



**AFRICAN PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR FISHERIES,
AQUACULTURE AND AQUATIC SYSTEMS (APRIFAAS)**

RECORD OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13TH - 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2017, ACCRA, GHANA



Introduction:

As part of the annual activities of the African Platform for Regional Institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Systems (APRIFAAS) which was established in 2015 under the auspices of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), the African Union organized the 2nd Annual Session of the platform in Accra Ghana from the 13 to 15th of September, 2015. The Platform is an informal and non-decision-making mechanism established to strengthen institutional coordination and collaboration with respect to fisheries and aquaculture matters in Africa.

The meeting was attended by 13 representatives of the regional institutions comprising of the Regional Economic Committees (RECs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), Inland Water Body Commissions, AU-IBAR and AUC-DREA.

The overall objective of the 2nd Session was to review of progress of since the operationalization of Platform and specifically to Review status of implementation of 2016-18 work plan; Validate of content and launch the APRIFAAS Web platform as well as to develop synergies in ongoing initiatives and work plans of the relevant fisheries institutions in Africa. The meeting was concluded with far-reaching decisions and recommendations in key areas including among others; Development of the annual plan of action for 2017- 2018; Resource mobilization strategies; Enriching the content and validation of the APRIFAAS web platform; Strategies to make platform more vibrant and sustainable to encourage members to attend meetings.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 1.1 On behalf of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Mrs. Josefa Correia Sacko and the Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission, Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, Mr Jonathan Nyarko Ocran welcomed members of APRIFAAS to this meeting. He noted that their presence at this meeting amply demonstrates their commitments to the development and growth of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. He then highlighted the various interventions made by the African Union to develop the fisheries sector in Africa.
- 1.2 Mr. Ocran traced the history of APRIFAAS and noted that the organization of this meeting was to review progress in the implementation of recommendations and decisions made at the First General Assembly and to plan the way forward towards strengthening the roles of African Institutions in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. He further observed that this meeting would also offer the opportunity to learn about planned and on-going activities of members of this platform. Concluding his remarks, he stated that given the caliber of experts present at this meeting, our deliberations would produce results, which when implemented, would increase the outputs from Africa's fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic systems.

- 1.3 Mr. Obinna Anozie delivered a welcome address on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR, Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy. He noted that this gathering was a significant milestone for the actualization of institutional collaboration, coordination and regional cooperation for good governance in fisheries management. He thanked representatives of Regional Economic Communities, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Water Basin Commission and other organizations for attending this meeting and noted that their presence at this meeting is a source of encouragement.
- 1.4 Mr. Anozie stated that AU-IBAR looks forward to a successful meeting with key strategic and actionable outcomes for implementation and follow-up as well as the launching of the e-network of this platform that would pave the way for enhanced information and knowledge sharing. Concluding his remarks, he affirmed AU-IBAR's commitment to support RECs, RFBs and Member States to achieve desirable outcomes in fisheries.
- 1.5 In his opening remarks, the Chair of APRIFAAS, Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe of ECOWAS thanked AU-IBAR and AUC-DREA for their leadership role in improving fisheries and aquaculture governance on the African continent. He then welcomed members to the ECOWAS sub-region and to this meeting. He noted that despite the progress made with the support of technical and financial partners, the governance of fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa still faces weak cooperation. He also added that the sector sometimes experiences lack of collaboration and coordination in the design, development and implementation of actions, projects and programmes in Africa. It was to improve collaboration among regional organizations that APRIFAAS was established in Cotonou, Benin on 24th April, 2015. He stated that APRIFAAS had its first meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 22nd January, 2016 during which a work plan for 2016-2017 was developed.
- 1.6 This second meeting would enable members review progress made since the Dakar meeting on the operationalization of the platform. He informed the meeting that on its part, ECOWAS would continue to support this platform and decisions that would emerge from this meeting for better governance and management of fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa. He then on behalf of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, H.E. Tchambakou Ayassor declared the meeting opened and wished members constructive discussions and a fruitful meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE

- 2.1 Members of APRIFAAS present took turns to introduce themselves.
- 2.2 This Session of the APRIFAAS General Assembly was attended by Thirteen (13) members representing different regional economic communities (RECs), regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), African Union Commission and watercourse authorities (See Appendix 1 for the list of participants).

3. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 3.1 The Second APRIFAAS General Assembly considered and adopted the Agenda with minor amendments. The agenda is shown in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The Sessions were chaired by ECOWAS as the Chair of APRIFAAS and conducted both in English and French as Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe offered prompt interpretation of presentations and discussions during the course of the meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF APRIFAAS HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL ON 22ND JANUARY, 2016

- 4.1 The meeting reviewed the minutes of the First Session of the APRIFAAS General Assembly held in Dakar, Senegal page by page and unanimously adopted them with minor amendments. The Bureau and Secretariate were urged to translate the amended Minutes of the 1st Session and other similar documents of APRIFAAS into French Language and circulate widely to all the members of the platform.

