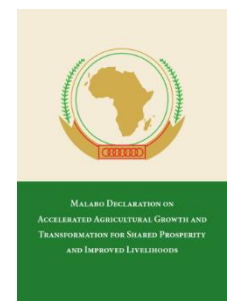
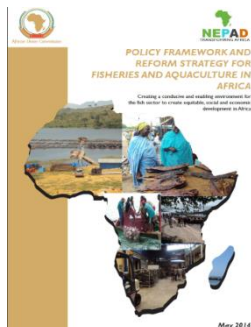




“CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS IN AFRICAN BLUE ECONOMY”

Priority actions to enhance domestication and implementation – to inform the working group discussions

By Nadiope Eric



SOLUTIONS

Need to conduct Assessments to establish opportunities that accrue when a Member State ratifies and implements the Global Instrument, the challenges faced in ratification, domestication and implementation of the respective Instruments.

Proposed solutions to challenges in ratification, adoption and implementation of Regional and International Instruments.

RATIFICATION

- Use of sub-regional, Regional and International peer pressure and from the 'Conference of Parties' for ratification of key Instruments;
- Support for cross-sectoral engagement and coordination at National level in identification and adoption of key Instruments; and,
- Need to support AU-MS to conduct Valuation of the benefits of ratification, domestication and implementation of Global Instruments and establishment of sub-regional and National committees to push/coordinate the ratification of selected key Instruments.

ADOPTION

Need to sensitize and engage MSs to create awareness on benefits of ratifying, adopting and implementing Global Instruments in terms of economic and genetic benefits to the MSs targeting the heads of MDAs responsible to generate the need to ratify, domesticate and implement Global Instruments; and; Support to development of a National Strategy which has cross-sectoral participation and ownership through wide circulation and engagement of all stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Establishment of an African chapter on the Global Instruments especially on the UN binding Instruments in order to facilitate a close monitoring, guidance and implementation as well as resources mobilisation and information sharing;
- Development of action plans so as to translate the National Policies and strategies into actions with measurable targets for the different actors and stakeholders; Development of guidelines for implementation of specific Global Instruments;
- Development of indicators as a basis for monitoring, audit and refocusing objectives of different National and community level plans/programs and actions;
- Fostering good practice in implementation and management of environmental sustainability and aquatic biodiversity Conservation Global and Continental Instruments;
- Preferably the schedule of action should be for every three years as that between COPs is normally short to achieve stated objectives; and,
- Financial mechanisms for specific Convention's implementation should be viewed within a Regional or sub-regional framework that also includes a sharing mechanism.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regional Economic Communities (REC`s) are the highest institutions which converges, conveys and convenes regular meetings for all Heads of States (Presidents) from all African-Union Member States at the Continental level, charged with the responsibilities of proposing reforms of Global, Continental and Regional interest as such the RECs occupy the best position to present the urgent-request in terms of absolute-necessity (reasons) for adopting, ratifying and implementing Global, Continental and Regional Instruments relating to environment sustainability and aquatic biodiversity. REC`s should prepare consistent-elements, present to the Heads of State during official sessions;
- Eutrophication, pollution, and irresponsible fishing resulted in an overall decline of biological resources;



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a Regional plan of action to fight IUU fishing and related activities in the Black Sea due to the lack of common rules shared by Black Sea riparian States, coupled with the joint dimension of the problems posed by IUU fishing, and (2) Elaborate a Regional strategy to regulate small scale fisheries in the Black Sea due to the fact that small scale fisheries account for an important share of the fish caught;
- African Union should propose to Member States the need for the creation of functional Regional Fishery Commissions for the West, Central and Northern African respective Regions to ensure well-coordinated efforts within the environmental and aquatic biodiversity sub-sectors;
- African Union should contract the services of Expert International Consultants on the basis of a short-term consultancy (STC) to build and reinforce the capacities of the Regional Economic Communities and Ministries of Foreign Affairs within the West-Central and Northern Regions of Africa to enable a balanced understanding on the importance and necessity of ratifying, adopting and implementing Global and Continental Instruments relating to environmental sustainability and aquatic biodiversity;

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Many apparent obstacles can be addressed with improved and coordinated training and capacity building (manuals, training workshops, information provision, and electronic data publication) as well as proactive information sharing and management initiatives;
- Arrange for specific studies for each Member State so as to analyze the level and challenges of ratification, adoption and implementation of the different key International Instruments;
- Put in place a Regional or sub-regional unit to link with the depositories of the Instruments or COPs to provide technical guidance and support to Member States in ratification, adoption and implementation of key selected Instruments;
- There is need for National and Regional harmonization of roles of different sectors and Agencies in a manner that promotes collaboration and creation of platforms for support to the ratification, adoption and implementation of the different Instruments;

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Member States should designate specific sector managers and or desk officers responsible for coordinating ratification, adoption and implementation of key selected if not all the Global Instruments or grouping those that are similar and related to aquatic biodiversity conservation, and contacts shared with AU, RECs and depositories of respective Instruments;
- Each AU–Member State should be supported and encouraged to establish a platform for all the desk offices so established to deepen resource mobilization, coordination and implementation of Global Instruments and also establish guidelines for coordination of different MDAs on every respective Global Instrument;
- Put in place an AU framework for support to the ratification, adoption and implementation of aquatic biodiversity conservation and management Instruments, akin to the functioning of Global Environmental Facility of UN but tailor made for Africa with improvements in some of the elements of GEF; and,
- There is need for technical assistance and capacity building for key responsible Agencies and experts in Member States in the ratification, adoption and implementation of International Instruments for aquatic biodiversity.

Thank You



AU-IBAR: Providing leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa