



REPORT

The First Steering Committee Meeting for: “Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods Diversification”



7th- 9th November 2022
Juba, South Sudan

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|--|
| AU-IBAR | Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources |
| BE | Blue Economy |
| BESIP | Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FMPM | Financial Management Procedures Manual |
| IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development |
| IFRR | IGAD's Financial Rules and Regulations |
| IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development |
| LVFO | Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MSs | Member States |
| PMP | Performance Management Plan |
| PSC | Project Steering Committee |
| SCM | Steering Committee Members |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |

1. INTRODUCTION

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has developed a 5-year Blue Economy Strategy (2021 – 2025) and Implementation Plan (BESIP), aligned with Africa's Blue Economy Strategy. The vision of IGAD's Blue Economy strategy is to develop an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy that significantly contributes to the Horn of Africa's transformation. Three main principles that underpin the implementation of the Blue Economy are the circular economy; good governance and environmental and social sustainability. The IGAD Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan intend to structure the Blue Economy implementation at both national and regional levels while increasing cooperation and regional integration, and strengthening support to the member states to effectively translate policies into concrete actions. It will also contribute to the effective implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (and its up-coming Action Plan). More specifically, the IGAD Blue Economy Strategy aims to:

- Improve the implementation of the BE in all IGAD Members States;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy;
- Develop strong harmonizing regional BE initiatives;
- Increase cooperation and regional integration by using the BE as a catalyst to stimulate a converging dynamic of interests and efforts.

Four of the IGAD Member States are coastal (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) but three IGAD Member States (Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda) are landlocked. At the level of the IGAD member states, almost all of them have not started to engage themselves in the development process of the Blue Economy. Although a comprehensive database on the Blue Economy governance status in the IGAD Member States is lacking, currently these countries are more or less at an early stage of development in the elaboration of strategies and action plans as well as in the implementation of the BE. Overall, none of them, except Kenya, have completed national consultations, preceding the development of a Blue Economy policy and/or strategy. Thus, the process of implementing Blue Economy remains broadly nascent in the IGAD Member States apart from the actions and initiatives carried out in a sectoral

framework (fisheries, ports, tourism, etc.). Only Kenya now has initiated an administrative entity specifically dedicated to Blue Economy but still dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives.

IGAD's Environment and Natural Resources Strategy document clearly states that the 'state of the environment is posing a serious problem for sustainable development. The economy of the IGAD Member States and the livelihoods of the people are largely dependent on the utilization of available natural resources such as water, forest, land, ecosystems, biodiversity and other resources. Water is prioritized in the regional poverty alleviation strategy. In a region where 80% of the land is composed of arid & semi-arid areas, water is a key factor limiting development progress.

Water bodies are becoming the endpoints of pollution. If there is any natural environment, which is paying the price for development, it is the water system. Water pollution has become a very serious threat to sustainable, and balanced socio-economic growth and environmental protection in the IGAD region. Coastal and marine pollution is a major concern. IGAD has a very productive and diverse coastal and marine environment region (the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean) that stretches from the coast of Sudan down to Mombasa in Kenya. The coastal population in the IGAD region has been increasing exponentially. This has created immense pressure on the coastal and marine environment, which has resulted in the depletion and pollution of biodiversity. Pollution through dumping of toxic wastes as well as indiscriminate discarding of single use plastics and environmental randomness also undermine the realization of Africa's Blue Economy Growth in the IGAD region.

This project is premised on the IGAD's Blue Economy Strategy (2021-2025) and its implementation plan, funded by EU-TCF. The strategy guides the formulation and implementation of projects and programmes on Blue Economy development in the IGAD region. This project contributes to the following outcome "the capacity of IGAD and its Member States strengthened by structuring and mainstreaming the BE at both national and regional levels while increasing cooperation and regional integration, and strengthening support to the member states to develop their own national BE strategies. It will also contribute to the effective implementation of the Africa Blue Economy

Strategy”. It is a three-years (2021 – 2023) project to start the implementation of the IGAD Blue Economy strategy in selected priority three Result Areas:

- **RESULT AREA 1:** Blue Economy approach in IGAD region harmonized and coordinated to harness the contribution of the different sectors.
- **RESULT AREA 2:** The health of marine aquatic ecosystems is improved and systems for managing, controlling and reducing aquatic pollution and waste are strengthened in IGAD coastal countries.
- **RESULT AREA 3:** Blue Economy enhancing capacity, technologies and innovations documented/disseminated and the project impact evaluated.

