



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods Diversification

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	5
1. PROJECT BACKGROUND	6
2. PROJECT RESULT AREAS, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES	8
2.1 RESULT AREA 1. Blue Economy approach in the IGAD region harmonized and coordinated to harness the contribution of the different sectors.....	8
Output1.1 The status of Member States in structuring BE at the national level documented	8
Activity 1.1.5 Conduct and validate gender analysis of Blue Economy strategies, policies and legal frameworks in MSs and mainstream in the formulation of the new strategies.....	10
Output 1.2: BE Regional Strategy and Implementation plan (2021-2025) adopted	11
Activity 1.2.4 Organize a workshop to validate the step-by-step guideline	14
Activity 1.2.5 Organize training for planning experts	14
Output 1.3 National BE Strategies aligned with IGAD regional BE developed/adopted	15
Output 1.4 Blue Economy Coordination platforms at the regional and national level created	17
Output 1.5 Awareness created on the contribution of the BE approach for a healthy ecosystem.....	19
Output 1.6 An IGAD Blue Economy Unit efficiently and effectively functioning	21
2.2 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.....	21
Output 2.1 Status of biodiversity in the IGAD region reviewed and documented	21
Output 2.2 Inventory of pollutants (chemicals and plastics) conducted in 4 coastal countries	22
Output 2.3 Governance and coordination mechanisms to stem plastic and chemical pollution at local and regional levels assessed and updated.....	23
Output 2.4 Chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy developed in the IGAD region.....	24
Output 2.5 Management of Plastic Waste and Mitigating the pollution of public beaches of Djibouti	25
Output 2.6 Regional database/Meta-database on costal pollution established	26
2.3 RESULT AREA 3: Blue Economy enhancing technologies and innovations generated, documented and disseminated	26
Output 3.1 Research and Education institutions in the IGAD region mapped	27

Output 3.2 Knowledge management, dissemination and sharing strengthened.....27
Output 3.3. North-South knowledge-sharing partnership created28

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AED	Agriculture and Environment Division
AfDB	African Development Bank
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter- African Bureau for Animal Resources
BE	Blue Economy
BESIP	Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan
EU-TCF	European Union-Technical Cooperation Facility
IBECP	IGAD Blue Economy Coordination Platform
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KM	Knowledge Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSs	Member States
NBECF	National Blue Economy Coordination Platform
NFP	National Focal Point
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
REC	Regional Economic Committees
SEP	Sustainable Environment Protection
ToR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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. The IGAD region has huge Blue Economy potential. The four coastal member states of IGAD (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) have an aggregated Exclusive Economic Zones of more than one million Km² area and about 5, 000 km of coastline. Somalia has the largest and most productive coastline in Africa. The combined inland water (freshwater) area is estimated at 222,358 km². In order to utilize sustainably the Blue Economy (BE) potential of the region, 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.

During the last six months (July 2022 – December 2022), the project attained the following key achievements:

- Sudan National Blue Economy Baseline Report validated national stakeholders during a workshop convened in Al Sabalouga (River Nile State), on 04 – 06 July 2022.
- A regional training targeting Blue Economy National Focal Persons and Consultants on the development of National Blue Economy Strategy conducted in Mogadishu, Somalia on 29-31 July 2022.
- The Project Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting to guide the implementation was convened in Arta-Djibouti in October 2022.
- The First Steering Committee Meeting for the project "Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods Diversification" was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 7th - 9th November 2022.
- National workshop held between December 16th -18th 2022 in Bahir Dar (Ethiopia) and Ministers of Blue Economy Sectors adopted Ethiopia's 5 Year (2023 – 2027) National Blue Economy Strategy for Ethiopia.
- Developed detailed ToRs to facilitate recruitment of consultants to do the Gender Analysis in BE Sectors, Source – to – Sea plastic and chemical pollutant inventory in the IGAD Coastal Countries, Marine Biodiversity Situation Analysis. All these studies are the final stages of approval to be launched in the second half of Year 2 project implementation period.

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

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 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 Fishery.

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 only 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 with funding from the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia, with an estimated budget of 4,866,905 US\$, for a duration of 3 years in 4 IGAD coastal MS 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. PROJECT RESULT AREAS, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

2.1 RESULT AREA 1. Blue Economy approach in the IGAD region harmonized and coordinated to harness the contribution of the different sectors

Output1.1 The status of Member States in structuring BE at the national level documented Activities performed under this output covered all the 7 target IGAD Member States. After the validation of the baseline report on the contribution of BE for the national growth for each IGAD member state, and the validation of national baseline assessment reports, the support was channelled towards the development of national BE strategies. With support from the recruited national consultants, Member States undertook the necessary steps in developing their strategies and action plans for BE implementation.

Activity 1.1.2 Validation of BE baseline reports

During the previous reporting period, it was reported that BE baseline study had been commissioned in all IGAD member States. The study was meant to provide a basis for supporting the region to building resilience and Attain food/nutrition security through BE, that will lead to the development of the BE to contribute to achieving food-nutrition security, resilience building, generating employment and income for youth and women and propelling economic growth in the region.

The development of national BE strategies in all of the 7 IGAD Member States is a key outcome of implementing this Blue Economy this project. These national BE strategies will guide the coordinated efforts of the different sectors of BE in each country. Moreover, in order to domesticate the IGAD Blue Economy Strategy, IGAD supports Member States to develop their own national Blue Economy Strategy, aligned with the IGAD and AU Blue Economy Strategies. For this national BE Strategy development baseline study of BE in each MS is the basic reference document.

During the previous reporting period, the validation of BE baseline studies by all the 7 IGAD MSs, except Sudan, was incorporated. All validation workshops of the national BE baseline reports were planned to be validated in Year 1 of the project period but for Sudan it was not possible due to various issues. IGAD facilitated a validation workshop from July 4 – 6, 2022 in Al Sabalouga (River Nile State) for Sudan for the BE baseline study report. The national report was presented for validation and endorsement, while filling in possible gaps. The purpose of the validation workshop was also to create a national BE platform to serve as a technical group to support the preparation of national BE Strategy.



BE Baseline Report Validation Workshop for Sudan, Al Sabalouga, River Nile State (July 4 – 6, 2022)

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To review the draft baseline report and update the gaps
- To validation of baseline reports
- To create national BE platform

The outputs attained out of the workshop are:

- Missed data/information were filled
- Validated national report adopted by all sector organizations
- Inputs were provided for the regional report
- A Background document for preparation of National BE strategy was adopted

Activity 1.1.4 Identify, develop and validate tools to establish national BE coordination unit /system (supra-ministerial)

As part of building the capacity of IGAD Member States in the implementation of the Regional BE strategy, a training targeting NFPs and BE Consultants was convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The training was on coordination mechanisms, policy instruments/enabling environments for BE governance and on how to integrate BE in national development plans in the IGAD Members States. The purposes of the training were to consider BE coordination mechanisms (institutional arrangements) and assess the enabling environments nationally and regionally and to discuss ways to integrated BE in the national development plans. This was informed by the fact that the strategy requires a high level of institutional coordination to reduce interface risks.

The training was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To share lessons to propose national BE coordination mechanisms in the draft national BE strategy for each IGAD MS.
- To assess an enabling tools (financing, capacity, partnerships and innovations), and management component that establishes and oversees the tools and mechanisms needed to manage, coordinate and implement BE strategies and interventions.
- To provide training to integrate BE in the national development plans.

The following results were attained from the training:

1. Trained national consultants, Blue Economy Focal Persons and national Planning Experts to consider national Blue Economy coordination mechanisms in the draft national BE strategy of each MS.
2. National and regional enabling environments addressed in the draft national BE Strategy of each MS.
3. Topics about BE integration into the national development plans included in the draft national BE Strategy of each MS.
4. Innovative experiences shared on BE coordination and effective implementations of BE strategy nationally.



Activity 1.1.5 Conduct and validate gender analysis of Blue Economy strategies, policies and legal frameworks in MSs and mainstream in the formulation of the new strategies

This activity was planned to be implemented in the first year project implementation period. Detailed TOR developed by the IGAD PMU in consultation with AED Gender Expert to recruit a regional expert or firm to conduct gender analysis in the BE sectors of the IGAD Coastal MSs. The consultancy announcement was posted twice in the IGAD Website to get competent candidates.

Last January 2023, the screening committee has finalized and identified a consultancy firm. Currently the IGAD Procurement Unit is doing the approval process and soon the contract for the study will be issued. The IGAD Blue Economy PMU has planned to finalize the study and validate in May 2023. In the IGAD BE baseline assessment report it is further recommended to conduct deeper gender analysis to explore gender related barriers and subsequently take corrective actions to address the existing gender inequalities in the sector.

Activity 1.1.6 Conduct awareness creation, dissemination and visibility events

The IGAD Blue Economy PMU has prepared brochures and fliers on the project key outcomes and environmental health of marine as well as freshwater ecosystems. These promotion materials are prepared in English and French. Some copies have been distributed to participants in the workshops organized by this project.



Moreover, the IGAD Blue Economy PMU is planning to organize more awareness creation events in the coming months and will prepare more awareness materials and distribute during the events.

Output 1.2: BE Regional Strategy and Implementation plan (2021-2025) adopted

With the financial support of EU, 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 economic 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). The IGAD BE strategy will serve as a guide to develop national BE strategy for each MS after endorsed by mandated institutions of MSs.

All activities planned to achieve this output have been implemented in this project implementation period and the IGAD 5-year BE Strategy was adopted by Ministers in charge of BE coordination. The declaration was signed on April 1, 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

1.2.2 Promote IGAD's BE Strategy through organizing conferences and preparing promotion materials

The IGAD Blue Economy strategy (2021 – 2025) and Implementation Plan (BESIP), aligned with Africa's Blue Economy Strategy, was launched by Ministers in charge of BE coordination in April 2022. The approved strategy document, in English and French language, is now in the process of printing (editing and designing almost completed). When the printing is completed, the IGAD PMU will organize a regional conference to promote the strategy.



