climate Fund (GCF) project focused on climate-proofing fisheries infrastructure and restoring over two thousand hectares of degraded mangrove areas, which are critical fisheries hotspots.

Mangrove Restoration For Biodiversity Conservation

- Establish and widely disseminate information on mangrove types, their areas and ecological functions for public awareness.
- Collaboratively Develop integrated management plans for the different mangrove ecosystems based on sustainable management concepts.
- Restore degraded mangrove lands in collaboration with fringe communities, CSOs, sector departments such as DPWM, Fisheries, Lands and other interested groups.
- •

Recommendations

- Conduct periodic inventory of fish species and their quantities, paying particular attention to habitat and other factors inhibiting or promoting fish regeneration.
- Examine and promote the role of women in processing and smoking, and mechanisms should be sought to support such activities.
- Conduct in-depth studies of mangroves concerning their biological function and regulation of their exploitation, establish a mangrove committee, and halt the present illegal harvesting and smuggling of mangroves.
- Strengthen the general sensitization efforts in the fishing industry to create awareness of all stakeholders and help change attitudes and beliefs for the better.
- Develop and promote aquaculture and its social and economic benefits. It should be geared towards salvaging threatened fish species and establishing means for Fisheries and other concerned parties in research, management and surveillance to improve the information base for the effectiveness of management actions and monitoring activities.



THEME 4

Policy and governance enhancement

Theme 4 - Policy and governance enhancement -Objectives/Activities

4.1 African Fisheries Reform Mechanism

4.1.1 Introduction

The meeting was organised as a parallel session by the African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) under the second phase of the Fisheries Governance project (FishGOV 2) on "Enhancing sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa and the "Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation" project financed by SIDA. During the Knowledge Fair Sharing Event on Africa, We Want by Leveraging the Blue Economy Small Scale Fisheries and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation organized by the IOC, IGAD and AU-IBAR.

4.1.2 The agenda

- a) SWOT Analysis of Status and Trends of SSF Development in Africa SSF WG
- b) Prioritization of Key Issues and Action Points SSF WG
- c) Information paper/products/ case study
- d) Panel questions

4.1.3 Expected meeting outputs

Among the expected outputs of the meeting will include:

- i. Identified Small-Scale Fisheries Development related issues in Africa;
- ii. Relevant knowledge products formulated within the framework of AFRM; and
- iii. Reviewed Work-plans in line with the Project activities for implementation

Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted with a few amendments, which changed the review and update of the annual work plan from day one to day two.

4.1.4 Meeting Discussions

The meeting was taken through the proceedings and outcomes of the Inaugural Meeting of the AFRM SSF Working Group in March 2022, including the Working group's two-year Work Plan. The work plan was to be updated and aligned with the FISH Gov

2 activities and AFRM to identify issues to be consolidated into position/ policy/ advocacy note products. The WG undertook the SWOT analysis on SSF development. For purposes of discussion to identify relevant issues and inputs for consolidation into position papers, advocacy notes and policy briefs, The WG was able to identify priority areas using SWOT analysis, progress made in the implementation of 10 Year Action Plan for Small Scale, the FAO VGSSF, regional and national initiatives within the member states. It was because the group took cognisance of the dynamic nature of small-scale fisheries.

4.1.5 SWOT Analysis on Small-Scale Fishing in Africa Strengths Weaknesses

	j		
1.	Resilient- are flexible and quickly	1.	Lack of data on SSF
	adapt to situations easily	2.	Low awareness of their rights
2.	Less infrastructure dependent-	3.	Low fiscal management literacy
	Can land informally	4.	Overdependence on fisheries as the
3.	Wealth of Indigenous		only income-generating activity
	knowledge- used in the protection	5.	Poor handling best practices
	and conservation of fish breeding	6.	Safety at sea issues
	areas and migratory fish	7.	Poor organizational structures - lack of
4.	Have less bycatch and no discards -		capacities to participate in decision-
5.	Existence of organised Fisher groups		making and access to markets
	and fish networks at the national,	8.	Lack of clearly defined frameworks for
	regional and continental level		tenure and access rights
6.	Availability of fisheries resources	9.	Lack of appropriate services for fishers
	(wealth)		(principally migrant fishers), including
7.	Technical and human capital		access to financial, health and
8.	Internal and external financing		education services
9.	Food security, livelihood and	10.	Informal trade of fish and fish products
	diversity		and related illicit practices
		11.	Role of women is often not recognized
		12.	Existence of child labour
		13.	Inefficient use of labour- Unproductive
			work with low income because many
			people per boat share the returns
	Opportunities		Threats
1.	Important in food security	1.	External support -overfishing caused
2.	Existence of institutions and SSF WG		by external companies/semi-industrial
	at the Continental level		vessels targeting the small-scale local
3.	Existence of the African Fisheries		fish stocks
	and Aquaculture (AFA) database at	2.	Illegal fishing gear - illegal gears are
	the continental level and training on		cheaper than legal nets.
I	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i		
4.	its use has been undertaken. Strengthened small-scale fisheries organisations, improving the understanding of the benefits of participating in these processes Improved legal frameworks, promote participatory integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning arrangements	3. 4. 5.	Intersectoral conflicts and Competition with other economic sectors - tourism, mining, aquaculture and industrial fishers for blue space and funding Lack of management of emerging fishing technologies-conflicts in the adoption of technology among fishers (e.g., use of solar lamps) Political patronage
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6.	Clarify stakeholder roles and responsibilities (including the various national administrations) and ensure they are known, allowing collaboration and coordination.	6. 7.	Unsustainable aquaculture development (cage culture, reliance on wild fish for seed and feeds) Conflict between the commercial and non-commercial fishers
7.	Enabling environment/capacity building	8.	Weak regional trade/supply chain logistics
8. 9.	Regional collaboration Local, sustainable livelihood/lifestyle	9.	Marginalised fishers and the ageing population
10. 11.	Sustainable modernization of SSF UN-SDG & Blue Economy impetus.	10.	Lack of visionary and leadership

4.1.6 Priority issues

- 1. Data the collection, analysis, storage and use-Most States are working on data collection using digital technology has been undertaken and awaiting only stakeholders' validation on a regional basis for the full roll-out as another fisheries project. The use of the AFA database.
- 2. Success case study
- 3. Regional approach to affordable financing and insurance
- 4. Poor organizational structures lack of capacities to participate in decision-making and market access.

4.1.7 **Poor organisational structure**

Background

Small-scale fishers are often unaware of the benefits of forming strong associations for resource management and marketing, e.g., fisheries management units and cooperatives (unlike the other productive sectors).

- ✓ The existing fishers' community management units are not strong enough to advocate for the management challenges.
- \checkmark The Cooperatives are poorly managed or absent. The

The Problem

Inconsistency of the cooperatives movement and community management units in Africa

Root cause

- ✓ Lack of awareness about the benefits of cooperatives
- ✓ Poor attitude towards Cooperatives and fisher networks
- ✓ Lack of trust in group management
- ✓ Refusal to change their traditional way of living
- ✓ External (political) interference in fishers' community management units
- ✓ Weak/ lack of legislation

Actions for Success

- ✓ Organized fisher groups and non-state fisher networks exist at national, regional and continental levels.
- ✓ Existence of strong fisher cooperatives in parts of the continent and other productive sectors for bench-marking
- ✓ Existing groups play a significant role in policy and decision-making processes.
- The groups can be used as entry points for fiscal management training, access to affordable financing and insurance, and government interventions.
- ✓ The fisher community management units play a key role in the restoration and conservation of marine ecosystems (mangrove replanting and coral reefs restoration)
- Existence of women's groups supports their participation along the value chain (production, processing, marketing, trade and value addition)
- ✓ Search and rescue response/operations by the community management units.

Policy recommendation

- ✓ Awareness creation on benefits of cooperatives and the fish management units (focusing on the fishers, policy-makers, and media)
- ✓ Improve access to decision-making platforms and processes for SSF
- ✓ Strengthening/ formulation of policy and legal frameworks to support the creation and protection of the networks/ cooperatives
- ✓ Development of relevant, affordable financial and insurance packages for the SSF
- ✓ Enhancing capacity development on modern technologies, marketing opportunities, and fiscal management
- ✓ Dissemination and sharing of feedback on data /information to the fishers

4.1.8 Data - the collection, analysis, storage and use

The working group noted that progress was made at the continental and regional levels to improve data and information collection, analysis, storage and use. The effort made include:

- ✓ development of a policy brief
- ✓ Development of a database and training of member states
- ✓ Identification of sources of data for fisheries and aquaculture

The WG, therefore, recommended that the Member states could upscale these efforts.

4.1.9 Issue 3: Poor Post-harvest Handling

Background

Poor post-harvest handling practices in small-scale fisheries lead to high post-harvest losses and income losses. SSF produce smaller species for human consumption, spoiling faster than the bigger fish. Most of these spoilt pelagic are then used for animal feed denying human food and better income. A lack of relevant infrastructure for handling and processing usually causes it.

Problem

Inadequate fish handling and processing infrastructure Lack of awareness of hygiene requirements by fishers and fish traders.

Root causes

- ✓ Lack of appropriate boats (containerized boats/ cool boxes, ice)
- ✓ Inadequate fish landing and processing facilities targeting SSF
- ✓ Inadequate awareness of the best fish handling and requirements among the SSF

Actions for Success

- ✓ Existence of fish handling guidelines for SSF
- ✓ Awareness creation on hygienic best fish handling practices
- ✓ Enhance the fish handling and processing infrastructure/ facilities (cold chain, drying and marketing infrastructure)
- ✓ Designing fishing boats to store fish hygienically.
- ✓ Existence of women fish processing and marketing associations/ networks at the national, regional and continental level
- ✓ Public Private Partnerships in the development of relevant infrastructure
- ✓ Existence of a Manual of Standard Operating Procedures on fish handling and safety for SSF and artisanal fish processors and traders and groups are trained

Policy Recommendations

- ✓ Develop and enforce firm policy and regulatory framework for fish handling and PPP venture to enhance infrastructure.
- ✓ Capacity building programmes
- ✓ Exposure tours for WG
- ✓ Strengthen the fish processing and traders associations/ networks

4.1.10 Questions for panel discussions

The working group also developed questions for the panel discussions, which were merged with the ECOFISH SSF working group discussions. The consolidated questions were as below:

- 1. What are the critical challenges faced by the small-scale fisheries in achieving social, economic and ecological sustainability and resilience, and how can they be addressed (SSF managed efficiently)
- 2. How can small-scale fisheries enhance their resilience to environmental changes and climate variability?
- 3. How can governance
- 4. What are the sustainable opportunities for sustainably enhancing market access and value chain development for small-scale fisheries?
- 5. What roles do local communities and stakeholders, including NSAs, play in the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries?
 - ✓ Can SSF be managed efficiently?
 - ✓ How can organising fisherfolk into co-operatives or fisher management associations strengthen SSF Management?
 - ✓ Should traditional/Indigenous knowledge be integrated into SSF Management?
 - \checkmark In the face of modernization, what is the future of SSF on the continent?

The group had three panellists for this session: Winnie, Tumi and Obinna.



PLENARY SESSIONS

5. PLENARY SESSIONS – synthesis and panel discussions

All four technical parallel groups convened on day three plenary for panel discussions and presentation on the takeaways from the previous two days' parallel sessions.

5.1 Blue Economy

Dr Wassie Anteneh. Presenting: The takeaways from the Blue Economy Sessions Six (6) Member States presented their National BE strategies.

• The MS were;-Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda

5.1.1 Take Home from the National BE Strategies

- Individual countries <u>must finalize internal processes to mainstream their</u> <u>NBE strategy</u> in the National Development Plan. IGAD can provide macrolevel support to MS in this process.
- There is a need to develop <u>detailed implementation plans with associated</u> <u>budgets and costs</u>. Somalia and Ethiopia have received support for developing their detailed implementation plans.
- There is an urgent need to **<u>organize resource mobilization</u>**. MS can go for bilateral financing.
- There is an urgent need to ramp up national BE platforms to <u>translate BE</u> <u>strategies and plans into actions</u>.
- MS need to identify <u>at least three investment project ideas for</u> <u>implementation</u>. Aspects of sectoral strategies have been identified, but specific projects must be developed.

5.1.2 Take Home from the BE case studies

- Plastic Pollution is a challenge, and the solution is promoting a circular economy.
- Social inclusion/Gender issue is imperative and should be inherent in BE and MSP, especially for special interest/marginalized groups.
- An ongoing gender analysis study in the IGAD MSs Through the IGAD BE Project will be jointly published with SwAM.
- Development of MSP is a long, consultative, participatory and costly process a case study for Sweden.
- Integrated Water Resources Management is recommended for Inland water bodies.

- Ecosystem/biodiversity Conservation 30% of the national maritime space as marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2030
- Lessons on Mangrove Restoration (WIO), Wetland mapping and conservation practices in the Omo-Turkana Basin
- Forum for private sector Engagement is a Key pillar for BE growth.

5.1.3 Panel Discussions

Moderator: Dr Eshete Dejen

Panellists:

- 1. Dixon Waruinge: Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat
- 2. Doreen Simiyu: Southwest Indian Ocean Tuna Platform (SWIOTUNA)
- 3. **Tomas Anderson**: Senior analyst, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- 4. **BALLOO Madev**: Project Manager, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles

Leading paper on "Factors enabling Blue Economy growth in developing countries".

Presenter: Ottilia Thoreson, a Senior Analyst, International Affairs at Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Stockholm, Sweden

The research revealed that in marine spatial planning (MSP), employing a scorecard can be a valuable resource for MSP planners. This scorecard aids in directing the social sustainability of the MSP process by considering various criteria, including power and voice, resources, opportunity and choice, community security, and domestic harmony. Additionally, gender mainstreaming emerges as a beneficial approach for MSP planners and decision-makers at the local and national levels, as it facilitates the development of an inclusive MSP process. The study's findings underscore the significance of addressing poverty and gender-related factors while concurrently emphasising social inclusion within the realm of MSP.

Question and Answer Session

Mr Dickson Waruinge, the Head Nairobi Convention Secretariat, was asked how the BE can be harnessed to contribute to GDP and economic growth. He offered his insights and highlighted the potential of the Blue Economy as a catalyst for economic development. By leveraging the vast resources and opportunities provided by marine and coastal ecosystems, the BE can contribute to a nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and foster overall economic growth. He further noted the importance of comprehensive environmental governance to promote the creation of jobs, generate

revenue and support livelihood sustenance. The WIO region has a cumulative 2.6 million km² of maritime space, which offers considerable potential for BE. It has led the presidents and AU to pronounce themselves on BE and the need to develop strategies to harness the BE sector.

Mr Waruinge noted that these strategies are for hope and potential in BE sectors, which would require a definition of this hope more briefly on how we actualize BE at national levels, where most countries and industries invest, which sub-sectors are likely to give higher return and offer more economic impact. Additionally, he emphasized the need to build the capacity of humans and technology to fully valorise the blue economy and promote regional integration, which is not just about peace and economics. It must be more inclusive, e.g., gender mainstreaming.