Intervention activities for Result Areas 1&3 are going to be implemented in all IGAD MSs but Result Area 2 interventions are mostly for the four coastal countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) of IGAD.

The project objectives are:

- To establish a functional Blue Economy structure at IGAD to cater for the regional and national needs (selected member states of IGAD),
- To assess the impact of pollution and develop mitigation measures on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems, and
- To increase research and knowledge management/dissemination on key BE indicators (questions for the IGAD region for learning), policy and practice change
- among the Member States.

In a nutshell, this project intends to achieve the following three broad results:

- Blue Economy approach in IGAD region harmonized and coordinated to harness the contribution of the different sectors,

- The health of marine aquatic ecosystems is improved and systems for managing, controlling and reducing aquatic pollution and waste are strengthened in IGAD coastal countries, and
- Blue Economy enhancing technologies and innovations promoted, documented and disseminated.

IGAD through this project grant from the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia, for a duration of 3 years in all IGAD MSs seeks to improve the governance of the Blue Economy in the IGAD region and its Member States, will conduct marine biodiversity situation analyses, make inventory of chemical and plastic pollutants from source to sea, develop and apply tools to monitor and mitigate chemical and plastic pollutions in the IGAD coastal member states.

2. MEETING PARTICIPATION

The meeting was attended by 30 participants drawn from 7 IGAD Member States, the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia and other development partners. The Participation from Member States comprised of National Focal Persons for Blue Economy and Fisheries Directors while the represented technical partners included FAO, LVFO, AU-IBAR.

3. OPENING SESSION

Welcoming remarks by the Programme Manager of the Agriculture & Food Security Unit at IGAD Secretariat

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of IGAD, the Programme Manager of the Agriculture & Food Security Unit at IGAD Secretariat, Dr Mohyeldeen El-Taha, welcomed all participants to the meeting. He noted that IGAD is playing a fundamental role in the implementation of the project dubbed “Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservations and Livelihood Diversification.” He thanked the Government of Sweden for funding this project aimed at promoting Blue Economy in the region.

Remarks by the Head of Regional Development Cooperation for Africa at the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia

Ms. Ulla Andrén, the head of Regional Development Cooperation for Africa at the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia welcomed participants to the Steering Committee meeting. She stated that for many reasons, sustainable management and utilization of both marine and inland water bodies through an integrated Blue Economy approach is the way to go. The importance of sustainable Blue Economy in contributing to food security and as an avenue for conflict reduction on the resource cannot be over emphasised.

Opening Remarks by the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Republic of South Sudan

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of South Sudan, Hon. Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec, stated that the formulation of the Blue Economy project enabled IGAD to develop the “IGAD Blue Economy Strategy (2012 - 2025)” which comes as a milestone to support implementation of CAADP (Malabo declaration) and meeting the African Union 2063 Transformation Agenda, of “inclusive growth and sustainable development. He further noted that this transformation agenda will help in growth of young African Economies Such as the Republic of South Sudan. He also thanked the Government of Sweden for the financial support. Hon.

Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec said “I once again thank the government of Sweden for this positive inclusive decision. Your decision is supportive to the in-land countries to enable them unlock their potentials in diversification of livelihoods to attain socio-economic prosperity, sustainable food and nutrition security”.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Presentation of the IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy

Ms Anene, on behalf of the IGAD Member States, presented the IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan for 5 years (2021-2025). She gave a definition of the Blue Economy and highlighted the link between the IGAD strategy and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. She presented the opportunity and challenges of Blue Economy in the region that gave a basis of the strategic axes of the interventions in the regional strategy.

b. Presentation of the Draft Terms of Reference for the PSC

Dr. Eshete Dejen, the Programme Manager of Environment Protection Unit of IGAD Secretariat, presented the draft terms of reference (TOR) and composition of memberships of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). He elaborated the terms of reference while highlighting the roles of the PSC, Chairperson, Secretariat, responsibilities of SCM. He presented general aspects of membership, quorum and decision-making, frequency of meetings and funding, agenda, minutes, and decision documents, validity period for comments on documents as well as matters of confidentiality.