Activity 1.2. 3 Prepare and promote a step-by-step tool (guideline) for MS to align their policies with IGAD's BE strategy

The IGAD PMU organized an induction and training regional workshop in Mogadishu from 29 – 31 July 2022 for all the national consultants recruited to develop the draft national BE strategy. The IBECP members, who will follow, assist and facilitate the preparation of the national BE strategy in each MS, have also participated in this training. The meeting was officially opened by H.E Abdillahi Bidhan Warsame, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Objectives of the training were:

- To provide training to build the capacities of the national consultants and Blue Economy Focal Persons about the alignment of the national Blue Economy strategies with AU and IGAD Blue Economy Strategies,
- To develop similar framework (format) in the preparation of national Blue Economy strategies among Member States,
- To share best experiences, especially from Kenya, in developing national Blue Economy strategy, and
- Provide training to mainstream gender in the national Blue Economy strategies.

The first day of the meeting was mainly focusing for the MSs to present their practices on BE policy and governance issues. In the second day, the IGAD BE Strategy, AU BE Strategy, COMESA BE Strategy (draft) and EAC BE Strategy (draft) as well as other African countries national BE strategies were presented and discussed. The third day was to provide gender mainstreaming trainings by the Land Governance Programme (AED) Gender Expert and BE National Strategy format development through group works.



National BE Strategy Development Training in Mogadishu (H.E. Abdillahi Bidhan Warsame at the centre in the sitting row).

Outcomes of the training were:

- Trained national consultants and Blue Economy Focal Persons to align their national Blue Economy strategies to the IGAD, EAC and AU Regional BE Strategies,
- Similar format (template) developed to draft the national BE strategies and provided to all national consultants and BE NFPs,
- Existing best experiences on the development of national BE strategies shared, and

- Gender mainstreaming concepts understood and gender issues were seriously considered in the template development.

Activity 1.2.4 Organize a workshop to validate the step-by-step guideline

As explained under Activity 1.2.3 above, the draft step-by-step guideline (template) to develop national BE strategies was prepared by the BE Expert and Project Coordinator in consultation with NFPs of the BE Project. The template was discussed during the induction workshop training organized in Mogadishu (see Activity 1.2.3). All national consultants selected to prepare national BE Strategies for their respective countries and NFPs enriched the template and agreed to be used as a template for the national BE strategy implementation.

Activity 1.2.5 Organize training for planning experts

IGAD Blue Economy PMU organized a training in Addis Ababa from 28 Nov - 01 December 2022 on Blue Economy Coordination Mechanisms and **mainstreaming Blue Economy in the national development plans** of the IGAD Member States. In this training one planning expert from the national planning offices of each IGAD MS have actively participated. In this training in addition to the planning experts, all NFPs and consultants recruited to develop national BE strategy have also participated. Please refer the objectives and outputs achieved during the training under section **Activity 1.1.4** above.



National planning experts from IGAD MSs trained on mainstreaming BE in the development plans

Activity 1.2.6 Print/publish the step-by-step guideline with best lesson case studies and distribute enough copies to MSs

The PPT format of the step-by-step guideline (template) produced during the training was shared to all NFPs and consultants who are developing the national BE strategy for each MS. The project Knowledge Management Expert is preparing a plan to document and share lessons and case studies. Some best lesson and some case studies in development of national BE strategy and its implementation plan will be compiled in the next project implementation period.

Output 1.3 National BE Strategies aligned with IGAD regional BE developed/adopted

IGAD carried out national and regional assessments on the contribution of BE for the national economy, challenges, opportunities and map major stakeholders. This assessment provided an insight on current governance and resource use rights in Member States. While developing national BE strategy for Member States, Civil Society Organizations, community representatives have been part of the process since the inception to ensure that their rights are clearly included. Also, during the inception workshop all the stakeholders were invited to provide their inputs in the national BE Strategies.

IGAD has a regional BE Strategy and Implementation plan and the intention is for the member states to align their policy and strategy with it. IGAD is supporting the member states to have a harmonized strategy since most of the water bodies are transboundary. IGAD, as one of the building blocks of the Africa Union, its BE strategy is aligned with the Africa Union's BE Strategy. The African Blue Economy Strategy was endorsed in October 2019 by the African Union (AU) Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment and adopted by the Heads of States in early February 2020. Thus, IGAD member states are being assisted to align their strategy with AU and IGAD BE Strategies.

According to Africa Union (AU) and in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) context, Blue Economy (BE) encompasses both marine and freshwater environments. It thus relates to the sustainable use and the conservation of oceans and seas, coastlines and banks, lakes, rivers and groundwater. The Blue Economy is then a set of human activities that, on the one hand, organise in an integrated, fair and circular manner the production, distribution, trade and consumption of goods and services resulting from both the exploitation of aquatic resources and from the use of supports that constitute aquatic environments, and, on the other hand, contribute to improve the health status of aquatic ecosystems by implementing protective and restorative measures. As a result, the BE revolves around the valorisation of both economics sectors and ecological components.

Activity 1.3.1 Provide technical support to MSs when they prepare and validate their national BE strategy to align it with IGAD's BE Strategy

In order to cascade the IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy to the Member States level, IGAD is providing technical and logistics support for MSs to develop their national BE strategy. To materialize this national consultant were recruited to develop their respective Blue Economy strategy for each MS. National Consultants for Developing National Blue Economy Strategy (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda), were recruited based on detailed ToR prepared by the IGAD PMU.