Doreen Simiyu, the Network Coordinator of the Southwest Indian Ocean Tuna Platform (SWIOTUNA), highlighted the steps needed by WIO countries to unlock BE sustainability. She began by referencing a WWF study that reported that the annual "gross marine product" of the Western Indian Ocean region – equivalent to a country's annual gross domestic product (GDP) – is at least US\$20.8 billion. The total "ocean asset base" of the Western Indian Ocean region is at least US\$333.8 billion. - WIO GDP – 20 million USD³². She indicated that a considerable resource that, if sustainably developed, can change lives.

As for the steps towards an SBE in the WIO region, she highlighted the following key points;

- The need for comprehensive economic valuation of the BE sectors and resources. It should be undertaken by countries first by developing NBES – which most have done.
- Formulation of an integrated and all-inclusive framework that will assist in the enforcement
- Embarking on sustainable BE financing especially tapping into the private sector to support BE sector. She noted that local and regional banks have the potential to help BE initiatives. However, barriers like business-friendly environments need to be
- Placing protection as the primary action for sustainable rich, and diverse resources. It will be assisted by knowing the value of ecosystems and linked to SDGs, Climate change to avoid misguided investments.
- Tackling of IUU fisheries needs to be addressed, and for this to happen, a transition would be required and not business as usual.
- Recognition of community roles underpins coastal economies because they are resource stewards and have a say in implementing BE strategies.

³² See <u>https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/13692WWF2.pdf</u>

 Promotion and financing of research, education, data, innovation, and ocean literacy are vital in unlocking BE. Data assists in de-risking the potential BE investments.

Tomas Anderson from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) discussed the critical factors needed in realizing BE in developing countries in Africa based on their Swedish experience.

He noted the status of the BE processes in the WIO region is not uniquely different. Sweden and Europe were in the same situation ten years ago. Indeed, Sweden and European countries have only their first versions of the MSP and are currently in the first round of reviews.

The Swedish MSP was necessitated by the increasing demand for sea resources and the EU regulations that must be conformed with. He highlighted that developing a comprehensive MSP entail evaluating where and why we want to achieve the planning. Definition of short-, intermediate and long-term goals is also necessary.

He also recommended that for a comprehensive MSP, it was imperative to talk to each other and involve different sectors in extensive stakeholder engagements. Additionally, seeking political capital and goodwill assists in aligning MSP to countries' economic directions. Political prioritization is driven by baseline studies and economic evaluations, which must be conducted prior. He also suggested the route of complementarity rather than competition. In this endeavour, visibility through communication and having different meetings would be ideal. It would allow for the involvement of all demographic groups, including gender, youth, and women. Participatory approach planning is also a basic step for a Sustainable Blue Economy.

Mr Balloo Madev, the Project Manager for the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles, highlighted the strategies for Blue Economy financing (which is a considerable gap in the implementation of BE) through the performance of the ECOFISH project.

He highlighted that ECOFISH was looking at sustainable fisheries and the fight against IUU, already identified by Panellist Doreen Simiyu. He suggested MS could adopt financing proposals for an SBE, including that;

- Percentage funding (90:10) This would allow for ownership of the project and local stewardship.
- Networking among projects for co-financing
- Leverage on technology, e.g., low-cost mobile apps
- Dr Eshete Dejen supports the grant financing approach for flexibility, ownership and accountability with a regional scope with local action and implementation.

Blue Economy Panel Question and Answer Session

A question from Britta, South Africa, sought clarification on why BE was concentrating on the marine sector, excluding the freshwater fishery, which must be incorporated to avoid underestimating the BE. This question was also asked by a **representative of the SADC Economic bloc** who sought clarification and information from Mr Waruinge on the definition of BE resources and how to make fisheries and aquaculture compete in the economic value.

- Mr Dickson Waruinge noted that beyond single sectors, freshwater/inland sectors are well within BE, e.g., rail and railway transport for maritime industries and freshwater fisheries (rivers, streams, lakes).
- Dr Eshete also noted that IGAD defines BE as inland land-linked countries comprising marine and inland waters.
- *Mr* Balloo also highlighted that the ECOFISH project tackled marine and freshwater fisheries well within BE.

Dr Okeyo, an Associate Professor from Pwani University, Kenya, asked Mr Waruinge about defining BE resources, where they are, their quantities, and their valuations. He also questioned whether citizen science could explain some BE sectors and valuations.

Mr Dickson Waruinge noted that BE is about growth and improvement of livelihood. It is not about the sector but people employed in the sector. Since BE is within welldefined ministries, and industries (existing), it was essential to determine which sectors have the most significant potential for growth, generation of wealth and creation of jobs. What needs to be determined is the threshold of the BE sector, including aspects of the cost of initiating and implementing these strategies and where the information will be stored because knowledge and data security is vital in BE.

Mr Jackson Muso, the DG Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Government of South Sudan, asked What is Blue Economy and how to bring the BE definition to the policy level? He noted the gap in the integration of BE to AU policy.

Dr Eshete noted that the coordination by AU had developed coordination mechanisms in the RECs. However, continental BE organization and coordination need to be streamlined. Additionally, the valuation of BE assessment toolkit developed by UNECA will be launched in MS to determine their BE valuations for potential harnessing and investment.

Mr Aliou Sou from the Gambia SSF Non-State Actors asked Mr Waruinge about the isolation/exclusion of non-state actors' studies under BE.

The question was deferred to be o be tackled under AU-IBAR Small-Scale Fisheries panel discussion.

Ms Esther Obaigwa from IGAD asked Tomas Anderson from SwAM how they have dealt with cross-border governance. Tenure over marine resources and how they are defined to avoid conflicts?

Tomas highlights;

- All activities at sea are related to land, and an all-encompassing MSP was a first step in tackling the issue of tenure.
- Land must be incorporated in a comprehensive MSP, e.g., a port would require inland railways, roads, etc.
- A common framework was developed for developing MSP in the EU, but individual countries' contexts must be factored in.
- Foreign affairs would be needed to help in cross-border negotiations depending on the context.

Dr Eshete added that resource baseline and evaluation were critical in sorting conflicts and governance. He noted the inadequate continental-level organization and coordination, which hinders regional integration, mainly because the focus shifts when resources become viable.

Doreen Simiyu, the Network Coordinator of the Southwest Indian Ocean Tuna Platform (SWIOTUNA), was asked how to maintain resource tenure and ownership when resources become valuable, especially in gender inclusivity.

Doreen noted that it starts from policy development, whether they are gender sensitive. However, this varies from country to country, but she suggested that men's involvement in gender mainstreaming and understanding of family and community dynamics promote resource tenure and inclusivity.

5.2 Small Scale Fisheries Management -E€OFISH

5.2.1 Presentation of the takeaways from the small-scale fisheries management sessions

• Definition of FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Refers to a Strategic and science-based approach to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of fisheries resources.

• The goal of fisheries management

To ensure the long-term sustainability of fish stocks, preserve biodiversity, support the livelihoods of fishing communities, and maintain the ecological balance of marine and freshwater ecosystems. It requires combining scientific knowledge, stakeholder involvement, effective governance, and adaptive management strategies to address fisheries' complex and dynamic nature.