c. Progresses of the BE project implementation

Dr Wassie Anteneh, the IGAD Blue Economy Expert, presented the IGAD Blue Economy project implementation progress. He started by presenting the project objectives and result areas. He highlighted the different milestones and results achieved right from the project launch. The activities implemented and milestones achieved include:

- The launching of the workshop was held in Djibouti on 11-12th October 2021, in Djibouti.
- Validation Workshops of National BE Baseline Reports in the IGAD MSs (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Sudan)
- Adoption of IGAD 5 Year Blue Economy Strategy and Declaration
- Media Advocacy and journalists training conducted in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2022 to promote Blue Economy in the region.
- National BE Strategy Development Induction Training, Mogadishu, Somalia
- Regional and National BE Platforms Established
- Both narrative and financial reports (semi-annual and annual) Submitted

A brief on the project logical framework was also presented focusing on some project outcome and output indicators and their respective targets. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, all planned activities for 2021 could not be implemented and were pushed to 2022. The other challenges experienced include drought in the Horn of Africa, security challenges and the delay in the recruitment of project staff.

d. Project Budget/Financial Report

The IGAD Blue Economy Project Accountant, Mr. Yoseph Woldemeskel, indicated that the IGAD Secretariat maintains proper records and procedures in accordance with the IGAD Financial Rules and prepares Interim Financial Report. The Secretariat conducts annual financial statements audit in accordance with a ToR acceptable to the fund by a competitively recruited independent external auditor. It prepares the quarterly financial reports for the program and submit the same no later than 45 days after the end of the respective quarter. All this is done according to IGAD's Financial Rules and Regulations (IFRR), Financial Management Procedures Manual (FMPM) and Cost Sharing and Indirect Cost Recovery Policy.

The accountant presented how much financial resources are allocated to each of the project's Result areas and how much has been spent so far. Over all, it was indicated that during the first financial year, 51% of the allocated finances had been spent. The low expenditure was attributed mainly to the effects of COVID-19 that slowed the implementation of activities, and slow recruitment of required staff.

e. Project Work Plan and M&E Plan

This was presented by Mr. Simon Oswan, the Knowledge Management and Learning Expert of the BE Project. He noted that the goal of the project is to have the health of aquatic ecosystems restored, cooperation and regional integration improved through enhancing the contribution of the Blue Economy. A results framework was presented and this was followed by the activities planned under each of the result area of the project.

He also presented the project performance management plan (PMP) that was developed to help track the implementation of the BE program. The PMP serves as a road map for monitoring, evaluation and learning from program performance. He noted that the PMP elaborates commitments to assess program performance by monitoring the status of results indicators and program assumptions.

f. Empowering Women in the Blue Economy Sector in the IGAD region

This presentation was made by Ms. Joselyn Bigirwa, the gender focal point at the IGAD Agriculture and Environment Division. She explained that a gender audit is a tool to assess and check the institutionalisation of gender equality into organisations, including in their policies, programmes, projects and/or provision of services, structures, proceedings and budgets. She explained women's role in blue economy sectors including Fisheries/Aquaculture, and stated obstacles and barriers to women empowerment. She also highlighted the strategies for empowering women in the blue economy sectors as well as how to mainstream gender by building the capacity of staff implementing the programs.

g. AU-IBAR: Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy

This presentation was delivered by Dr. Eshete Dejen on behalf of Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Senior Fisheries Management officer / Expert of AU-IBAR. He presented the basic information of the project including the overall objective and the 4 specific objectives of the project entitled “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in the African Blue Economy.” He also presented the outputs and specific activities under each of the strategic objectives. This presentation concluded with the sustainability mechanisms put in place for the project outcomes.

h. Communication and Visibility

Mr. Mahamed Ahmed Abdillahi, Communication Officer at the IGAD Secretariat, made a presentation entitled “A Strategy for Communication: The Example of IGAD Blue Economy”. He explained that the goal of communication is to make IGAD visible in such a way that we expand our support base and mobilize resources from member states and development partners. He presented a roadmap for each target audience to change mindsets and expand support base. He also highlighted the communication activities undertaken under this project.

5. DISCUSSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

a. Discussions

- The name “Steering” has a policy connotation that may require a high-level membership such as Permanent/Principal Secretaries or Ministers. There is a need to have a technical aspect to the committee.
- In each committee meeting, there is need to highlight specific issues that need the attention of ministers during the ministerial meetings.
- The project activities in Djibouti will need a documentation of change, outcomes and best practices for purposes of learning.
- Adaptive management has played out well despite the challenges faced. However, budget execution is still lagging behind.
- Activities under Objective 2 of the project could also be extended to other land-locked countries.

- In the M&E plan, it is good to insist on outcome indicators as well.

b. Way Forward

- We are going to use the feedback provided to update the 2nd Year project activities.
- Since all the needed project staff are on board, we will expedite the implementation of project activities in the second year
- We will keep on improving the project management following the plan developed by the Knowledge Management/ M&E Expert. We need to be the source of knowledge on Blue Economy.
- We are going to work closely with AU-IBAR to create synergies and avoid duplicating efforts. We are also going to co-organize a Blue Economy knowledge share fair in early 2023.
- We are going to produce policy briefs on the contribution of Blue Economy
- We are going to share the Project Steering Committee meeting report with all members as well as with the Embassy of Sweden in Ethiopia.
- We will continue with resource mobilization for the full implementation of the regional BE strategy.
- Continue engaging with SWAM for North-South collaborations
- IGAD Member States to continue developing their national BE strategies and have them finalized by the end of the 1st quarter of 2023.

6. Field Visit to the Fish Market and Nile River Transport System in Juba City

The team of technical partners made field visits to the following sites for a first-hand learning and experience:

- River Nile fish landing site
- Konyo Konyo fish market
- River Nile transport terminal

The field visit to the different sites was meant to have an experience of the fisheries value chains available in Juba, South Sudan. The team wanted to have an experience of how fish is handled and preserved right from the landing site up to the market where it is sold to the consumers.



Picture 1: River Nile fish landing iSite in Juba, South Sudan



Picture 2: A fish trader displaying his merchandise at Konyo Konyo market in Juba, South Sudan



Picture 3: River Nile water transport hub in Juba, South Sudan.

7. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Provisional Agenda

| Time | Item | Presenter |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| DAY 1 (07 November 2022) – Technical Meeting | | |
| REGISTRATION AND OPENING SESSION | | |
| MC: Dr. Eshete Dejen | | |
| 8:30 | Registration of Delegates | IGAD AED Team |
| 9:30 | Welcoming Remark by IGAD | AED Director |
| 9:40 | Opening Remark by Representative of Government of South Sudan | DG for Fisheries, South Sudan |
| 9:50 | Introduction of participants | Participants |
| 10:00 | Approval of Provisional Agenda | IGAD |
| SETTING THE SCENE | | |
| Chair: Daher Elmi | | |
| 10:05 | Workshop Objective | Dr Eshete |
| 10:10 | Introducing BE Project | Dr Wassie |
| 10:30 | Health Break and Group Photo | IGAD |
| | Discussion | Chairperson + All |
| OVERVIEW OF BLUE ECONOMY IN IGAD MSs | | Presenters |
| 11:00 | Overview of BE in Djibouti | NFP |
| 11:15 | Overview of BE in Ethiopia | NFP |
| 11:30 | Overview of BE in Kenya | NFP |
| 11:45 | Overview off BE in Somalia | NFP |
| 12:00 | Overview of BE in South Sudan | NFP |
| 12:15 | Overview of BE in Sudan | NFP |
| 12: 30 | Overview of BE in Uganda | NFP |
| 12:45 | Lunch | IGAD |
| OVERVIEW OF BLUE ECONOMY IN RECs/DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN AFRICA | | |
| 13:45 | Overview of AU BE Strategy | AU Delegate |
| 14:05 | Overview of BE-FAO/SFE | FAO/SFE Delegate |
| 14:25 | Overview of BE-COMESA | COMESA Delegate |
| 14:45 | Discussion | Chair TBA |
| 15:30 | Health Break | IGAD |
| 16:00 | General Discussion | Chair TBA |

17:00 End of Day1

DAY 2 (08 November 2022): Steering Committee Meeting

MC: Dr. Eshete Dejen

| | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 8:30 | Registration of Delegates | IGAD AED Team |
| 9:00 | Welcoming Remark by IGAD | ES/Delegate |
| 9:10 | Statement by the Swedish Government | Delegate |
| 9:20 | Opening Remark by Representative of Government of South Sudan | Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries |
| 9:30 | Introduction of participants | Participants |
| 9:40 | Approval of Agenda | IGAD |
| 9:45 | Review of the draft ToR for SC | Dr Eshete D. |
| 10:05 | IGAD BE Strategy | Member State Representative |
| 10:30 | Health Break and Group Photo | IGAD |
| 11:00 | Progresses of the BE project implementation | Dr Wassie A. |
| 11:30 | Project Budget/Financial Report | Yosef H. |
| 11:50 | BE Project Second Year Work Plan and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework | Simon O. |
| 12:20 | Gender in the IGAD Blue Economy Sectors | Amina/Joselyn |
| 12:45 | AU-IBAR: Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy | Dr. Mohamed Seisay |
| 13:00 | Lunch Break | IGAD |
| 14:00 | Communication and Visibility | Tigist/Simon O. |
| 14:15 | Discussions and Recommendations | Chair TBA |
| 15:00 | Health | IGAD |
| 15:30 | Discussions and Recommendationscont'd | Chair TBA |
| 16:30 | Closing Remarks and way forward | IGAD |
| 17:00 | End of Day2 | |

DAY3 (09 November 2022)

IGAD

9:00 Field Visit to the Fish Market and Nile River Transport System in Juba City

13:00 Lunch IGAD

14: 00 End of Day3

Annex 2: Opening Speech by H.E. the IGAD Executive Secretary

Your Excellency, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Republic of South Sudan

Your Excellency, Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of South Sudan

Ulla Andren, Representative of the Sweden Embassy in Addis Ababa

Distinguished Delegates from MS

Development Partners

I welcome you on behalf of His Excellency, Dr. Workneh Gebyahu IGAD Executive secretary and myself to all of you to the beautiful city of Juba which is also your second home and at the Heart of The Nile.

We would like to express the Government and people of Republic of South Sudan to host the pre- technical meeting for the 1st SC of the Blue Economy Project. We are very grateful for the financial support of Sweden for Blue Economy and other sectors.

The African Union has identified Blue Economy (BE) development as a priority goal towards achieving the aspiration on ‘A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development within the context of the Africa Union Agenda 2063’. Africa's Blue Economy can be a major contributor to continental transformation, sustainable economic progress, and social development.

IGAD has diverse socio-ecological landscapes beside a strategic edge on the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean. It stretches over a land area of 5.2 million km² which consists of 65% of water-stressed and 35 % of marginal lands. The combined inland water area is about 222,358 km² and is naturally/ unevenly distributed across the region. The coastal states of IGAD have an aggregated Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.1 million Km², including 55,875 km² of inshore waters and 6,960 km of coastline.

IGAD countries have a great blue economy potential that is overall under used. Traditional sectors such as fisheries, tourism, mineral extraction and marine and river transport are showing evidence of significant development capacities while emerging sectors such as aquaculture, marine biotechnology and bioprospecting, desalinization and renewable energy are currently lacking attention and request substantial investments in the near future.

A key element in the blue economy approach is to recognize the value of oceans, lakes and other water bodies in the national economic and social

development context, which is only achieved if the role of each contributing sector is properly valued and recognized.

IGAD has signed a project (enhancing blue economy in the IGAD member states for biodiversity conservations and livelihood diversification) aimed at promoting Blue Economy with funding from Sweden.

IGAD plays the central coordination role in the implementation of this project led by the Director of Agriculture and Environment and day to day operation by the Environment Protection and Blue Economy Program Manager. Four full time staff members are employed by the project and this strengthens the capacity of the Blue Economy Unit in the IGAD Secretariat.

A Steering Committee with stakeholder representation will provide overall advice, ensure delivery of the project outputs and the achievement of project outcomes and will meet once a year or when an urgent need arises.