5. PRESENTATION ON THE BACKGROUND TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE APRIFAAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 5.1 In his presentation, Mr. Jonathan Nyarko Ocran remarked that the African continent has several regional fisheries institutions and organizations with mandates from member states for enhancing regional cooperation in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture for their benefits. However, it was observed that there was an overlap of activities and duplication due mainly to lack of information sharing and harmonization of workplans or programmes between these institutions. The First Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) therefore recommended that the African Union should develop and implement a coordination mechanism among RECs and RFBs to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives with regional economic integration agenda. To implement this CAMFA Decision, the AU-IBAR, DREA and NPCA organized a series of Think Tank meetings aimed at ensuring coherence among the various regional institutions for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. Finally, under the aegis of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), APRIFAAS was established.
- 5.2 Mr. Ocran informed the meeting that at the First General Assembly of APRIFAAS, it was recommended that there should be harmonization of workplans and programmes among regional fisheries organizations to enhance synergies and complementary interventions for optimal benefits of member states. Subsequently, AU-IBAR convened a meeting of regional institutions in March, 2016 at which a two year work plan for APRIFAAS was developed. One of the key activities in the work plan that was developed at the First Session was to develop a web platform

for information exchange between APRIFAAS members. He added that AU-IBAR has developed this web platform but its full completion required validation of content by the membership of APRIFAAS. AU-IBAR, in collaboration with AUC-DREA therefore organized this meeting with the prime objective of reviewing progress of operationalization of APRIFAAS.

- 5.3 He concluded the presentation by highlighting the specific objectives of this meeting as follows:-
- i. Review status of implementation of the 2017-2018 work plan.
 - ii. Validation of content of the APRIFAAS web platform
 - iii. Develop synergies in planned and on-going initiatives and work plans.

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON APRIFAAS

6.1 This presentation was given by Mr. Obinna Anozie of AU-IBAR. He traced the history of APRIFAAS to recommendations made at the First CAMFA held in Banjul, The Gambia for the implementation of a coordination mechanism among RECs and RFBs to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives. He then catalogued the various activities undertaken by AU-IBAR and the respective outcomes that were correspondingly achieved such as the validation of the Rules of Procedures of APRIFAAS and the establishment of the Bureau for APRIFAAS as well as the development of the annual plan of action (2016-2017) of APRIFAAS. Mr. Anozie also informed members about the AU-IBAR Planning meeting held in Naivasha, Kenya, which led to the finalization of a comprehensive work plan for 2016 as well as the Expert Consultation on a roadmap for establishing Centers of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

6.2 The meeting was further informed that a coherent African voice on Fisheries and Aquaculture was built at the 32nd session of COFI with support of APRIFAAS members who specifically attended the Session for that purpose. Mr. Anozie also enumerated other activities of AU-IBAR which drew the participation of APRIFAAS as the Fisheries Governance and Fish Trade Project Steering Committee meetings, a workshop on RFMO, the formulation of the African Fisheries Report and the selection of institutions as Africa's Centers of Excellence for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

6.3 During discussion time, it was requested that a mapping of events in fisheries to be carried out by APRIFAAS Secretariat should be developed and shared with members of APRIFAAS on the web platform.

7. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON PLANNED AND ON-GOING ACTIVITIES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INSTITUTIONS OF APRIFAAS

(A) LAKE TANGANYIKA AUTHORITY (LTA)

- 7.1 Mr. Jean-Marie Nibirantije Chief Executive (LTA) gave a presentation on Lake Tanganyika Authority. He stated that Lake Tanganyika is shared by four countries, namely Burundi (8% of the surface area of the lake), DR Congo (45%), Tanzania (41%) and Zambia (6%). A regional programme for the integrated development of the Lake Tanganyika and its basin began in the early 1990s and was supported by UNDP, GEF, FAO, IUCN, and AfDB. As part of the programme, special studies were conducted to understand the natural resource base of the lake including its fisheries resources. These studies led to the development of a Fisheries Management Plan, Trans boundary Diagnostic Analysis, the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan and the draft Convention on the Sustainable management of Lake Tanganyika. He mentioned the threats to the ecosystem of Lake Tanganyika as over-exploitation of its biological resources, use of destructive gear, sedimentation, pollution habitat destruction, climate change and the rise of invasive species. Mr. Nibirantije then catalogued a series of steps undertaken by LTA to address these threats.
- 7.2 Mr. Nibirantije identified challenges being faced as lack of funding to carry out planned activities, lack of infrastructure and uncontrolled fishing. With regards to opportunities, he stated that Lake Tanganyika is of global importance and is also rich in biodiversity, as such partners are now interested in financing its activities. Concluding his presentation, Mr. Nibirantije noted that given the importance of the lake, LTA requires support to manage this great and common treasure.