- Key Aspects of Fisheries Management
- a) Governance Systems (Centralised, Coercive, Decentralised, Participatory)
- b) Stock Assessment [CAS, Frame Survey, Acoustic Survey, Satellite Imagery PFZ)
- c) Harvest Control [Harvest Rules, Fisheries Management Strategies & Plans]
- d) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
- e) Habitat Protection [Breeding and Nurturing zones, MPAs]
- f) International Cooperation [Shared fisheries Resources, i.e., Tuna (UNFS 1995)
- g) Research and Data Management [Management Services]
- Bio-ecological CMM) + Socio-economic Dimensions.
- Commercial Fisheries and North-South Divide
- Shared fisheries resources [UN CCRF, FSA SSF Guidelines against the backdrop UNCLOS 1982]
- Transition from Fish stocks Management to Sustainable Fisheries Management and Blue Economy
- Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) vs IUU fishing vs IUU business practices worldwide
- Human and Social Innovations [Market Economy embedding moral and ethical standards]

A simplified model for sustainable management of fisheries resources



SWOT ANALYSIS- SWIO-SUSTAINABLE SSF

	STRENGTHS (+)	WEAKNESSES (-)					
INTERNAL	1. Availability of fisheries resources [wealth]	 OPEN ACCESS / INFORMAL [contrasting landscape] 					
	2. Food Security, Livelihood & C/Diversity	2. Poor infrastructure and supply chain logistics					
	3. Fisheries Policy, Legal & Gov. frameworks	3. Policy & Gov failures / Weak Participation					
	4. Technical and Human capacities	4. Poor fish hygiene, Quality Std & Value chains					
	5. Knowledge, Experience & Best Practices	5. Weak Science- Policy – Community Nexus					
	6. Internal & External Financing	6. Weak Ent., Fin Literacy & Community values					
	OPPORTUNITIES / PROSPECTS	THREATS / CHALLENGES					
	OPPORTUNITIES / PROSPECTS 1. UN-SDG & Blue Economy Impetus	THREATS / CHALLENGES 1. Aversion to change/ Social conflicts / Rivalry					
	OPPORTUNITIES / PROSPECTS 1. UN-SDG & Blue Economy Impetus 2. Sustainable modernisation of SSF	THREATS / CHALLENGES 1. Aversion to change/ Social conflicts / Rivalry 2. Inter-sectoral conflicts [Agri – Fish-Tourism]					
EXTERN	OPPORTUNITIES / PROSPECTS 1. UN-SDG & Blue Economy Impetus 2. Sustainable modernisation of SSF 3. Local Sustainable Livelihood/ Lifestyle	THREATS / CHALLENGES 1. Aversion to change/ Social conflicts / Rivalry 2. Inter-sectoral conflicts [Agri – Fish-Tourism] 3. Weak regional trade /Supply chain logistics					
EXTERNAL	OPPORTUNITIES / PROSPECTS 1. UN-SDG & Blue Economy Impetus 2. Sustainable modernisation of SSF 3. Local Sustainable Livelihood/ Lifestyle 4. Growth Sector for shared prosperity	THREATS / CHALLENGES 1. Aversion to change/ Social conflicts / Rivalry 2. Inter-sectoral conflicts [Agri – Fish-Tourism] 3. Weak regional trade /Supply chain logistics 4. Marginalised Fishers & Ageing population					
EXTERNAL	OPPORTUNITIES / PROSPECTS1. UN-SDG & Blue Economy Impetus2. Sustainable modernisation of SSF3. Local Sustainable Livelihood/ Lifestyle4. Growth Sector for shared prosperity5. Enabling Environment / Capacity Building	THREATS / CHALLENGES1. Aversion to change/ Social conflicts / Rivalry2. Inter-sectoral conflicts [Agri – Fish- Tourism]3. Weak regional trade /Supply chain logistics4. Marginalised Fishers & Ageing population5. Impact of CC & BIODIVERSITY LOSS [externalities]					

5.2.2 Synthesis and panel discussions

Moderator: Dr. Soobaschand Sweenarain

Panellists:

CEFA representative - Mr Tummy SSF WG representative - Winnie AU-IBAR KM team representative - Mr Obina Anozie

Questions and Answers were as follows:

Question 1: what key challenges are faced by small-scale fisheries in achieving social, economic, and ecological sustainability and resilience, and how can they be addressed?

- Strengthening governance and management: Improve regulatory frameworks, promote community-based management approaches, and involve fishers in decision-making. Implement science-based fisheries management practices, including setting catch limits, implementing marine protected areas, and monitoring and enforcing regulations.
- Enhancing market access and value chains: Invest in infrastructure development, cold storage facilities, and transportation networks to improve market access for small-scale fishers. Facilitate fair trade practices, certification schemes, and the development of local and regional markets to ensure equitable distribution of benefits.
- Diversifying livelihoods and enhancing resilience: Promote alternative incomegenerating activities, such as eco-tourism, aquaculture, and value-added fish processing, to reduce dependency on fisheries and strengthen resilience to economic shocks. Provide training and capacity-building programs to improve fishers' skills and knowledge.
- Building climate resilience: Support small-scale fishers in adapting to climate change impacts through initiatives like early warning systems, climate-smart fishing practices, and sustainable aquaculture. Strengthen community resilience by integrating traditional knowledge and promoting ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.
- Encouraging partnerships and collaboration: Foster partnerships among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and fishing communities to leverage resources, share knowledge, and promote collective action for sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Question 2: How can small-scale fisheries enhance their resilience to environmental changes and climate variability?

- Diversification of target species: Small-scale fishers can adapt to changing environmental conditions by diversifying their target species. It involves expanding their fishing practices to include a broader range of commercially viable and resilient species better suited to the changing needs.
- Adaptive management and decision-making: Implementing adaptive management practices allows small-scale fishers to continually assess and adjust their fishing strategies in response to environmental changes. It involves monitoring and collecting data on fish populations, climate variables, and other relevant factors. Based on this information, fishers can make informed decisions about fishing seasons, catch limits, and gear modifications to ensure the longterm sustainability of their fisheries.
- Strengthening local ecological knowledge: Small-scale fishers often possess traditional ecological knowledge accumulated through generations of experience. This knowledge can be valuable in understanding the local ecosystem, including changes in fish behaviour, migration patterns, and habitat shifts. By recognizing and integrating this knowledge with scientific information, fishers can make informed decisions that enhance their resilience to environmental changes.
- Building social networks and collaboration: Collaborative approaches, such as comanagement arrangements, community-based organizations, and fisher associations, can enhance the resilience of small-scale fisheries. By fostering cooperation, knowledge sharing, and collective decision-making among fishers, stakeholders, and relevant institutions, these networks can effectively strengthen the ability to respond to environmental changes.
- Climate-smart fishing practices: Small-scale fishers can adopt climate-smart fishing practices that minimize their ecological footprint and enhance resilience. It may include techniques like selective fishing gear to reduce bycatch, using sustainable fishing methods, implementing no-take zones or marine protected areas, and practising responsible waste management.
- Diversification of livelihoods: Small-scale fishers can reduce their vulnerability to climate variability by diversifying their livelihoods beyond fishing. It can involve developing alternative income-generating activities, such as eco-tourism, sustainable aquaculture, or value-added fish processing. Having multiple income sources, fishers can mitigate the risks associated with unpredictable fishing conditions and fluctuating fish populations.

- Access to climate information and early warning systems: Small-scale fishers need accurate and timely climate information to plan their fishing activities effectively. Establishing reliable early warning systems for extreme weather events, oceanographic conditions, and changes in fish behaviour can help fishers make informed decisions and take preventive measures.
- Capacity building and support: Providing training, education, and technical support to small-scale fishers can enhance their resilience to environmental changes. It can include workshops on sustainable fishing practices, climate adaptation strategies, business skills, and access to finance and insurance schemes.

Question 3: How can the Governance and institutional frameworks be improved to support the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries?