With the above background the first Steering Committee (SC) of the project is under way from **November 7-9, 2022 here in Juba –South Sudan.**

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING ARE:

1. Share progress of BE in respective member states
2. Review and adapt the draft TOR for SC
3. Create awareness among SC members on the project
4. Disseminate information on status of project implementation, including progress on implementation of activities and challenges
5. Share information on planned and ongoing activities related to BE by relevant stakeholders
6. Develop recommendations for strategic direction of the project
7. Filed visit to the river transport and the fish market.

I am confident that we will meet our objectives in the coming 3 days with all of your critical inputs.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

I assure you that Blue Economy is in the heart of IGAD Five-year corporate strategy and IGAD vision 2050. In my Reform Agenda Blue Economy emerged as one of the Section under Sustainable Environment Protection Unit starting January 2022. It is also one of the flagship projects on my moto bringing IGAD to the communities.

Finally, once again I would like to thank Sweden for the financial support, our host South Sudan Government and my IGAD staffs who organize this workshop.

THANK YOU!!!

Annex 3: Opening Speech by Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Republic of South Sudan, Juba

Honorable Mrs. Ulla Andren, Representative of the Sweden Embassy in Addis Ababa and Charged Affairs on the Republic of South Sudan

Amb. Nickson Deng Peter, Director of Regional Organizations – IGAD focal person in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; representing the IGAD Head of Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, Juba

Dr. Mohy Tohami, Officer in-charge for Agriculture and Food Security Unit in the Agriculture and Environment Division and the Delegate of the Executive Secretary of IGAD, Djibouti

Distinguished Delegates from all IGAD Member States; the support staff of IGAD Secretariat,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I greet you all in the name of God the Almighty and in the name of my Country the Republic of South Sudan. I take this opportunity on behalf of the People and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to welcome you all to Juba the heart of South Sudan, **You are all welcome to Juba and to Pyramid Continental Hotel.**

I am delight to officiate and host the **1st Steering Committee Meeting** of this project **“Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservations and Livelihood Diversification”** – Funded by the Swedish Government and implemented by IGAD. Blue Economy in South Sudan is hosted in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries – Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. It is a new opportunity for strengthening among others food and nutrition security through diversification of livelihoods in conservations of aquatic biodiversity for the social well-being of the people of South Sudan, the IGAD Region, Africa and indeed the World at large.

Formulation of this project enabled IGAD to develop the **“IGAD Blue Economy Strategy (2012 - 2025)”** which comes as a milestone to support implementation of CAADP (Malabo declaration) and meeting the African Union 2063 Transformation

Agenda, of “**inclusive growth and sustainable development**”. This transformation agenda will help in growth of African young economies like that of my Country – the Republic of South Sudan.

Hon. Representative of the Swedish Government: after acquiring the grant from your government, IGAD has so far accomplished the following activities through this project grant:

- i. Validation of the national Blue Economy Baseline Report for South Sudan it was done in November 2021
- ii. I participated during the Ministerial Meeting to endorse the IGAD Blue Economy Regional Strategy last April 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- iii. IGAD is providing support in the development of National Blue Economy Strategy for South Sudan, which is under the process of development.
- iv. South Sudanese experts participated in the media training on Blue Economy (reporting and advocacy) organized by IGAD Blue Economy project last July 2022 in Nairobi
- v. South Sudan experts involved in the induction training to develop National Blue Economy Strategy, organized by IGAD in Mogadishu.

Delegates: prior to the above accomplishments, IGAD had conducted a number of virtual meetings; among the **key issues discussed** that I could like to reiterate is the inclusion of the non-coastal or landlocked countries in this program, and **I once again thanks the government of Sweden for this positive inclusive decision.** Your decision is supportive to the in-land countries to enable them unlock their potentials in diversification of livelihoods to attain socio-economic prosperity, sustainable food and nutrition security.

An estimate of 1.7 million people in South Sudan depends directly on fisheries for their livelihood, food and nutrition security. South Sudan encompasses the largest freshwater Wetlands in Africa, the Sudd; which includes the Bahr el Jebel section, the Bahr el Ghazal and the White Nile sections between Bor and Malakal towns. The Sudd area

includes 8,300 km² of permanent swamps and over 80,000 km² of inundated area during the flood season. The estimated fisheries production along the Sudd Wetlands alone is about 140,000 tons per year on sustainable basis; these estimates were based on water surface area and the Sudd area coverage. The Sudd Wetlands host more than 116 fish species in diversity; these potentials however remain underdeveloped.