Discussions

- 7.3 On the issue of a co-funding relationship with its Member States, it was explained that it is used mainly for paying the salaries of staff of LTA, whilst projects are financed by partners.

(B) LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (LVFO)

- 7.4 In his presentation, Mr. Godfrey Monor stated that Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) is an institution of the East African Community (EAC) charged with the responsibility of managing and developing fisheries and aquaculture resources in the sub-region. He then outlined the vision, mission and overall objective of LVFO. Mr. Monor mentioned the key achievements of LVFO as its coordination of the development of a draft fisheries and aquaculture policy for EAC and guidelines for the establishment of cage culture in Lake Victoria and other water bodies with funding from the World Bank/LVEMP II. Other achievements include the development of EAC harmonized fisheries and aquaculture border inspection manual and the conduction of surveys. He also provided information on on-going intervention and priorities for 2017-2018. Concluding his presentation, Mr. Monor catalogued the challenges being faced as the open access regime practiced by artisanal fishermen on Lake Victoria,

decentralization of fisheries management in the partner states and inadequate resource allocation to the sector.

Discussions

- 7.5 In response to a question on open access, Mr. Monor explained that this has been a challenge and the fisher folks are now required to obtain a license as a means of managing the fishing effort. A fishing licensing policy is also being drafted to formalize this process.

(C) SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION (SRFC)

- 7.6 The presentation on SRFC was delivered by Ms. Dienaba Beye Traore, Head of Department, Harmonization of Fisheries Policy and Legislation at SRFC. She informed the meeting that SRFC is an inter-governmental body established in 1985 through a convention. SRFC has its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal and its made up of the following member states:- Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde. Its mission is to harmonize policies of its member states with regard to the conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources in the sub-region and improve cooperation among them.
- 7.7 The main programmes of SRFC include the setting up of national and sub-regional committees to ensure policy coherence in fisheries, harmonization of national legislation on fisheries, the amendment of the SRFC/MCA Convention, fighting against IUU fishing through the establishment of Regional Fisheries MCS, management of shared stocks, strengthening and implementation of strategy for small-scale fisheries, development of research and information capacity (dashboard), development of programmes on intra-regional trade, aquaculture, climate change as well as communication and advocacy.
- 7.8 Mrs. Dienaba Traore highlighted the challenges facing her organization as limited mandate or statute, difficulty in agreeing on harmonized policies among its member states, divergence of interests between donors and SRFC member states, competition among Regional bodies (SRFC, ATLAFCO, UEMOA, ECOWAS, NEPAD, NGOs) and unstable funding situation of SRFC.

Discussions

- 7.9 On the issue of identification of Centres of Excellence for Fisheries, it was explained that at the process will be aligned with the continental level, a criteria for doing so had been developed and the TOR for a consultant to be recruited had been developed.

(D) INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)

7.10 The Fisheries Expert of IGAD, Dr. Eshete Dejen gave a presentation on IGAD's activities. He stated that IGAD is one of the eight RECs recognized by the African Union.

Its member states include Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. He indicated that the priority areas under agriculture are to reduce food insecurity, improve the livestock sector, liberalize agricultural trade, make agricultural production more efficient and sustainably manage fisheries resources in the region. Dr. Dejen informed the meeting that the total fisheries production in the IGAD region is 978,000 tonnes per year valued at US\$1.2 billion. 230,300 tonnes of the fish caught are traded internationally generating US\$566.6 million. The fisheries and aquaculture sector generates direct employment for 557,500 people and indirect employment for 2.5 million people. He noted that the fisheries sector in the IGAD region is mainly small-scale and marine and aquaculture are not well developed.

7.11 Dr. Dejen identified the challenges facing the fisheries sector as over-exploitation of fisheries resources, IUU fishing, post-harvest losses and handling, poor monitoring, control and surveillance systems, high levels of poverty and over-dependence of fisheries among the coastal communities, poor fishing technology used in marine fisheries production and limited adaptive capacity to climate change impacts. He then outlined the objectives of the IGAD Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture strategy and achievements so far chalked. He mentioned on-going activities as (i) assessment of the fisheries resource base and co-management plan for three trans-boundary river basins of IGAD region (ii) developing a training tool box in SME Aquaculture (iii) awareness creation for policy makers on IUU fishing impact on IGAD member states (iv) facilitation of fish trade between Djibouti and Ethiopia (v) assessment of IUU fishing in Somalia waters, among others.

