THEORY OF CHANGE

"Enhancing institutional capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities on the conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy"

PROBLEM ANALYSIS

EFFECTS/CONSEQUENCES:
-Livelihoods for aquatic-resource dependent population threatened due to:
-Over exploitation fisheries and other aquatic resources for food, livelihoods and income, leading to:
- Environmental degradation
- Loss of aquatic biodiversity

KEY ISSUE / PROBLEM:
Unsustainable utilization, conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems in AU Member States and RECs

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS (CAUSES):
1. Weak and incoherent policies and regulations for sustainable conservation of biodiversity
2. Weak institutions
3. Limited human and institutional capacities to sustainably conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, including inability to deal with IUU incidences
4. Weak partnerships, coordination, collaboration and stakeholder engagement at national, regional and continental levels
5. Limited development, uptake and use of appropriate technologies

RESPONSE TO PROBLEM

GOAL: To enhance policy, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU member states and regional economic communities to sustainably utilize, conserve and protect aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to Africa Blue Economy Strategy Areas (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity)
2. Optimizing conservation and sustainable biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among users of blue economy resources
3. Strengthening measures for mitigating the negative impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment
4. Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

EXPECTED RESULTS

IMPACT: Sustainable conservation and utilization of aquatic biodiversity and marine environments for food, improved livelihoods and income through enhanced policy, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities

OUTCOMES:
1. Improved ratification and alignment of relevant of relevant policies and regulations to relevant international and / regional instruments related to protection and conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
2. Improved capacities for sustainable management, utilization, protection and conservation of living aquatic resources and related ecosystems
3. Measures for mitigation impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil, gas, deep sea mining and climate change on aquatic biodiversity and environment strengthened
4. Improved participation and engagement of women and youth in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

OUTPUTS:
1.1: Mechanisms for active participation of MSs in regional and global initiatives related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental regimes (ABNJ, CITES, COP meeting relating to CC, BRS, etc.) developed
1.2. Ratification and implementation of conventions & agreements in AU MSs and RECs supported
2.1. Enforceable Regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional MCS systems developed
2.2. A framework for establishing national, regional and transboundary cooperation on Africa Blue Economy Strategy Thematic Areas established
2.3 Capacities for restoring and conserving threatened aquatic biodiversity and environment strengthened
3.1. Measures for minimizing the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and environment strengthened.
3.2. Strategies for an integrated strategic framework for sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining developed.
4.1 Continental strategy for gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity and environmental management developed
4.2 Support regional environmental based-NGOs to implement gender-sensitive work plans for enhancing the role of women and youth in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental governance

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:
AU-IBAR Established continental platforms and networks; Knowledge based institutions on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

STAKEHOLDERS/BENEFICIARIES:
National: MSs; Local Communities, Fisheries and aquaculture biodiversity dependent communities Youth and Women,
Regional: RECs, Specialized Regional Institutions;
Continental: AUC (AU-IBAR), NGOS
Partners: SIDA, other partners implementing related projects (e.g. Norway, EU)

PROJECT COMPONENTS: Activities as outlined in the project document