- Establishing clear and enforceable fishing rights, recognizing customary tenure systems, and providing legal protection against encroachment by large-scale fishing operations or other industries.
- Participatory decision-making: Promote inclusive decision-making processes involving small-scale fishers, local communities, and relevant stakeholders. Encourage the establishment of co-management arrangements, where fishers have a say in resource management decisions, including setting catch limits, defining fishing seasons, and determining gear regulations.
- Strengthening enforcement and compliance: Enhance monitoring, control, and surveillance mechanisms to ensure compliance with regulations and deter illegal fishing activities. It may involve strengthening enforcement capacity, improving surveillance technologies, promoting community-based monitoring, and fostering partnerships between fishers and law enforcement agencies.
- Integrated and ecosystem-based management: Adopt an integrated approach to fisheries management that considers the broader ecological context. It involves recognizing the interconnectedness of marine ecosystems, protecting critical habitats, and managing fisheries within the context of more comprehensive marine spatial planning and ecosystem conservation strategies.
- Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing: Invest in capacity-building programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of small-scale fishers and fisheries managers. It includes training in sustainable fishing practices, data collection and analysis, ecosystem monitoring, and adaptive management approaches. Facilitate

knowledge sharing and collaboration among different stakeholders through platforms such as workshops, networks, and partnerships.

- Improved data collection and sharing: Enhance data collection and informationsharing systems to support evidence-based decision-making. It includes establishing robust fisheries monitoring programs, promoting technology and data collection tools, and facilitating data exchange and knowledge dissemination among fishers, scientists, and policymakers.
- Financial and technical support: Provide financial and technical support to smallscale fishers and fishing communities to implement sustainable practices and improve their livelihoods. It can include access to credit facilities, insurance schemes, targeted funding for capacity-building initiatives, infrastructure development, and alternative livelihood programs.
- Collaboration and coordination among institutions: Foster collaboration and coordination among government agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and fishing communities.
- Policy coherence and integration: Ensure coherence and integration of fisheries policies with other sectors, such as coastal zone management, marine conservation, and climate change adaptation. Develop policies that align with international guidelines and commitments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries management at the national and regional levels.

Question 4: What are the opportunities for sustainably enhancing market access and value chain development for small-scale fisheries?

- Market diversification: Small-scale fishers can explore new markets and diversify their customer base. It can involve targeting local markets, restaurants, community-supported fisheries, farmers' markets, and niche markets that value sustainable and locally sourced seafood. Promote the unique qualities of smallscale fisheries, such as high-quality, low-impact fishing practices and the social and cultural values associated with small-scale fishing.
- Direct marketing and short supply chains: Establish direct marketing channels that connect small-scale fishers directly with consumers. It can include setting up community-supported fisheries, cooperatives, or online platforms that allow consumers to purchase seafood now from fishers. Shortening the supply chains reduces intermediaries and ensures fishers receive a fair share of the value generated.

- Product differentiation and value-added processing: Small-scale fishers can differentiate their products by adding value through processing and packaging. It may involve filleting, smoking, canning, or developing ready-to-cook seafood products. Value-added processing can help small-scale fishers access higher-value markets, increase shelf life, and enhance the appeal of their products.
- Certification and eco-labelling: Seek certification and eco-labelling schemes, such as Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) or Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), to demonstrate adherence to sustainable fishing practices. These certifications provide credibility, traceability, and assurance to consumers and can facilitate market access to environmentally conscious buyers.

Question 5: What role do local communities and stakeholders, including NSAs, play in the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries?

- Knowledge holders and traditional ecological knowledge: Local communities often possess conventional environmental knowledge (TEK) accumulated over generations. This knowledge and scientific information provide valuable insights into the local ecosystem, fish behaviour, and ecological changes. Incorporating TEK into decision-making processes improves understanding of fisheries' dynamics and enhances the effectiveness of management strategies.
- Co-management and participatory governance: Local communities and stakeholders can actively participate in the co-management small-scale fisheries. Co-management involves sharing responsibilities and decision-making power between government authorities and local communities. Engaging in participatory processes gives communities a voice in determining fishing rules, catch limits, gear regulations, and conservation measures. This collaboration fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to more sustainable management outcomes.
- Monitoring and surveillance: Local communities can contribute to monitoring and surveillance efforts in small-scale fisheries. They can participate in data collection, reporting illegal fishing activities, and monitoring compliance with fishing regulations. Community-based monitoring systems effectively detect changes in fish populations, habitat degradation, and threats to sustainable fishing practices.
- Livelihoods and socio-economic development: Small-scale fisheries are often closely tied to local communities social and economic well-being. They provide employment, income, and food security, particularly in coastal areas.

5.3 Aquatic Biodiversity

5.3.1 Takeaways from aquatic biodiversity conservation session

Dr. Eric Nadiop. Presenting: take away from aquatic biodiversity conservation session

1. Need to scale up aquatic biodiversity conservation initiatives around the Continent – Mangrove restoration, MSP, MPA, Improve the Policy environment within the AU-MS as well as at the Regional Economic Community Level

a. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- Enhance awareness and broader understanding of the concept of MSP and its purpose beyond biodiversity and ecosystems conservation;
- Member States should develop mechanisms to reduce/eliminate the competition that exists among Government Agencies over leadership in MSP – Harmonization and coherence;
- Increase access to data and other online resources to enhance capacity in MSP;
- Measures should be put in place to implement existing management plans related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental management;
- Encourage MS to review and align National Policies to International Instruments, harmonization of Policies for transboundary aquatic resources management, establish and institute Institutional processes and legal regimes that are up to date;
- The need to establish monitoring plans for the strategies that have been instituted;
- Encourage and support MS to Ratify International Instruments and to participate actively in Global Fora.

5.3.2. Need to scale up aquatic biodiversity conservation initiatives around the Continent – Mangrove restoration, MSP, MPA cont'd

a. Mangrove restoration for livelihoods and climate change impact, adaptation and mitigation

• Develop effective mangrove planting and restoration guidelines in the different African Regions for better results.

b. Gender equality in aquatic biodiversity conservation efforts and decision making

- Increase awareness and sensitization on women's inclusivity and address harmful norms that create discrimination.
- Establish practical and formal mangrove programmes that target women and youth's active participation in aquatic biodiversity conservation and decisionmaking in the AU Member States.

5.3.3. Management of transboundary aquatic resources

- Develop Regional guidelines for harmonizing transboundary management of aquatic resources.
- Develop effective mechanisms to address fishing and conservation of aquatic biodiversity within small water systems (wetlands, ponds, lagoons)

5.3.4. Financing aquatic biodiversity conservation initiatives

- Cooperatives (industries, banks, private entities) should be engaged to fund conservation and carbon emissions projects as a way of formalizing carbon credit programmes in Africa.
- African Countries should map and take inventory of carbon-rich areas within their jurisdiction to enhance carbon initiatives

5.3.5. Strengthening MCS efforts in Africa

- Advocate for the impact of IUU fishing to be addressed at the political level;
- Strengthen Regional MCS for transboundary aquatic resources management through Policy and Institutional support.
- MS is to be encouraged to ratify the Port-State Measure Agreement (PSMA)

5.3.6. Awareness creation on the importance of ratifying, domesticating and implementing Regional, Continental and global instruments,

• Member States are to be encouraged and supported to Ratify Global Instruments.