Discussions

7.12. In response to a question on how Dr. Dejen secured the AfDB funding, he explained that the funds were given to IGAD for capacity building. An internal competition was opened for the utilization of this fund and US\$300,000 was allocated for fisheries activities. He also informed the meeting that South Sudan and Somalia are fragile states and efforts are being made to secure funding for them.

(E) LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION (LCBC)

7.13 The presentation on Lake Chad Basin Commission was made by Mr. Seraphin Dedi on behalf of Mr. Na-andi Mamane Tahir, who could not attend the meeting. He stated that the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) was established on 22 May, 1964. Its member states include Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Central African

Republic and Libya. It also has four observer member states, namely Sudan, Congo, DR Congo and Egypt. The mandate of LCBC is to ensure the sustainable and equitable management of Lake Chad and other shared water resources in the basin, preserve its ecosystem and promote integration among its membership as well as preserve peace and cross-border security in the Lake Chad Basin.

- 7.14. LCBC developed a strategic plan which was adopted by the Summit of Heads of States and Government of its Member States in 2008. This plan has six strategic areas of focus. The on-going activities include (i) the development of a management plan for the sustainable use of fisheries resources in Lake Chad and protect the ecosystem (ii) Fish trade in the Lake Chad region (iii) Development of aquaculture and (iv) support the rehabilitation of fingerlings production centre and provide feed and equipment to fish farmers.

(F) COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

- 7.15 Mr. Ali Bouali delivered the presentation on COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO. He informed the meeting that COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO is an intergovernmental organization made up of 22 African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The ATLAFCO convention was adopted in 1991 in Dakar, Senegal and came into effect in July, 1995 at its Third Session in Praia, Cape Verde. The main objectives of ATLAFCO are to promote and strengthen regional cooperation on fisheries management and to coordinate and harmonize the efforts and capacities of its Member States for the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources. Its institutional framework includes the Conference of Ministers, the Bureau and the Executive Secretariat.
- 7.16 The ATLAFCO network includes the Maritime Training Institutions Network (REFMA), the Fisheries Research Institutions Network (RAFISMER) and the African Network of Women in the Fisheries Sector (RAFEP). Its achievements includes the promotion and initiation of regional cooperative actions towards the sustainable development of fisheries and the preservation of resources of the region for the well-being of the population of its Member States. It has also strengthened scientific research through RAFISMER and the ATLAFCO group as well as encouraged the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources. ATLAFCO has also built the capacities of women through training programmes and promoted intra-regional fish trade. Furthermore, it has strengthened Search and Rescue (SAR) system within its Member States and promoted partnerships. In 2015, ATLAFCO concluded MOUs with CPCO, COREP, CSRP, INFOPECHE and REPAO.

Discussions

- 7.17 On the question on whether Japan still supports ATLAFCO, Mr. Bouali replied in the affirmative and further indicated that ATLAFCO has a ten year agreement with Japan.

(G) FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

- 7.18 The presentation on FCWC was given by Mr. Seraphin Dedi. He stated that the Convention for the establishment of FCWC was adopted on 7th November, 2007 in Cotonou, Benin. Its member states are Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The main challenges of the region are that (i) Its fisheries resources are not so productive (ii) intensive fishing activities of foreign vessels (iii) poor management of fisheries stocks (iv) low participation of stakeholders in fisheries management (v) increasing IUU fishing activities and piracy, and (vi) limited human resource capacity and equipment. The organizational framework of FCWC include the Conference of Ministers, Consultative and Coordinating Committee and the General Secretariat. Mr. Dedi outlined the vision, mission and objectives of FCWC as well as the various institutional agreements that it has entered into.
- 7.19 He then talked about the Strategic Plan (2011 - 2020) of FCWC, which has six areas of focus. He highlighted the activities and projects currently being undertaken as (i) Excellence in management at the FCWC Secretariat (ii) Strengthening routine fisheries data collection (iii) Fisheries intelligence and MCS support, and (iv) Improve informal cross border fish trade programme. Mr. Dedi informed the meeting that 76% of the funding of FCWC comes from Partners and the remaining 24% from its member states. He identified the major challenges facing FCWC as an institution as follows;- (i) Needs a strong technical and strategic partner (ii) Absence of permanent financial support from member states and partners (iii) insufficient high level technical personnel at the FCWC Secretariat and (iv) Lack of its own premises (headquarters) to increase its visibility.

Discussions

- 7.20 It was recommended that a format for data collection should be developed and used by all African Regional Institutions on Fisheries and Aquaculture. AU-IBAR with support from partners can develop this format for use by all stakeholders. It was also suggested that the Bureau of Statistics at the national level should be involved in this process. The meeting was also informed that FCWC's inter-regional fish trade is part of the Fish Trade project.