Deliverables by consultants set in the IGAD ToR:

- Inception report developed outlining methodology
- Draft National BE Strategy
- Final National BE Strategy
- Comprehensive report of the consultancy developed and approved.

Currently, the national BE strategy for most of the IGAD MSs is on the final stages of preparations to be adopted by governments. In addition to the logistics support the IGAD Project Coordinator, Senior BE Expert

and Knowledge Management Expert are providing professional support to MSs in the preparation of national BE Strategies.

Activity 1.3.2 Organize national workshops to validate the draft national BE Strategy for each MS

When the draft national BE document is completed, the national consultants submit their document to their respective NFPs and IGAD Blue Economy PMU. The documents will be reviewed and evaluated. During this reporting period, IGAD support Ethiopia to validate their national Blue Economy Strategy. In order to make the best use of the BE resources and services, Ethiopia developed a National BE Strategy to set the stage for implementation. This strategy if well implemented will put Ethiopia among the top non-coastal countries with a high BE based economic development. The strategy identified challenges and outlined potential intervention objectives and goals, of which a detailed program of actions should be developed for implementation after adoption of the Strategy. In order to facilitate the realization of Blue Economy potential, the strategy also outlines Blue Economy governance framework, which provides how the blue economy needs to be coordinated nationally for optimal economic, social and ecosystem benefits. Moreover, the strategy will be the road map to develop the Blue Economy of the country and will be a tool to mobilize resources to develop the traditional and emerging sectors of BE.

Through a national workshop held between December 16th -18th 2022 in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia validated and adopted its National BE Strategy with the objective of endorsing the National BE Strategy aligned with IGAD Regional Blue Economy Strategy and the AUC BE Strategy, a Strategy that serves as road map to develop BE sectors for the country. The first two days of the workshop were dedicated for the experts from different sectors to finalize the strategy and prepare a report and a communique. The third day was dedicated for the Ministers to adopt the strategy.

All other IGAD MSs are on the final steps to adopt their national BE strategy and IGAD will facilitate the adoption workshops in the next project implementation period.



Activity 1.3.3 Based on the results of section 1.1.2, organize and facilitate a regional workshop for MSs to present the BE policy and Strategy situation

During the Mogadishu training (*Activity 1.2.3*), the first day was mainly focusing for the MSs to present their national practices on BE policy and governance issues. This information gives insights for national consultants who are recruited to prepare the national BE strategy for each MS. In the second day, the IGAD BE Strategy, AU BE Strategy, COMESA BE Strategy (draft) and EAC BE Strategy (draft) as well as other African countries national BE strategies were presented and discussed. Thus, policy and other enabling conditions to implement the national BE strategy in each MS have been discussed in this regional meeting.

Activity 1.3.4 Technically assist MSs to mobilize resource from various sources to implement their national policies and strategies

As the process of validation of national BE strategies goes on, potential areas on BE investment are identified. The project is supporting Member States by creating platforms for resource mobilization as well as providing technical support in the development of bankable projects. This is a continuous process that the project has committed to work with Member States during the implementation of the validated national BE Strategies. Moreover, one regional workshop will be organized by the project when all MSs finalize the adoption of their national BE strategy.

Output 1.4 Blue Economy Coordination platforms at the regional and national level created

IGAD has interesting lessons to establish a functional IGAD Region Technical Working Group (TWG). The four project beneficiary coastal countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) in the IGAD region will officially delegate one National Focal Person (NFP) to serve as IGAD's BE TWG member. The PMU experts, as well as IGAD's Regional Fisheries Management Expert, will be also a member of the TWG. The regional TWG will be chaired by the Environment and Blue Economy Program Manager of IGAD. The TWG will report to the BE Steering Committee (BESC). The BESC will be composed of IGAD Director of Agriculture, Swedish Embassy, Directors of Blue Economy of MS, one community representative and others based on the recommendations of the SC. The regional TWG will be responsible for providing strategic orientation and unite forces for the implementation of BE initiatives. The regional TWG will meet virtually (maybe monthly) and physically (maybe every quarter). The cost will be covered by the project.

The four coastal states will have their own National Thematic Experts and Champions Committee for Blue Economy initiatives, chaired by the NFP of the selected competent ministry. This is a transition from a one-man-show to a one-stop-shop and it is a reflection that BE is inclusive rather than sectoral. The National Thematic Experts and Champions will serve as a national platform that will operate under the leadership of the representative of the parent Ministry and will deliver expert advice, strategic orientation, oversight and facilitation of the national chapter of the cross-regional activities.

1.4.2 Establish and support gender sensitive BE National Thematic Experts and Champions Committee

The project has established national BE platforms or BE thematic experts committee and is still in the process of strengthening the thematic experts and champions committees at national level, who are to be delegated by their respective institutions. The NFPs, in consultation with the IGAD regional TWG and BE PMU Experts, are involving to facilitate the preparation and endorsement of the national BE strategy. Gender is being considered seriously in the establishment of the national committee in each MS.