5.3.7. Increase advocacy on plastic pollution.

 Ratify Key Global Instruments related to Pollution so that Member States can become part of the wider Global Effort on tackling pollution (MARPOL) (BRS Convention)

5.3.8 Panel Discussion

Mr Obinna Anozie moderated the panel. The panellists comprised the following:

- Prof. Bernerd Fulanda Pwani University
- Dr Jenny, Senior Analyst, Expert Marine protected areas International Affairs, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.
- Mrs Beyene Ateba Baliaba, President, AWFISHNET
- Mr Alieu Sowe, National Coordinator, Gambia Fisher Folks Association

Prof. Fulanda discussed "The Future of Africa's Blue Economy in the context of aquatic biodiversity and Conservation." He argued that the backbone of BE lies in the small sectors such as small-scale fisheries, mining, tourism and transport. He mentioned the need for incentives for the sectors to go blue, which should be reflected in the respective management plans and the plans effectively implemented and monitored. There should be an improvement in the marketing structures to improve earnings, a case being post-harvest losses in the SSF sector. Usually, the fisheries would be under the brokers. The model of centralized markets for SSF would encourage large-scale supplies. Finally, data and statistics would help the fisheries valuation; otherwise, it cannot be planned for. IUU should be tackled for the extensive fisheries. The small-scale IUUs are more delicate and are more of a systematic failure in fisheries management. Marine and coastal tourism will still depend on aquatic biodiversity conservation and is a sector conducive to foreign currency earnings. Carbon financing needs to be localized, and local players should go blue. The industry should also invest in limiting over-tourism, such as Kenyatta Public Beach in Kenya being too frequent. The OGS is a significant risk to aquatic biodiversity, and point sources of oil pollution need to be considered, including ship traffic. EIA need to be done in all the linkages of the practice. Small-scale mining needs to be formalised so that they are regulated. Bioprospecting and bioactive compounds should be processed instead of exported raw. Consider carbon tax for financing conservation. AI, drones, and satellites should be considered in addressing the challenges in the data management chain.

In	the	Q&A	session,	the	following	came	up:

QUESTION	ANSWER			
Mitigation of climate change – there is already evidence of climate change as Wasini, the fishers, reported that their catch has been dropping due to the rising SST. How do we address the issue of adaptation so that they maintain their catch and continue with their livelihoods?	It is a common answer. The catch per unit effort may have decreased since this is a shared biomass. The other approach is alternative livelihood, such as Mikoko Pamoja, planting and rehabilitating corals. We need to identify other options for the SSF while looking at the causes of the decline.			
Regarding biodiversity, the link with aquaculture was not made and contributed to the introduction of exotic species. Gene banks – endangered species should be managed in a regional network of MPA. Zambia, there is a fishers fund – BE fund to fund biodiversity initiatives – Governments can look at this.	It is agreed we need member states to update their policies so they can control the importation and movement of alien species – genetic materials need to be monitored and controlled. MPA as gene banks – AU is promoting MSP to help map critical areas that can be used as gene banks as MPAs. The creation of MPA is supporting member states on the West			

	Coast. All other ones are funded for Vanga – Tanga transboundary MPA.			
	 Quarantine services should be scaled up to control exotic species. 			
Is there a digital port that we can learn from – to help increase advocacy inland	 It is innovative, but a lot of materials can be shared and even create a portal to host 			
Comment	Amplify the role of research in Biodiversity conservation - the issue of member states ratifying I. instruments. The delay is the extent to which the contents are talking to MS. IUCN red list as example categories fisheries in various categories. But we now had our more relevant classifications.			
Comment	A barrier is a lack of knowledge and understanding about natural resources and their conservation. Communities need to draw direct benefits from conservation measures.			

Mrs Beyene Ateba Baliaba of AWFISHNET discussed the importance of women groupings in the BE.

Fishnet is a network of women in the processing and marketing of fish. HQ is in Tanzania. It started with twenty-eight countries and now increased to forty-eight countries. The chair is from Cameroun. The platform is helping with sharing of best practices. There is a WhatsApp group for communication. Biodiversity is now well understood within the network. Now we need to implement national commitments to protect these resources. The organisation's leadership is aware of pollution and its impact on ecosystems. The proliferation of pollution would certainly affect MPAs. AU has helped a lot, but there is still little knowledge of biodiversity and BE within the network membership. Other organizations are requested to support this network. The network is young. There is a need to pass on the knowledge gained from these meetings. All the remaining countries need to join the network. All information will be made available for joining the network.

In the Q&A session, the following came up:

QUESTION	ANSWER						
In activities, do you have a platform to	The continental platform has a						
engage the youth? Fish trading is not	representation of youth and disabled						
enticing for many reasons. Among them,	people.						
those who have gone to school despise							
the occupation.							

Jenny Hertzman, The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), Expert on marine conservation and networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Ms Hertzman discussed rich experience from the Swedish on the establishment of MPA and aquatic biodiversity conservation,

Life below water is crucial for a blue economy. Nature values are key to marine resources. If we take fisheries as an example – all kinds of fisheries need fish – let it be commercial, small-scale /artisanal or sportfishing. Let it be men or women in the fisheries sector – all depend on the marine resource (fish and shellfish).

We want the MPAs and Locally managed areas to produce those resources or ecosystem services today and, in the long term, in the future. It is imperative in densely populated areas and areas with high population growth.

Sweden, Africa, and I am afraid globally, the resources for marine protection are limited. So, we need to think twice and invest wisely. We cannot afford "paper parks," which do not have a solid environmental positive effect on marine values. We need to work results-based and measure progress continuously to "prove" that protected areas have the desired effect and ensure that they improve local communities quality of life. The local people must be part of the planning and managing of the marine regions to gain understanding and acceptance.

We face similar challenges in Sweden as in other countries regarding CBD Convention on Biological Diversity and fulfilling: "An ecologically representative, well-connected & functional network of effectively managed MPAs covering 30% of the marine and inland waters."

Those words, Ecological representativity, connectivity and effectively managed, are hard to interpret and understand how to implement.

Sweden has developed a framework for the designation and management of a network of MPAs. This framework addresses how to work with those quality aspects concretely. A functional network of marine conservation demands structure, a common language and an adaptive approach to meet different contexts and a changing environmental/social context. My advice to you:

- Work holistically at the regional level to make marine conservation effective if it is smartly designed, there will be more space left for other activities.
- Invest in the quality aspects of existing and planned protection (the Swedish framework can give input to this).
- Do what you can with the data available and work with adaptive management.

One of the obstacles when it comes to frameworks and strategies (whether it is Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas, Blue Economy or fisheries), there is often a gap between the strategy and implementation. With an adaptive approach including indicators and objectives on the way, demonstrating if you are on track, you are guided to implement the needed actions, bit by bit, if you cannot manage all initially. And do not forget that communities are part of this.

We need a good life below water for a good life above water.

In the Q&A session, the following came up:

QUESTION	ANSWER					
Is the Swedish MSP framework	It was produced for Sweden but can be					
applicable regionally? There are four	applied for any region. Focus is a					
protected areas in Lake Tanganyika,	network – get the most qualitative					
each riparian country. A consultancy also	networks to fulfil conservation status.					
identifies potential sites for aquaculture	The framework is scalable for country,					
cage culture and gene pools.	region and local planning.					
Kenya has several MPAs with parks and	Communication, meetings – what is in it					
reserves. The reasons were ecotonal and	for the community. Alternative					
had high biodiversity, and therefore also	livelihoods, partial closures, zonation,					
one of the richest for our fishers hence a	and system of licenses, look at the					
conflict. What would be the incentives for	context for each area.					
the local communities to support these						
MPAs?						
BE is producing development projects in	MSP can complete MPA, looking at areas					
marine resources. The MSPs will now	like Refugia for exclusive use.					
decide to value oil and gas, sideline the	Kenya is now working on CMA and JCMA					
ecosystem, and disenfranchise the	- targeting to improve fisheries and					
fishers. What is the solution?	livelihoods, and the fishers appreciate					
	these plans > since they communicate					
	the protection benefits.					

Mr Alieu Sowe, National Coordinator, Gambia Fisher Folks Association, discussed his experience influencing policy change in conserving aquatic ecosystems.