(H) ECOWAS COMMISSION

- 7.21 This was presented by Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe on behalf of the ECOWAS Commission. He stated that about 2.8 million tonnes of fish are produced yearly in the ECOWAS sub-region. Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal together provide 64.2 percent of the total fish production in ECOWAS. 60 percent of the protein

consumption in the ECOWAS region comes from fish. The average fish consumption is 14kg per person per year. The major challenges being faced are (i) no coordination in the fisheries sector, (ii) inadequate capacity or personnel and (iii) lack of data on the fisheries sector. The key policy areas being pursued include (i) support small and medium-sized aquaculture for the creation of jobs for the youth (ii) encourage private investments in the production and processing of fish, and (iii) support the relevant institutions to collect good information and data on the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

- 7.22 Dr. Sidibe mentioned the planned activities of ECOWAS Commission as (i) continue to support regional policy dialogue for the development of the fisheries sector (ii) revise and analyze national policies of member states of ECOWAS (iii) finalize strategic partners and sub-regional bodies (ECOWAS is trying to formalize this collaboration and make them technical arms of ECOWAS for fisheries and aquaculture matters) (iv) Develop policy briefs on fisheries and aquaculture for the ECOWAS region, and (vi) Implement all the recommendations of the regional policy dialogue and also the road map. He observed that reconciling the different expectations from the member states of ECOWAS to create a consensus is a challenge as well as creating the needed policy stability. Also, there is the need to gain the cooperation of all stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in ECOWAS. With regards to opportunities, Dr. Sidibe intimated that they would use the FAO's Code of Conduct, the AU's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and FAO's manual on responsible fishing to do their work. In addition, they would continue to encourage investments for the attainment of food security in the ECOWAS region and continue to implement ECOWAP.

(I) CEBEVIRHA

- 7.23 In his presentation, Mr. Dieudonne Kissiekiaoua stated that CEBEVIRHA is the technical body of the Economic and Monetary Union of Central Africa (CEMAC) responsible for livestock, fisheries and aquaculture. CEMAC was established on 16th MARCH, 1994 in N'Djamena, Chad and became effective on 25th June, 1999. It has six member states, namely Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. He outlined the mission and objectives of CEMAC as well as CEBEVIRHA. He informed the meeting that CEBEVIRHA was created in 1987 following the drought of 1973/74 and the resurgence of animal diseases.
- 7.24 Mr. Kissiekiaoua stated that the demand of fishery products far outstripped what is produced in the region. Fish is therefore imported from Senegal, Mauritania and Morocco into the region. CEBEVIRHA has developed a strategic plan spanning 2015-2025 with the strategic foci to increase the amount of fish put on the market, modernization and development of aquaculture and improved governance of fisheries, aquaculture and other cross-cutting issues. Various programmes have been developed from this plan and are being implemented.

(J) ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION (ZAMCOM)

- 7.25 Mr. Evans Kaseke delivered the presentation on Zambezi Watercourse Commission. He outlined the vision, mission and objectives of ZAMCOM as given in its Strategic Plan. He also mentioned the on-going basin-wide strategic planning process and the outputs expected from this process as well as the foreseen roles in the implementation process. Mr. Kaseke highlighted the achievements to date as (i) development of the Strategic Plan of ZAMCOM (ii) Publication of the IWRM Strategy at a Glance, and (iii) Publication of the Zambezi Environment Outlook (ZEO) in English and Portuguese. He then talked about the Zambezi Water Resources Information System (ZAMWIS), its background, purpose, content and deployment in the riparian states. Furthermore, he also mentioned the institutional development and basin-wide cooperation, stakeholder participation and partnerships as well as Rules of Procedure for sharing and exchanging data and information.

(K) PRIORITY AREAS OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND REFORM STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA (PFRS)

- 7.26 Mr. Obinna Anozie delivered a presentation on the priority areas to fast track the implementation of the PFRS in Africa. For Results 1 : “Improvement of Institutional Capacity and Regulatory Frameworks for sustainable fisheries management”, the priority areas include :- (i) Enhance coordination in the fisheries sector for expeditious development of the sector (ii) Strengthen institutional capacity and systems for effective MCS to combat IUU fishing (iii) Support effective participation of African countries in RFMOs for sustainable high sea fisheries management (iv) Promote coherence and harmonization of fisheries policies and regulatory frameworks (v) Ratification/Adoption/Application of international instruments for sustainable fisheries management (vi) Strengthen capacities for stock assessment, ecosystem-based surveys and fisheries statistical data collection (vii) Enhance capacities for fisheries disease surveillance and control, timely collection, analysis and sharing of accurate sanitary information, and (ix) Strengthen capacities for access to certification systems.
- 7.27 He stated that for Results 2 : “ Enhancement of sustainable fisheries management in small-scale fisheries including inland water bodies”, the priority areas are :- (i) Strengthen policies and development strategies for inland water bodies (ii) Develop fisheries management plans for capture inland water fisheries (iii) Strengthen stakeholder participation and promotion of community-based management of small-scale fisheries (iv) Strengthen capacity for improved management practices, including TURFs, co-managements and establishment of MPAs, and (v) Strengthen capacities for sustainable development of ornamental fisheries.

