



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



Sweden
Sverige

Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy

Project Brief:

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) identified environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection as a key strategic goal for healthy ecosystems and sustainable blue economy development. The project is therefore supporting the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

The African Union -InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), is implementing a project on “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy”, for three years (October 2021 – October 2024). The total budget is approximately USD 5.5 million.

This project ‘sets out an agenda for action to “*Enhance institutional capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities on the utilization, conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.*”

Overall Objective

Its overall objective is to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AU Member States (AU MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

Specific Objectives:

The project specifically addresses four strategic objectives aligned to the conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. These include:

1. Ratifying or aligning relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity);
2. Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes

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 the environment;
4. Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management;

Outputs under each specific Objective:

Specific Objective 1: Ratifying or aligning relevant international/regional instruments related to Blue Economy themes (with particular reference on protecting and conserving biodiversity)

Output 1.1: Mechanisms for active participation of AU member states in continental and global initiatives related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental regimes developed

Output 1.2: Ratification and implementation of conventions and agreements related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity from perspectives of ABES thematic areas in AU MSs and RECs supported

Specific Objective 2: Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes

Output 2.1: Enforceable regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems developed

Output 2.2: A framework for establishing national, regional, and transboundary cooperation in the blue economy thematic areas established

Specific Objective 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 the environment

Output 3.1: Measures for minimizing the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and the environment strengthened and implemented.

Output 3.2: Strategies for an integrated strategic framework for sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining developed.

Specific Objective 4: Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management

Output 4.1: Continental strategy for gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity and environmental management developed.

Implementation Mechanisms

The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Project.

Beneficiaries and partners:

55 AU Member States, 8 Regional Economic Communities, Specialized regional institutions in disciplines related to fisheries, aquaculture, aquatic environment, related blue economy sectors, Non-State Actors, Private sector, Civil Society Organizations, including women and youth.

Funding Agency: Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

For more information on the Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy, you can access the Project microsite on: <https://www.au-ibar.org/au-ibar-projects/conserving-aquatic-biodiversity-african-blue-economy>