The organizers of this beautiful workshop have planned for sites visit within this workshop program; a just short distance visit from this hotel and I believe you will have a glance on the potentials and challenges in the South Sudan Blue Economy sector.

Distinguish Delegates; you will encounter three things in this short sites visit:

1. **On fish landing sites:** landing sites all over South Sudan are not developed, this remains a challenge in the fisheries and indeed the food value chain; calling for collective intervention
2. **River ports:** ports infrastructures are in total not develop making dogging, operation and maintenance of ships, boat and therefore river navigation a challenge.
3. **Fish markets:** fish marketing facilities and the entire fish value chain – including cold chain, are challenges in the Republic of South Sudan

Hon. Ulla Andren, I make this submission because I have confident that IGAD and my technical team have the capacity to develop these submissions to full scale project proposals with your willingness to support.

Allow me therefore, distinguish delegates to wish you fruitful deliberations towards adoption of the Steering Committee ToRs and affirmation of full functions and responsibilities of this Project Steering Committee. **With this I hereby declare the 1st Steering Committee Meeting Officially Open.**

Thank you very much,

God Bless You All

Annex 4: Terms of Reference for the Blue Economy Project Steering Committee



PROJECT TITLE: ENHANCING BLUE ECONOMY IN THE IGAD REGION FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONS AND LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION

Project Technical Steering Committee (PSC)

Terms of reference and composition of memberships

1. BACKGROUND

IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy is unanimously endorsed by the IGAD MS Ministers responsible on coordinating Blue Economy (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) on April 1, 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The IGAD Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan intend to structure the Blue Economy implementation at both national and regional levels while increasing cooperation and regional integration, and strengthening support to the member states to effectively translate policies into concrete actions. It will also contribute to the effective implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (and its up-coming Action Plan). More specifically, the IGAD Blue Economy Strategy aims to:

- improve the implementation of the BE in all IGAD members States;
- contribute to the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy;
- develop strong harmonizing regional BE initiatives;
- increase cooperation and regional integration by using the BE as a catalyst to stimulate a converging dynamic of interests and efforts.

At the level of the IGAD member states, almost all of them have started to engage themselves in the development process of the Blue Economy. Although a comprehensive database on the Blue Economy governance status in the IGAD Member States is lacking, currently these countries are more or less at an early stage of development in the elaboration of strategies and action plans as well as in the implementation of the BE. Overall, none of them, except Kenya, have completed national consultations, preceding the development of a Blue Economy policy and/or strategy. Thus, the process of implementing Blue Economy remains broadly nascent in the IGAD Member States apart from the actions and initiatives carried out in a sectoral framework (fisheries, ports, tourism, etc.).

IGAD has signed a project (enhancing blue economy in the IGAD coastal member states for biodiversity conservations and livelihood diversification) aimed at promoting Blue Economy with funding from Sweden.

IGAD plays the central coordination role in the implementation of this project led by the Director of Agriculture and Environment and day to day operation by the Environment Protection and Blue Economy Program Manager. Four full time staff members will be employed by the project and this strengthens the capacity of the Blue Economy Unit in the IGAD Secretariat. A Steering Committee with stakeholder representation will provide overall advice, ensure delivery of the project outputs and the achievement of project outcomes and will meet once a year or when an urgent need arises.

2. ROLE OF PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE IN THE PROJECT 'ENHANCING BLUE ECONOMY IN THE IGAD REGION FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONS AND LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION'

Objective of the Project Steering committee

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is an advisory body and shall guide, oversee and validate the overall policy direction of the Project. This includes adoption of annual work-plans and approval of related implementation reports.