7.28 Mr. Anozie added that for Results 3 : “Strengthening of Institutional capacity and regulatory framework for aquaculture development”, the priority areas include :- (i) Strengthen and develop regulatory framework for aquaculture development (ii) Strengthen capacities and policy frameworks for environmental monitoring, habitat and ecosystems preservation in aquaculture practices (iii) Strengthening aquaculture network and information sharing (iv) Develop appropriate extension and service delivery strategy for aquaculture.

7.29 For Results 4: “Evidenced Advocacy, Lessons learning and Knowledge management”, the priority area is Strengthen capacity for evidence-based advocacy.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR APRIFAAS FOR 2017- 2018

8.1 Members of APRIFAAS discussed and developed the annual plan for 2017-2018. This plan can be found in Appendix 3.

9. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES FOR APRIFAAS

9.1 The meeting noted that the primary source of funds for APRIFAAS activities is that from the African Union Commission, which needs to be supplemented with funds from other sources. It was suggested that each member of APRIFAAS should include platform coordination in its annual budget for APRIFAAS related activities. A member read the portion of the Rules of Procedure of APRIFAAS, which says that each member of APRIFAAS should fund its activities in the platform from its own budget. However, it was pointed out that if this rule is implemented to the latter, the platform would die prematurely.

9.2 Finally, the meeting recommended that RECs should budget for the participation of APRIFAAS members in their respective sub-regions, whilst the African Union Commission should fund APRIFAAS meetings. Furthermore, AU-IBAR was requested to support the funding of the 3rd General Assembly of APRIFAAS from the FishGov Project.

10. VALIDATION OF THE CONTENT OF THE APRIFAAS WEB PLATFORM

10.1 Mr. Philippe Ouedraogo of AU-IBAR took members of APRIFAAS through the various sections of the APRIFAAS web platform and requested for their relevance or otherwise. The web platform can be found at www.au-ibar.org/aprifaas. He informed the meeting that the web platform is a multi-lingual platform based on the four languages of the African Union. It is also an open platform hosted on the website of AU-IBAR and the only cost incurred is that for the maintenance of the web platform. The meeting recommended that the logo of AUC and the FishGov project should be posted on the web platform and also the languages used should be restricted to English and French. The meeting decided that the web platform

should be populated by information on best practices in fisheries and aquaculture and also useful links should be added to it. Mr. Ouedraogo stated that thematic groups would be created on the web platform and requested for bilingual moderators (English and French) for these groups.

It was unanimously agreed that the thematic groups should synchronize with the five main technical groups of the AFRM Working Group namely: Monitoring Control and Surveillance; Policy, Institution and Governance; Sustainable. Mr. Joseph Mbane and Ms. Hellen Moepi were suggested to be the moderators of the groups with guidance provided by Dr. Mohamed Seisay

According to Mr. Ouedraogo, if he is given the list of members and the thematic areas of the AFRM Working Groups, the web platform would be customized and finalized. Accordingly he was mandated to launch the web platform with the updated list of participants for the First and Second Sessions of APRIFAAS

Aquaculture Development; Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries Development as well as Trade and Marketing Working Group.

10.2 The meeting agreed that the web platform should be finalized and launched by Monday, 2nd October, 2017. Members of APRIFAAS were encouraged to test the web platform after it had been launched.

11. THE VISIT OF DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN VESSEL TO GHANA

11.1 The meeting delegated Mr. Seraphin Dedi of FCWC to represent APRIFAAS at the official welcome ceremony for the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen Vessel to Ghana on Thursday, 14th September, 2017. He briefed the meeting about the visit of this vessel to Ghana, which would be carrying out marine stock assessment in the country's waters.