Activity 1.4.3 Organize regular and occasional meetings of TWG and PSC

Blue Economy includes various sectors and requires coordination. To guide the coordinated implementation of the BE program in the region at in the Member States, a steering Committee was established. The 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. 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.

The mandate and functions of the PSC:

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.

During the reporting period, IGAD convened the First Steering Committee and PSC meeting in Juba, South Sudan. The meeting was attended by 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. The objectives on the PSC meeting were:

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 by relevant stakeholders
6. Develop recommendations for strategic direction of the project



Activity 1.4.4 Monitor and support the performances of the National Thematic Experts Committee

During the validation of the BE baseline report and other national meetings organized by the project in each IGAD MS, the IGAD Blue Economy PMU team members have made fruitful discussions about how BE can be coordinated nationally. Most importantly, these national thematic experts are currently providing all the necessary inputs about their respective sectors in the preparation of the national BE strategy. These thematic experts are also assumed to be instrumental in the implementation of the IGAD BE Project activities in providing information to consultants in the studies of gender analysis in BE, pollution inventory and marine biodiversity assessment studies in the region.

Output 1.5 Awareness created on the contribution of the BE approach for a healthy ecosystem

African Blue Economy sectors and components generate today a value of approximately USD 296 billion with 49 million jobs. It is estimated that that by 2030, figures will have been increased to USD 405 billion and 57 million jobs respectively, while in 2063 it is estimated that this would be at USD 576 billion of value created and 78 million jobs. The IGAD BE project aims to give youth workers the skills to support young people in becoming actors in conserving the oceans while developing job skills.

Communication activities should start with important awareness-raising work with stakeholders and civil society as a whole. It will help create a favourable context for the implementation of the BE in each country. As a continuation of the awareness-raising activity, efforts are focused on the dissemination of the results obtained and the visibility of the achievements by highlighting the innovative nature of the BE and the collective approach deployed.

Activity 1.5.1 Equip youth workers with the skills and knowledge related to the blue economy and awareness-raising of a common good: the ocean

The BE project has initiated the process of conducting awareness campaigns against environmental pollution. During the implementation period, IGAD started engaging the stakeholders in Djibouti to prepare for a campaign to create mass awareness on the negative consequences of plastic pollution of the marine ecosystem. The campaign in Djibouti is premised on the fact that Djibouti City, the capital city of the Republic of Djibouti, is located on the shore of Red Sea (Gulf of Aden) with a relatively high population of both permanent residents and refugees. This makes the city overpopulation, consequently contribute negatively to general sanitation with the excessive waste problems. Production and import of single-use plastics for water bottling and shopping is alarmingly increasing. Plastic waste accumulation in around the beaches in the city is growing at rapid rates, the need for efficient and sustainable remediation solutions are not in place but urgently needed. One of the most efficient solutions is the development and mobilization of technologies that either prevent plastics from entering waterways or collect marine plastic pollution.

With preparations for the campaigns already underway, the project is planning to undertake the actual events during the first quarter of 2023.

Activity 1.5.2 Conduct awareness raising events for communities on the importance of healthy ecosystems

Just as 1.5.1 above, the awareness raising event in Djibouti that will take place in the first quarter of 2023 will involve the campaign against the dumping of plastics and chemicals along the Djibouti coastlines will be undertaken through the following activities:

- Erection of billboards in strategic locations within the city of Djibouti
- Processions through the city for awareness creation
- Beach cleaning activity
- A talk on the effects of plastics on marine and aquatic biodiversity

Government officials, police band, women groups and University/ college students will be mobilized to participate in the procession and beach cleaning activities. Campaign messages and announcements will be conveyed through a public address system during the processions.

Activity 1.5.3 Develop promotion materials showing the risks our water bodies facing currently

IGAD PMU with the support of this project has prepared fliers and brochures to create awareness about the IGAD regional BE Strategy and interventions. Various other promotion materials such as banners (wall banners and roll-ups), note books, pens, bags etc. we produced to create awareness as well as promote BE in general the project in particular. Moreover, in the last six months the IGAD PMU in collaboration with IGAD Communication Team has collected various photos and videos to prepare promotion materials in the upcoming project implementation period.

Output 1.6 An IGAD Blue Economy Unit efficiently and effectively functioning

Activity 1.6.2 Recruitment of Senior BE/biodiversity Expert

- Full time Senior BE Expert project staff employed since April 2022

Activity 1.6.3 Recruitment of Knowledge Management Expert

- Full time KM Expert project staff employed since September 2022

Activity 1.6.4 Recruitment of Program Assistant for Somalia

- Full time Project Assistant for Somalis staff employed since April 2022

Activity 1.6.5 Recruitment of Project Accountant

- Full time Project Accountant staff employed since March 2022

2.2 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

As already indicated in the previous reports, marine and aquatic ecosystems face multiple pressures including strain on resources, overfishing, pollution (physical, biological, chemical, genetic), erosion of biodiversity resources and bring important knock-on effects on their balance and durability. Besides, the impacts of climate change and increasing aquatic variability complicate management and increase threats to environmental and ecosystem sustainability. IGAD region marine and aquatic ecosystems are not exceptional. Plastic and chemical pollutions (source to sea) are serious challenges in these ecosystems.

During the last six months of implementation, the IGAD BE PMU has taken efforts towards creating awareness on the health aspects of marine and aquatic ecosystems. This is to be achieved by reducing plastic and chemical pollution along the coastline, specifically targeting the 4 coastal member countries of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan.

Output 2.1 Status of biodiversity in the IGAD region reviewed and documented

Activity 2.1.1 Develop ToR to employ short term consultants to make the situation analysis desk review on marine biodiversity

The IGAD PMU is at the advanced states of recruiting consultants (regional and national) to conduct assessment of marine biodiversity in four Coastal Countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan) and identify critical marine and aquatic environmental issues affecting marine and aquatic biodiversity. Upon recruitment, the consultants will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Identify and consult regional economy communities, specialized regional institutions, other relevant stakeholders relevant to environmental and biodiversity management
- Conduct assessment of marine biodiversity and environmental issues and source relevant information, data, existing regional frameworks, literatures and documentations

- Conduct assessment of biodiversity status through desk review
- Identify marine biodiversity hotspots
- Assess the situations of marine protected areas (MPAs) and propose possibilities to designate more MPAs
- Identify sources of threats of marine biodiversity
- Facilitate stakeholders' validation workshop for the reports (synthesis IGAD region report and 4 national reports)
- Develop comprehensive reports at the end of assignment.

Currently, the IGAD Procurement Unit is in the process of contract approval stage to the Lead Consultant and the IGAD PMU planned to conduct the study in the coming two months and validate the study in May/June 2023.

Activity 2.1.2 Facilitate the NFPs to provide the available data on marine biodiversity to the consultants

Immediately after the contract is signed by the Lead Consultant, the IGAD PMU will organize physical or virtual meeting to introduce the Lead/Regional Consultant and National Consultants to the NFPs of the project in the four coastal MSs. The NFPs will also further facilitate to link the consultants to the national thematic experts in each BE related sectors. This inception meeting will help the consultants to collect nationally available information.

Activity 2.1.3 Validate the desk review marine biodiversity report of the IGAD coastal member countries

When the regional Biodiversity assessment synthesis report and the four national reports are ready for validation, the IGAD PMU will organize a regional workshop to validate the reports. It is planned to be in May/June 2023.

Activity 2.1.4 The revised consolidated desk review report will be shared with member states and to other relevant institutions

After the validation of the reports, enough copies will be printed and distributed to all IGAD MSs to create awareness about the marine biodiversity situation in the IGAD region.

Output 2.2 Inventory of pollutants (chemicals and plastics) conducted in 4 coastal countries

Activity 2.2.1 Conduct an inventory (type and quantity) of chemical and plastic pollutants (source to sea) in the 4 IGAD Coastal countries

Similar to Activity 2.1.1 (Marine Biodiversity Assessment), the IGAD PMU is at the advanced stages of recruiting consultants (regional and national) to conduct source-to-sea inventory of pollution (plastic and chemical) in four Coastal Countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan). The overall objective of this consultancy is to conduct assessment of pollutants in four Coastal Countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan).

Major tasks by the consultants include but not limited:

- To liaise with the relevant persons at IGAD for adequate briefing and clarification of tasks.
- Prepare inception report within 5 days of signature to the contract outlining methodology, approach and proposed locations for visit
- To identify and consult regional economy communities, specialized regional institutions, other relevant stakeholders relevant to environmental management

- Conduct assessment of critical pollution issues and source relevant information, data, existing regional frameworks, literatures and documentations on pollution
- Conduct assessment of pollution following the source to sea frame work
- Identify pollution hotspots.
- Facilitate stakeholders' validation workshop for the report
- Develop comprehensive report at the end of assignment.

Currently, the IGAD Procurement Unit is in the process of contract approval stage to the Lead Consultant and the IGAD PMU, similar to the Marine Biodiversity Study, planned to conduct the study in the coming two months and validate the study in May/June 2023.

Activity 2.2.2 Organize validation/consultative workshop(s) on the findings of the inventory will be organized by IGAD and experts from the 4 member countries

Similar to *Activity 2.1.3* above, when the regional source-to-sea pollutant inventory synthesis report and the four national reports are ready for validation, the IGAD PMU will organize **a regional workshop** to validate the reports. It is planned to be in May/June 2023.

Activity 2.2.3 Produce and publish the IGAD marine environment pollutant inventory report will be produced and published and shared with member states

Similar to *Activity 2.1.4*, after the validation of the reports, enough copies will be printed and distributed to all IGAD MSs to create awareness about the plastic and chemical pollution status of the marine environment in the IGAD region.