He reported that the Gambia has an action plan for biodiversity from 2017, involving state and none state actors, women groups and youth organisations. All the parties are working together as partners, including international partners. There are programs and activities also in terrestrial zones. Grassroots communities are mobilised to contribute. There are regular assessments to monitor the effectiveness of the action plan. There are awareness programmes on the action plan's social and economic impacts and the significance of biodiversity. There are additional non-state protected areas – to ensure no encroachment in specific vital spaces for the communities. Expertise from non-state actors has been used in advocacy. Baseline surveys were also done for crucial biodiversity. The action plan looked, among others, at exotic species. Communications have been broad using several media types. Threats to biodiversity have been identified, and communities mobilised for cleaning restoration processes. Finally, there is a conflict with the communities involving a Chinees fish processing factory extracting significant quantities of all kinds of fish. Support from the Government is not forthcoming.

QUESTION				ANSWER							
How	do	you	ensure	effective	Ensu	re you	instit	utionaliz	e your	ag	ency
coordination of biodiversity activities on			to	have	struc	ctures,	consti	tut	ions,		
non-state actors and the Government?			regis	tered	merr	nbership	and	C	other		
				necessary instruments as an effective for							
				advo	cacy.	Then	ensure	dialog	ue	and	
				cons	ultatior	n by lo	bbying ⁻	to be i	nvo	olved	
					in formulating policies and programs					IS SO	
					that	you	are	interes	sted i	n	the
					implementation.						

During the Q&A session, the following came up:



CLOSING CEREMONY

Ms Hellen Moepi-Guebama, the Fisheries officer at AU-IBAR, expressed her delight regarding the organization of the knowledge share fair. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Member States and partner institutions that contributed to achieving the fair's objectives. Ms Moepi-Guebama highlighted that the AU-IBAR Fisheries workgroup had identified critical issues addressed by developing two policy briefs that will serve as valuable knowledge products from the workshop. She hoped the fair would be the first of many meetings and looked forward to continued engagement. Dr Eshete Dejen from IGAD emphasized the need for collaboration and collective effort to achieve a sustainable Blue Economy encompassing all sectors.

Dr Soobaschand Sweenarain, a member of the ECOFISH project, expressed delight at the achievements of the knowledge fair. Despite the challenge of gathering African institutions, the challenging work of many individuals, partners, and organizers made it possible. The key highlights of the fair included the importance of a circular and cross-sector approach for a sustainable Blue Economy, the sharing of sustainable fisheries knowledge and best practices, the focus on improving work processes and decision-making, and the significance of involving stakeholders and communities for their well-being and economic development. Dr Sweenarain encouraged participants to apply the knowledge gained to drive positive change in fisheries and the Blue Economy.

Mr Lindsey Azie, the beneficiary of the ECOFISH Projects, expressed gratitude towards the European Union (EU), the donor of ECOFISH. He acknowledged the significant efforts being made in conservation, management, and the pursuit of a sustainable Blue Economy (BE) from the perspective of the Island states. Furthermore, he requested IGAD to extend its work to include Island states. He also assured that Mauritius is putting steps and efforts to tackle fisheries challenges, including IUU fishing and that he will bring information from the fair back to fisher folk and community in your countries.

Dr Wassie Anteneh, the Senior Blue Economy & Fisheries Expert at the Agriculture & Environment Division of IGAD, presented a set of proposals and plans as the way forward based on the outcomes of the 4-day knowledge share fair. These include:

- 1. Documenting best practices in the Blue Economy sectors and ensuring comprehensive proceedings are produced and widely circulated.
- 2. Developing a roadmap for priority intervention areas of the Blue Economy in the IGAD region and across the entire African continent.
- 3. Emphasizing the need for constructive collaboration among actors in the Blue Economy, increased cooperation leads to a more significant impact.
- Supporting member states in mobilizing resources to implement their national Blue Economy strategies, specifically mentioning Eritrea joining the IGAD family and intending to assist Eritrea in developing their Blue Economy strategy.
- 5. Creating networks and platforms for collaboration among actors in the Blue Economy sectors.
- 6. Encouraging peer learning and knowledge sharing among African countries.
- 7. Facilitating knowledge and technology transfer between countries in the global North and South.
- 8. Addressing the lack of understanding of the Blue Economy concept across Africa and promoting the opportunities it presents through events like the knowledge share fair.
- Proposing the establishment of a continental Blue Economy platform in addition to the existing sub-regional IGAD platform. This platform would facilitate knowledge sharing and joint planning.
- 10. Promoting the involvement of research institutions and academia in incorporating Blue Economy topics into their curricula.
- 11.Leveraging the Blue Economy to promote the motto of IGAD, "IGAD to the people."

In addition, Dr Eshete Dejen further emphasized the significance of coordinating the Blue Economy (BE) at the continental level. He stated that discussions regarding this coordination have already begun, and IGAD proposes that AU-IBAR lead this

coordination effort. The aim is to enhance collaboration and coherence in developing and implementing Blue Economy initiatives across Africa.

Other Partners

Executive Secretary of the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), Mr Tusanga Musaka, enumerated the lessons learned from the workshop. He noted that the experiences from the different countries and projects espouse two approaches to a sustainable BE, fisheries and biodiversity i) holistic and ii) involvement of stakeholders.

He highlighted the approach the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) took to regulate and harmonize standards among the four countries involved in managing Lake Tanganyika, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia, Malawi, and Burundi. LTA successfully implemented a charter developed through the involvement of all stakeholders and adopted by these countries. The standardization and harmonization efforts encompassed fishing licenses, fishing nets, and governance. However, there is still a need to translate this harmonization into laws and standards for the joint management of the lake's resources to maximize the benefits of these resources.

Mr Mukanga also emphasized the positive impacts of their projects on the local communities, particularly regarding food security and wealth creation. He expressed appreciation for the support provided by AU-IBAR and other partners. They aim to align their approaches with those put in place by the African Union (AU) regarding managing their resources. Cooperation among the countries involved is crucial for successfully enforcing harmonized standards and overlooking the lake's resources.

Dr Rukunya Edward, the Director of Fisheries Management and Development at the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) highlighted several valuable lessons learned from the knowledge share fair, including:

- Management of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing: Increasing monitoring and surveillance efforts and adopting a joint regional approach are essential to address this issue, emphasizing the importance of monitoring and legal frameworks.
- 2. Building resilience and promoting conservation: Capacity-building initiatives targeted at communities, both resource users and stewards, are crucial for resilience and conservation efforts. Communities need to witness the benefits of sustainable resource management.
- Development of species-specific value chains: Focusing on value chains specific to different fish species helps enhance the economic viability and sustainability of the fisheries sector.
- 4. Importance of data and information: Data plays a crucial role in effective fisheries management. Due to the excessive costs associated with data

collection, partnerships can be valuable in ensuring access to the necessary information. The availability of data has facilitated the development of management plans and policies.

- 5. Validation and implementation of national guidelines for biodiversity: The support provided by AU-IBAR for national guidelines on biodiversity needs to be validated and effectively implemented at the national level.
- 6. Strengthening partnerships: Collaboration and partnerships are crucial for successful projects such as ECOFISH in Lake Tanganyika and Lake Albert, co-management arrangements, and Building Management Unit (BMU) networks.
- 7. Community awareness on resource management: Creating awareness among communities about the value of their natural resources and providing alternative livelihood options are essential for sustainable resource management.
- 8. Networking across public, private entities and communities: Building networks and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, including public and private entities and communities, is vital for effective resource management.

South Africa Development Cooperation (SADC)

Dr Alexander Kefu, the Project Coordinator of Fisheries Improvement in the Blue Economy, SADC, expressed gratitude for the event and acknowledged the implementing partners. He highlighted the ongoing projects' potential to improve livelihoods. The key lessons learned included the importance of an ecosystem approach, upscaling gap analysis and sustainability strategies, transboundary resource governance, policy harmonization for inter-regional trade with gender mainstreaming, Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS), hotspot mapping in the Okavango basin, and the need to work together towards a common African future.