The significance is that this is second time in two years, the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen, docked in Ghana, for the country to benefit from the Nansen Programme and the participation of the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, who commended the implementation of the projects that have contributed to the improvement of fisheries management through the ecosystem approach

12. FIELD VISIT TO A FISHING COMMUNITY IN GHANA

12.1 Members of APRIFAAS undertook a field visit to the Bortianor Fishing Community in the Ga South District of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana on Friday, 15th September, 2017. Members of APRIFAAS were taken through the tour of the landing site by Ms. Olivia Horvey, the Zonal Fisheries Officer of the Fisheries Commission of Ghana. Members interacted with the fisherfolks and fish traders during the tour. At the site the participants discussed the importance of fisheries data management; clean

environment as well as the relevance and value of fish and fishery product in sustain livelihood in the fishing communities

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

- 13.1 Three issues were discussed under any other business. First, the meeting discussed strategies to make this platform more vibrant and sustainable so that members would be encouraged to attend APRIFAAS meetings. To this end, it was proposed that a communication strategy should be developed to convince authorities of the various institutions under APRIFAAS to underscore the importance of the platform and support staff members to attend APRIFAAS meetings.
- 13.2 Secondly, it was re-emphasized that membership of APRIFAAS should be on an institutional rather than individual basis. As such, if a member is not in the position to attend APRIFAAS meeting for any reason, other staff members should be delegated to represent the institution at APRIFAAS meetings.
- 13.3 Thirdly, it was recommended that an event should be organized with the sole aim of popularizing APRIFAAS and sensitizing African institutions in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic system. It was also agreed that the report of this meeting should be shared with all institutions in the platform together with a strongly worded letter from the APRIFAAS Bureau signed by the Chair of APRIFAAS.

14. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT (3RD) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 14.1 Two proposals were received from COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO and CEBEVIRHA for the hosting of the next (3rd) General Assembly of APRIFAAS. The meeting tentatively selected COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO and fixed the date of the next meeting at late June, 2018. A formal letter to this effect would be sent to ATLAFCO by the APRIFAAS Bureau. The meeting further requested the APRIFAAS Bureau and Secretariat to consult and decide on how the next meeting will be financed.

15. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

- 15.1 Members of APRIFAAS took turns to share their sentiments about the meeting. They thanked AU-IBAR and AUC-DREA for supporting this meeting. They also expressed their appreciation for the opportunity offered them by this meeting to share information on the work being done by their respective institutions. The general consensus reached was that APRIFAAS is an excellent platform for promoting coordination in fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa, as such members were urged to sustain it.
- 15.2 On his part, the chair of APRIFAAS, Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe thanked members for their support and contribution which made the meeting a success. The meeting was adjourned on Friday, 15th September, 2017 at 1:20pm.

APPENDIX 1: MEMBERS OF APRIFAAS PRESENT AT THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NAME	INSTITUTION	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
1. Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe	ECOWAS	Aboubacar.Sidibe@fao.org	
2. Mr. Jean Marie Nibirantije	Lake Tanganyika Authority	jeanmarie.nibirantije@lta- alt.org	+25769017812
3. Mr. Godfrey Monor	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	monorgv@lvfo.org	+25643412500 0

4. Mr. Dieudonne Kissiekiaoua	CEBEVIRHA	kissiekiaouad@yahoo.fr	
5. Dr. Eshete Dejen	IGAD	Eshete.dejen@igad.int/ eshetedejen@gmail.com	+25321354050
6. Mr. Obinna Anozie	AU-IBAR	Obinna.Anozie@au-ibar.org	
7. Mr. Philippe Ouedraogo	AU-IBAR	Philippe.Ouedraogo@au-ibar.org	
8. Mr. Evans Kaseke	Zambezi Watercourse Commission	evans@zambezicommission.org engkaseke@gmail.com	+263772515587
9. Mr. Seraphin Nadie Dedi	CPCU/FCWC	Sdedi.nadie@yahoo.fr	
10. Mr. Ali Nouali	COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO	Bouali1952@gmail.com	
11. Mrs. Dienaba Beye	SRFC	Dienaba_beye@yahoo.fr Dienaba.beye@spcsrp.org	
12. Mr. Jonathan Nyarko Ocran	AUC-DREA	Ocranj@africa-union.org	+251926783585
13. Mr. Charles Adedayo Akinwale	AUC-PBFA	AkinwaleA@africa-union.org	+251938935072