Output 2.3 Governance and coordination mechanisms to stem plastic and chemical pollution at local and regional levels assessed and updated

Activity 2.3.1 Assess existing legal and institutional frameworks and existing coordination mechanisms for marine environment chemical and plastic pollution control in the IGAD region coastal states

The IGAD BE project has developed ToR for conducting an inventory of pollutants (chemicals and plastics) in 4 coastal countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan). The recruitment process of a consultant is at an advanced stage with the objective of conducting an assessment and inventory of plastic and chemical pollutants from source to sea in four countries. The assessment will also review the existing legal frameworks to address the life cycle of chemicals and waste as well as the relevant enforcement and compliance mechanisms. The consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks:

- To identify and consult regional economy communities, specialized regional institutions, other relevant stakeholders relevant to environmental management
- Conduct assessment of critical pollution issues and source relevant information, data, existing regional frameworks, literatures and documentations on pollution
- Conduct assessment of plastic and chemical pollution following the source to sea frame work
- Identify pollution hotspots.
- Assess policy frame works, capacities/institutions available and gaps in relation to marine pollution management

- Facilitate stakeholders' validation workshop for the reports
- Develop comprehensive IGAD region and national reports at the end of assignment.

Activity 2.3.2 Strengthen existing and set-up appropriate institutional and legal frameworks both at the national and sub-regional level

Parallel to the studies of source-to-sea plastic and chemical pollution, NFPs will assess their respective national institutional and legal frameworks about plastic and chemical waste management. The results will be discussed during the source-to-sea validation study.

Activity 2.3.3. Strengthen coordination arrangement between IGAD Secretariat and national pollution control units

Back-to-back of source-to-sea pollution study validation (*Activity 2.2.2*), by extending for a day, the issue of strengthening coordination arrangements of national waste management units in the IGAD region and the IGAD Blue Economy PMU will be discussed. Suggested feasible interventions will be taken into action by both IGAD PMU and national waste management units. This will be done in May/June 2023.

Activity 2.3.4 Review of water quality standards, resulting in harmonized global standards for marine water

The NFPs in consultation to their Ministry of Water, will develop a short summarized document about the national marine/freshwater water quality standards in comparison to the international standards. This will be discussed during the regional workshop that will be organized to validate source-to-sea pollution inventory. Planned to be achieved in May/June 2023.

Output 2.4 Chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy developed in the IGAD region

Activity 2.4.1 To have a review of the existing national and regional policies, legislation and implementation and enforcement on coastal pollution control

This activity was planned to be addressed during the first year of the project implementation period but the IGAD PMU have identified that this activity is related to activities under *Outputs 2.2 and 2.3*. Thus, this activity is included in the pollution study ToR.

Activity 2.4.2 Develop draft chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy for IGAD coastal member states

The results of pollution studies under outputs 2.2 and 2.3 are going to be the baseline resource documents to develop the regional chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy. Therefore, the IGAD PMU after the validation of the marine pollution studies and biodiversity situation reports will develop ToR to recruit a regional consultant to draft the IGAD regional chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy.

Activity 2.4.3 Validate the draft chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy for IGAD coastal member states

After draft chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy for IGAD coastal member states document is prepared and evaluated, technical meeting will be organized to validate the strategy. It seems that this activity may be pushed to year three of the project period due to time constraint.

Activity 2.4.4 Adopt the chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy by IGAD coastal member states

Once, the draft chemical and plastic coastal pollution control strategy for IGAD coastal member states document is technically validated, the ministers responsible to plastic and chemical waste management will adopt the strategy. Please note that this is a back-to-back activity with Activity 2.4.3.

Output 2.5 Management of Plastic Waste and Mitigating the pollution of public beaches of Djibouti

Activity 2.5.1 Technical service/consultancy for the procurement and training of operation of the recycle machine

The IGAD PMU Team Members alongside Djibouti Blue Economy Sectors representative experts, have conducted a four-day field mission (16 – 19 January 2023) on plastic waste management along all coastal cities of Djibouti. This mission helps to decide on the capacity of the plastic recycling machine to be purchased.



Plastics collected in Obock City of the Republic of Djibouti

The IGAD PMU has prepared ToR to recruit a consultancy firm from the Republic of Djibouti to develop technical specifications for the plastic recycling machine procurement. Currently the IGAD Procurement Unit identified the firm and processing contractual signing.

Activity 2.5.2 Procurement of Small scale plastic recycling machine

Once the specifications are prepared and endorsed by IGAD PMU and the focal ministry of Djibouti (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), the procurement will be posted on the IGAD website and other media.

Activity 2.5.3 Technical service/consultancy for Designing the beach

The SISTA Beach in Djibouti City is selected for intervention to be a model to be scale up. Based on the ToR developed by the IGAD PMU, a consultancy firm is identified to do the design of the beach. The firm is supposed to finalize the design at the end March 2023.

Activity 2.5.4 Improvement/construction of the SISTA public and Landfill Dumping Site

As stated above, once the design is ready the interventions (constructions and improvements) will follow based on the design. This will be started in May/June 2023.

Activity 2.5.5 Supporting women group working at the beach

The IGAD PMU is consulting with the focal ministry of the project, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and other offices related to women affairs. The recruitment of women by the relevant office of the Government of Djibouti will be done and the trainings will follow.

Output 2.6 Regional database/Meta-database on costal pollution established

Activity.2.6.1 Elaboration of a regional data policy framework

The IGAD PMU has made consultations with the IGAD Database Expert to develop ToR to recruit a regional consultant to develop BE data policy framework for the IGAD region pollution database development. The TOR will be posted soon to employ a regional consultant.

Activity.2.6.2 Hold workshop to validate the framework

The IGAD PMU scheduled to make the validation of the draft framework in June 2023.