Mandate and Functions

The PSC shall have the mandate of providing strategic and policy guidance to the project's implementation, and to review past performances, approve annual work plans and recommend the adoption of its budgets. Specifically, the Project Steering Committee will:

- Advise the Project Management on strategy, taking an overview of the shape, direction and implementation of the project to meet its objectives;
- Review and endorse annual work plans and periodic reports;
- Review and advice on the strategic direction of the project to ensure project's activities are in synergy and complementary with other related ongoing initiatives.
- Any bottlenecks on the project implementation could be addressed by the PSC

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Steering Committee Chair is Director of Agriculture and Environment Division. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee Chair are as follows:

- Chairs the Steering Committee Meeting
- Clarifies and summarizes presentations and deliberations during each meeting
- Reviews the agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Secretariat
- Clarifies the purpose of each meeting to members and also the agenda items at the beginning of each meeting
- Provides a summary of decisions and tasks at the end of each meeting.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF STEERING COMMITTEE

The PSC Secretariat will be Sustainable Environment Protection Unit. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- Preparation of meeting agenda in consultation with the Chair
- Preparation of invitation letters and sending invitations to members
- Ensures that agendas and supporting materials are delivered to members in advance of meetings
- Preparation of minutes of Steering Committee meeting and circulate to members
- Capture and consolidate recommendations of the meeting

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Individual Steering Committee members shall have the following responsibilities:

- Represent the interests of projects' stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Take a genuine interest in the project's outcomes and overall success.
- Act on opportunities to communicate positively about the project.
- Check that the project is aligned with the organizational strategy as well as development policies of IGAD Member States.
- Actively participate in meetings through attendance, discussion, and review of minutes, papers and other Steering Committee documents.

- The reports of the PSC need to be communicated to the responsible BE coordinating institutions/ministries

6. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

6.1 Decision making members:

- a) Representative IGAD member states (BLUE ECONOMY Focal persons): Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda
- b) AED Director
- c) Representative of the SIDA or Swedish Embassy to the IGAD
- d) 1 Representative from AU_IBAR Biodiversity Project Supported by Sweden
- e) 1 Representative from IGAD Gender Program

6.2. Observers, Non-voting members:

- a) Representatives of other development or technical partners (Nairobi Convention, UNEP and SwAM))
- b) Representative for AUC-DARBE (Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment Division)
- c) 1 Representative from UNECA Blue Economy Unit
- d) FAO SFE
- e) EAC
- f) COMESA

6.3. Co-opted experts

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

6.2 Quorum and Decision-making

A minimum number of 50% voting Steering Committee members are required for decision-making purposes. IGAD chair country will be the co-chair.

6.2.1 Decision-making Process

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

6.3 Frequency of Meetings and Funding

6.3.1 Meeting Frequency, Convening and Chairing

- a) The Project Steering Committee will meet once a year (physical or virtual as the case may be). The first meeting will be held as soon as practical after the establishment of the Steering Committee.
- b) An extraordinary meeting may be convened as and when need arises.

- c) The date, time and venue for each SC meeting shall be determined during the previous meeting and should be include in the minutes of that meeting, apart from the first meeting for which these details will be communicated in a written invitation by the Secretariat at AED.
- d) The payment of honoraria to SC Members is not envisaged. However, direct costs associated with travel and attendance at meetings will be met by the 'Blue Economy project'.

6.4 Agenda, Minutes, and Decision documents

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

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

6.4.2 Procedures for Agenda and Minutes

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

6.4.3 Validity Period for comments on documents

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

6.4.4 Confidentiality

PSC members are expected to treat any reports and other forms of information derived from the 'IGAD Blue Economy Project' activities with utmost confidentiality.

Annex 5: List of Participants

1. Ms. Barwako Houssein Kidar

Sous-Directrice de l'Économie Verte, Bleue et Circulaire
Spécialiste dans le domaine GRC (Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes) et
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2. Mr Adan Arbahim Hassan

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Ethiopia

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Kenya

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10.Rep from MFA

Sudan

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Uganda

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- 20.**Dr Mohy Tohami**, PM, Agriculture & Food Security, Djibouti
- 21.**Joselyn Bigirwa**, Land & Gender Expert, LGU AED, Djibouti
- 22.**Dr Wassie Anteneh**, Senior BE Expert, AED, Djibouti
- 23.**Simon Oswan**, BE KM & Learning Expert, AED, Djibouti
- 24.**Tegueste Shimelis**, Programmes Assistant, AED, Djibouti
- 25.**Yosef Woldemeskel**, Project Accountant, AED, Djibouti
- 26.**Mohamed Abdillahi**, Communication Officer, IGAD, Djibouti
- 27.**Abdiwahid Joar**, BE Project Assistant for Somalia, Mogadishu