APPENDIX 2: AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF APRIFAAS

WEDNESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 2017

Time	Activity
08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:30	<p><u>Session 1: Opening Session and Scene Setting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by AUC-DREA –Mr. Jonathan Ocran • Speech by AU-IBAR – Mr. Obinna Anozie • Opening Remarks by the Chair of APRIFAAS – Dr. Aboubacar Sidibe
<i>10:30 – 11:00</i>	<i>Group Photo and Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p><u>Session 2: Self-Introduction, Consideration and Adoption of draft Agenda, Minutes and Progress Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of members of the APRIFAAS • Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda • Consideration and Adoption of the Minutes of the First Session of the General Assembly of APRIFAAS held in Dakar, Senegal, January, 2016. • Presentation on the background to this meeting –Mr. Jonathan Ocran • Presentation and Discussion of Progress Report on APRIFAAS- Mr. Obinna Anozie • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of institutions – LTA • Discussions • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of institutions – LVFO. • Discussions • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of institutions – SRFC • Discussions
<i>13:00 – 14:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 17:00	<p><u>Session 3: : Presentations of Activities of Members of APRIFAAS</u></p>
14:30 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of institutions – IGAD. • Discussions • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of institutions – Lake Chad. • Discussions • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of institutions -COMHAFAT/ATLAFAT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions
<i>15:30 – 16:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	<p><u>Session 4</u> : Presentations of Activities of Members of APRIFAAS <i>continued</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of Institutions- FCWC • Discussions • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of Institutions-ZAMCOM • Discussions <p>THURSDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2017</p>
<i>9:00 – 10:30</i>	<u>Session 5</u>: Presentation of Activities of Members of APRIFAAS <i>continued</i>
09:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned and On-going Activities, Challenges and Opportunities of Institutions - CEBEVIRHA • Discussions • Priority Areas of Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa - Mr. Obinna Anozie • Discussions
<i>10:30 – 11:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p><u>Session 6</u>: Development of an Annual Plan of Action for APRIFAAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an Annual Plan of Action for APRIFAAS for 2017-2018 • Update on the development of the APRIFAAS information portal
<i>12:30 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<p><u>Session 7</u>: Validation of the Content of APRIFAAS web platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation of the content of APRIFAAS web platform
<i>15:30 – 16:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>

16:00 – 17:30	<p><u>Session 8: Validation of the content of APRIFAAS web platform Continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation of the content of APRIFAAS web platform Continued
	FRIDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER, 2017
09:30 – 13:00	Field Visit to a Fishing Community in Ghana
13:00 -14:00	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:00	<p><u>Session 9: Closing Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Other Business • Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of APRIFAAS • Closing Remarks – Chair of the APRIFAAS
	End of Programme

APPENDIX 3: THE APRIFAAS PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2017-2018

The Table below outlines the programme of work of APRIFAAS for the 2017 to 2018 financial year.

Output	Activity	Time frame				Budget Estimate (USD)	Responsibility
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
KRA 1: Coordinate and facilitate systematic exchange of information between regional fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic institutions, across the continent							
Calendar of continental events consolidated	Collect a list of regional, continental and international events for consolidation into a common calendar (AU-IBAR to request members of APRIFAAS to submit the relevant information)						AU-IBAR/ APRIFAAS Bureau
APRIFAAS information portal developed	Appointment of two Technical Coordinators for APRIFAAS (Bureau to make a decision and communicate to members of APRIFAAS)						AU-IBAR
	Publish 1 st Issue of APRIFAAS electronic newsletter (January to June, 2018) <i>(Call for submission of articles for the APRIFAAS newsletter (To be submitted by December, 2017))</i>						APRIFAAS Bureau
	Publish 2 nd Issue of APRIFAAS electronic newsletter (July to December, 2018) <i>(Call for submission of articles for the APRIFAAS</i>						APRIFAAS Bureau

	<i>newsletter (To be submitted by May, 2018))</i>						
KRA 2: Coordinate and facilitate the elaboration of harmonized work programme and improve dialogue between stakeholders, across the continent							
APRIFAAS strengthened	Implementation of the recommendations of the 2 nd Session of APRIFAAS General Assembly						AU-IBAR/ APRIFAAS Bureau
	Organize the 3rd Session of APRIFAAS General Assembly						AU-IBAR/AUC-DREA
Regional fisheries and aquaculture work programmes harmonized	Participate and contribute in regional dialogues through RECs with RFBs and other regional stakeholders to identify strategic/priority regional projects (maximum 3) and modalities for their implementation						AU-IBAR/ RECs
Output	Activity	Time frame				Budget Estimate (USD)	Responsibility
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
KRA 3: Strengthen the capacity of the African continent to speak with one voice on fisheries and aquaculture matters in regional, continental and international fora and in dialogue partners							
Continental/regional common positions developed	Contribute to the development of Africa's Common Positions on global fisheries and aquaculture issues, initiatives and programmes						AU-IBAR/ RECs/ RFBs
KRA 4: Monitor and coordinate evaluation and implementation of harmonized work programme							
APRIFAAS Annual Report developed and made available	Conduct a biannual review process of activities						APRIFAAS Bureau

APRIFAAS Members' directory published	Produce and circulate a simplified format outlining the RECs, RFBs, Basin Commissions and Member States and their respective areas of competencies.							AU-IBAR
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---------