Activity.2.6.3 Development of a regional web-based coastal pollution data collection system

This activity will be included as a component in Activity 2.6.1 above in the ToR preparations to be considered as one of the deliverables.

2.3 RESULT AREA 3: Blue Economy enhancing technologies and innovations generated, documented and disseminated

As indicated in the previous reporting, the main objective of the result area was to increase capacity for knowledge documentation, dissemination and evaluation of the project impact for further scaling-up. Since BE is a new concept, the available knowledge in Africa and in the IGAD region it is very limited. Thus, it is important to create linkages between institutions within the region and beyond for purposes of sharing experiences in the management of the marine and aquatic water bodies.

Output 3.1 Research and Education institutions in the IGAD region mapped

Activity 3.1.1. Undertake study of best lessons in research and education institutions working in BE in the IGAD region

In the BE national thematic experts team/committee, national research institutions and academia engaged in BE research and educations. These researchers are also very instrumental in the development of national BE strategy for their respective country. They also share global and national experiences in the meetings organized by the project. In the second half of this project implementation year, these researchers will be involved in compiling current issues of research in BE related areas. The IGAD PMU is also

Activity 3,1,2 Validate the study

As explained above in Activity 3.1.1, this validation meeting will be organized when the case studies on the best lessons is finalized.

Activity 3.1.3 Organize training to scale up best lessons/technologies

This activity was planned to be conducted in Year 2 and Year 3 of the project, the PMU is discussing with the NFPs of the project to make it one bigger training.

Output 3.2 Knowledge management, dissemination and sharing strengthened

Although these activities were planned for the second year of implementation, they have been scheduled for implementation during the second half. Different international agencies, regional and national institutions will be engaged. So far, initial contacts for engagements with institutions such as SwAM, UNECA, AU-IBAR, AfDB, etc have been made. We have also created a very concrete link with ECOFISH Programme, a cross-regional initiative in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region, EU-funded programme, managed by EU Delegation Mauritius.

Activity 3.2.1. Establish and validate a web-based database [experts, studies, partners, reports]

Various discussions have been conducted with the IGAD database experts about the establishment of web-based Blue Economy database. IGAD Secretariat has experiences of establishing databases. Once the capacity situation studies in the BE sectors of the IGAD region are compiled, the database establishments will be crafted in consultation with IGAD Database and IT Units by employing a consultant to develop the BE database system. We will also explore other global experiences on the establishment of BE regional database.

Activity 3.2.2 Establish/strengthen KM system on BE at IGAD among MSs

The project KM Expert was employed last September 2022 and now he is actively working to strengthen the KM system on BE related activities in the MSs, particularly in coastal countries of IGAD. He already drafted KM plan for the project activities, presented during the first PSC meeting in Juba, and he is now working on the improvement of KM system in the MSs.

3.2.4. Organizing regional knowledge sharing share-fair

This activity was planned originally for Year 3 but the PMU is working to make it, jointly with AU-IBAR, at the end of Year 2 project period. The region has a wealth of knowledge and experiences in different sectors of BE. However, documentation and dissemination of the region's experiences are limited. Blue Economy is a new concept for Africa where we can learn from other outside the Continent. IGAD, in collaboration with other partners such as AU-IBAR, has initiated a process of planning for a share fair will help in strengthening the IGAD Secretariat's knowledge management unit to ensure it is accessible to all member states and BE stakeholders.

The regional fair share will provide a platform for disseminating best practices. Knowledge management will include products on gender equity and women empowerment. The event, which has been scheduled for the next half of this implementation period, will also enhance knowledge dissemination through the regional dialogue platforms

Output 3.3. North-South knowledge-sharing partnership created

Activity 3.3.1. Conduct and validate training needs assessment

Since BE is a new concept globally thus training on key elements of economic and quantitative tools for economic analyses, as well as practical tools for governance and policy design on BE is very fundamental. The IGAD PMU is discussing with UNECA about the training needs assessment in the region since they have some experience for the Africa region generally. Besides other issues, basic topics in the training will include an introduction to economics, microeconomics, macroeconomics, natural resource economics, quantitative economic analysis, fisheries economics, conservation economics, impact evaluation, ecosystem service valuation, cost-benefit analysis, and application of system thinking in public policy and governance. All of these areas of study will be linked to practical real-world applications for the Blue Economy implementation and development framework in the IGAD region. Consultant recruitment to do the capacity need assessment for trainings will be posted in the second half of year 2 project period.

Activity 3.3.2. Develop Training tool kits.

The BE valuation toolkit developed by UNECA is identified by the IGAD Blue Economy PMU to be an important toolkit and formal discussions with UNECA concerned BE experts already started. During the BE Coordination training organized by the project in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from November 28 – 01 December 2022 (refer Activity 1.1.4 and Activity 1.2.5 above for the details of the training), the IGAD PMU invited UNCA BE Experts to present some highlights about the BE Valuation Toolkit. During the training MS experts of IGAD strongly recommended detailed training about the BE Valuation Toolkit. The IGAD PMU team is now discussing with UNECA Experts to organize the training jointly for the IGAD MS Experts working on BE accounting.