Dr Gaston, the Secretary General of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC-FISH/CPCO-PECHE), introduced his organization during a workshop organized by AU-IBAR. The FCWC-FISH/CPCO-PECHE comprises six member states: Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Liberia. Dr Gaston expressed gratitude for the invitation and acknowledged the work undertaken by ECOFISH, AU-IBAR, and IGAD in the region.

He highlighted several key milestones achieved by FCWC-FISH/CPCO-PECHE:

- 1. Establishment of a centre for fisheries surveillance to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- 2. Support for women in the fisheries sector, particularly in fishery processing and reducing post-harvest losses.
- 3. AU-IBAR assistance to CPCO in training, restoration efforts, and mangrove planting.

4. Recognition that fisheries and aquaculture are not limited to industrial fishing alone, emphasizing the importance of small-scale actors and promoting aquaculture as an alternative to traditional fishing practices.

Ms Beyene Ateba Epse Baliaba, the President-AWFISHNET, a Champion of Africa, expressed her appreciation to AU-IBAR and ECOFISH for their support in involving women in fisheries. She highlighted two key lessons: the importance of women in the Blue Economy and the significance of sharing experiences among women. Madam Beana emphasized women's role in biodiversity conservation and the need to empower them for sustainable resource management. Dr Sunil added that behavioural changes are necessary to address plastic pollution as people introduce plastics into water bodies. This summary captures the main points discussed by Madam Beana and Dr Sunil regarding women's involvement in the Blue Economy and the need for behavioural changes to combat plastic pollution.

Mr Alieu Sowe, the National Coordinator – Gambia Fisher Folks Association & WWF/AAG, highlighted two (2) references for artisanal, namely voluntary guidelines for FAO and the existing legal framework. Utilizing the two references will help solve many fishery management issues.

Lessons

- 1. Discussions of authorities in Africa that we want. He requested governance, transparency, and accountability among institutions in Africa.
- 2. Africa needs to promote participatory surveillance to combat IUU. Government to put the proper measures to fight against IUU.
- 3. Working conditions for women on post-harvest products to be promoted. Standardization of items should also be done.
- 4. He finally noted that artisanal fisherfolk are not poor but marginalised as generally believed.

Mr Madev Balloo, the Project Manager at the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius, highlighted key aspects of the EU-funded cross-regional ECOFISH project. These include:

- 1. Project Demonstrations: Most projects (8 out of 9) showcased their progress and accomplishments at the knowledge fair, indicating successful implementation.
- 2. Interaction with Project Leaders: The fair allowed participants to engage with project leaders, enabling discussions on unresolved matters related to the projects.
- 3. Networking Opportunities: The fair facilitated the establishment of networks among projects, partners, and colleagues, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Mr Balloo encouraged participants to share the lessons from the fair in their respective institutions and countries, emphasizing the importance of disseminating knowledge and experiences.

Mr Samson Obura, the Communication Director at the East African Community (EAC), gave the vote of thanks and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the organizers. He began by offering thanks to the fishers and local communities whose presence made the event possible. Additionally, he appreciated the county governments of Mombasa and Lamu for their roles in hosting and participating in the Blue Economy, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and biodiversity dialogue.

Acknowledging the support, Mr Obura thanked state and non-state actors and Duly Mandated Regional Organizations such as IGAD, EAC, AU, SADC, and others. He emphasized the importance of the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in establishing centres of excellence in each member state. Furthermore, he called upon member states and institutions to develop digital platforms for adequate data and knowledge sharing. Reflecting on the journey and the path ahead, Mr Obura highlighted the significant contributions of ECOFISH, represented by Mr Madev Balloo, Dr Eshete Dejen, and Dr Sunil, for their unwavering support and dedication.

The Representative of the Swedish Embassy in Addis Ababa expressed her apologies for her delayed arrival. During her speech, she emphasized the historical collaboration between AU-IBAR, IGAD, and Sweden, which has been ongoing since 2010. She highlighted that although Blue Economy (BE) is an aspiration, it requires the collective effort of all stakeholders to establish a shared plan and roadmap for its realization. Sanai urged the participants to prioritize sustainable finance for BE, emphasizing that development partners alone cannot serve as the sustainable financing model. Lastly, she commended the inclusion of gender equality considerations in both BE and MSP (Marine Spatial Planning), recognizing the significance of promoting gender inclusivity in these initiatives.

Dr Fatuma, the Head of Mission for IGAD in Kenya and on behalf of the Lamu Governor, acknowledged the progress made at the continental level under the African Union towards achieving the vision of "the Africa we want." She expressed satisfaction with the existing strategies and recognized the champions leading the process. However, she noted a long way to go in fully utilizing Africa's underutilized resources, such as rivers, lakes, and seas. The challenge lies in reducing dependence on land resources and acting as a community. While Kenya has dedicated ministries for the Blue Economy, collaboration with partners is crucial. Dr Fatuma appreciated the government for implementing regulatory frameworks and the African Union for fostering cooperation between partners. **Ms Hellen Moepi-Guebama, the Fisheries officer at AU-IBAR**, expressed her gratitude to the European Union (EU) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for their support in the second phase of projects. She also acknowledged the valuable collaborations with other partners. Ms Moepi-Guebama highlighted that the conference had generated numerous collaboration requests for AU-IBAR, demonstrating the interest and potential for future partnerships. Lastly, she appreciated the interpreters who played a vital role in bridging the communication gap, ensuring effective communication among participants.

The IOC Director, Mr Dev Phokeer, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to deliver closing remarks at the conference. He acknowledged the recurring theme in the speeches of previous presenters, emphasizing the importance of promoting fisheries to enhance the quality of life for households and families in Africa. Mr Phokeer underscored women's pivotal role in fisheries, noting that their absence would have resulted in many families being left behind. He further emphasized the significance of including and empowering the youth, urging that they should not be neglected but integrated into these initiatives. Looking ahead to 2030, Mr Phokeer highlighted 350 million youths entering the job market. In response, the IOC is committed to implementing an extensive training program to assist these young individuals across Africa in obtaining diplomas and degrees, thus equipping them with the necessary skills to succeed in the labour market. Efforts are underway to establish a Blue Economy institute, and discussions are ongoing regarding its development. The African Union Chair and AU-IBAR are collaborating to create a roadmap for advancing the blue economy. Concluding his address, Mr Phokeer officially declared the conference closed.

Dr Rodrick Kundu represented the Cabinet Secretary for Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs. He highlighted the following key points:

- Participants were encouraged to reflect on the issues discussed and the proposals and recommendations made during the event.
- The knowledge-sharing theme emphasized communicating the acquired knowledge to the communities.
- Dr Kundu appreciated the organisers' efforts, including IGAD, AU-IBER, and the ECOFISH Program, for their participatory leadership.
- Collaboration with IGAD and AU-IBER was acknowledged due to Mr Kundu's previous experience collaborating with them.
- The impact of investments made by development partners should be evaluated based on community feedback.
- Strong partnerships and collaboration with NGOs within the environmental sector were deemed crucial.
- The information presented by different partners should be shared with the communities.

- The Kenyan government reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the blue economy and prioritizing the well-being of the common people, particularly at the grassroots level.
- Proposals and recommendations were requested to be shared promptly to facilitate information dissemination.
- Knowledge shared by collaborators should be cascaded down to the relevant individuals and groups.
- The government's focus on blue carbon credit in Lamu was mentioned, with communities seeing it as an alternative livelihood, reducing pressure on the ocean. The abundance of mangroves in Lamu also provided opportunities for alternative sources of livelihood.

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