

CONSULTANCY REPORT FOR MARINE TOURISM AND MINING ACTIVITIES TOWARDS CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ANGOLA

Luanda, May 2024

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i. Document review and approval

Revision history

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ii. Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Angola for their trust and support in our collaboration. Their dedication to sustainable fishing practices and the preservation of marine biodiversity contributes significantly to the work carried out.

Additionally, we would like to thank the collaboration and availability of the different ministries and public and private bodies that participated in the consultation session.

Furthermore, we thank the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) for their commitment and professionalism in improving the protection of marine resources on the African continent. AU-IBAR's leadership in promoting best practices, policies and capacity building has been a cornerstone in promoting progress and innovation in the field of animal resource management. Their strategic guidance and support enrich the work to be carried out, allowing us to achieve impactful results that have repercussions on the African countries involved.

AU-IBAR's vision for a sustainable and prosperous future for Africa's marine resources continues to inspire and guide our work, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in addressing complex environmental challenges.

1.

1. Background

1.1 The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

With a mandate to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and wildlife as resources for both human well-being and economic development in the Member States of the African Union, the AU-IBAR – a specialized technical office of the Department of **Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE)** of the **African Union Commission (AUC)** – is currently undertaking intervention in the fisheries, aquaculture sector.

Under the guidance of the **African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)** the technical team assigned, shared regional and national guidelines and discussed inputs with the different local stakeholders, from the institutional side, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The **Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)** guides this intervention, which aims at improving governance of the sector for increased sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods, and wealth creation.

Deriving from the framework of the **African Union 2063**, the **Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES)** guides the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, marine ecosystem utilization, management and conservation and carbon sequestration, the growth of Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep-sea mineral and other marine resources.

The common goal defined in this intervention is the implementation of the **aquatic biodiversity conservation** in the context of the **ABES**.

1.2 The implementation of African Blue Economy Strategy (ABES)

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

With support from the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**, the AU-IBAR shapes a three-year implementation project on “*Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems in African Blue Economy*”.

The **overall objective of the Project** is to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacities of AU member states and regional economic communities to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

The **specific objectives** of the project are as follows:

- a) Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity);
- b) Optimizing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes;
- c) 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; and
- d) Strengthening gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

1.3 Background, rationale and purpose for the masterplan

The development of a strategy for sustainable coastal and marine tourism, as well as mining (including oil and gas) activities that promote eco-friendly and climate-resilient economies and empowered communities through the preservation of oceanic biodiversity and environments, was proposed as an important component of the usage of ABES.

To achieve this, a study was conducted to identify priority issues and actions for economic coastal and marine tourism and mining activities that preserve oceanic biodiversity and ensure environmental security.

The study resulted in the development of a framework for sustainable coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration, and mineral mining for AU member states and regional economic communities. Additionally, selected AU member states received support in formulating national master plans and strengthening regulatory systems to ensure environmental sustainability and biodiversity preservation in the development of coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration, and mineral mining.

Angola was chosen to receive support for the development of master plans and strengthening of policies and regulatory systems to facilitate and advance the economic development of coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration, and mining activities in a sustainable manner, promoting the goals of the Blue Economy.

1.4 The national consultancy and its deliverables

A national consultant was enlisted by AU-IBAR, under the provision of the Swedish Aquatic Biodiversity Project, and a consultancy service was procured, among others, to conduct the following assignments:

- i. Review and reinforce national regulatory frameworks for sustainable coastal, and marine tourism and mining (oil, gas, and minerals) activities towards aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management in Angola;
- ii. Bolster the national consultative workshop;
- iii. Create a national masterplan for economical coastal, marine tourism and mining (oil, gas and minerals) exercises in Angola, taking into account a multisectoral consultation process and a methodological alignment with similar work in other countries in Africa – regional references;
- iv. As contained in the terms of reference, the deliverables of the Consultancy include:

- National consultative workshop facilitated;
- Priority issues and actions for sustainable coastal, marine tourism, and mining activities identified;
- Masterplan for sustainable coastal marine tourism, and mining activities (including oil, gas, and mineral exploration) developed for Angola;
- Policy guidelines and regulatory measures developed to strengthen environmental sustainability and aquatic biodiversity conservation in the development of coastal and marine tourism in Angola;
- Policy guidelines and regulatory measures developed to strengthen environmental sustainability and aquatic biodiversity conservation in mining activities, including oil and gas exploration in Angola;
- Implementation mechanisms developed in the masterplan for rolling out the guidelines in Angola; and
- A comprehensive report on the consultancy.

1.5 What is the master plan for biodiversity and environmental conservation

The Republic of Angola requires land use plans, infrastructure plans, and implementation measures, which can be fulfilled by a variety of planning tools, including a specific plan, a comprehensive plan, a community plan, a special planning area, or any combination thereof.

A "Master Plan" is a comprehensive plan that meets the parameters and intent of the specific plan statutes and is essential for managing complex projects. The decision to utilize this planning process acknowledges that such projects require a coordinated and comprehensive approach, including a plan for land use, infrastructure, and implementation measures.

A Master Plan offers several benefits for development in Angola, including:

- i. Providing a clear vision of the future development of Angola, which enables predictability for the public, county government, constituent departments and agencies, and potential developers;
- ii. Offering in-depth information beyond that usually obtained in traditional zoning applications, resulting in a comprehensive foundation upon which land development decisions or entitlements can be made;
- iii. Detailing project phasing and infrastructure and precisely correlating infrastructure with project land use to avoid costly oversizing or detrimental under sizing;
- iv. Encouraging citizen participation in the design process before the public hearing stage, developing understanding, acceptance, and support for the project;
- v. Allowing some flexibility in zoning and development standards, resulting in more responsive and unique developments according to site conditions and adapting to changing market conditions over time;
- vi. Establishing a "master" or "tiered" environmental document, including appropriate mitigation measures, to facilitate the consideration of future development proposals and build flexibility into Specific Plans, allowing a response to changing

market conditions or unforeseeable events consistent with Specific Plan ordinance revision procedures;

- vii. Defining protective measures for environmental resources, ensuring biodiversity and the balance between resource regeneration and exploitation through the carrying capacity concept.
- viii. The master plan takes into account the political, economic, social, and environmental contexts, identifies different sector problems, outlines strategies and actions to address those problems, and creates a portfolio of investment project proposals aimed at preventing, resolving, or alleviating them.

Formulating a master plan requires consideration of two major factors:

- The first group includes external factors that impact the sector's performance, such as the macroeconomic context, public policies, the national or subnational planning cycle, public investment, and the characteristics of the various participants in the investment processes.
- The second group comprises internal factors affecting the sector's operation, such as the relevant political, environmental, economic, and social contexts, the national environmental priorities, the essential functions of the environmental authorities for biodiversity and environmental sustainability, funding and sector expenditure, supply and demand for services, delivery of services, inter-institutional relations, and efficacy, efficiency, and effectiveness in coordinating components of the welfare environmental system.

Both external and internal factors must be taken into account to maximize the effectiveness of the master plan and properly address the needs and opportunities of the sector.

1.6 Methodology and approach to the consultancy

The consultancy was implemented in a participatory manner to ensure quality delivery of expected outcomes of the assignment and engender ownership. Under the guidance of an AU-IBAR team and in line with the given terms of reference, the approach adopted to undertake this consultancy included:

- i. Detailed briefings with relevant personnel at AU-IBAR on the tasks;
- ii. Extensive consideration of the report on the developed framework for sustainable environmental coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration, and mineral mining and references endorsed by the African Union, including the ABES;
- iii. Identification of information repository relevant to the subject within Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- iv. Desk review of relevant national regulatory, policy-related documents from ministries responsible for the environment, the tourism and mining sectors (oil, gas, deep sea, mineral sector), aquatic biodiversity (including fisheries and aquaculture);
- v. Facilitation of a physical national consultative workshop with relevant sectorial stakeholders on the development of national masterplans and strengthening regulatory frameworks for environmentally sustainable coastal and marine tourism; oil and gas exploration and mineral mining;
- vi. Based on the outcomes of the national consultative workshop, priority issues and actions were then identified for the development of a national master plan; and

- vii. As part of the deliverable of the consultancy, regulatory and policy guidelines to strengthen environmental sustainability in the development of coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration (mining), and practices in Angola were developed including a detailed report of the whole consultancy.

A. Starting session: National Consultative Workshop, 9th – 11th May 2024 Luanda, Angola

- AU-IBAR in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, National Directorate of Aquaculture held a national stakeholder **consultative meeting** in Luanda, Angola from 09th – 11th May 2024, to develop a *Master Plan and Strengthen Regulatory Frameworks for Environmental Sustainability and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation in Angola* to Mitigate the Impact of Marine and Coastal Tourism, Oil and Gas Exploration.
- The workshop was in line with the project “*Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy*” implementation activity under Output 3.2. “*Strategies for an integrated strategic framework for sustainable coastal and marine tourism and mining.*”
- The specific objectives include:
 - Create awareness on key issues, impacts of coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration on aquatic biodiversity, and environment including socio-economy impacts;
 - Identify national priority issues and actions for the development of sustainable coastal, marine tourism, oil and gas exploration;
 - Develop a national master plan for environmental sustainability and Aquatic biodiversity conservation minimizing the impacts of coastal, and marine tourism, and oil and gas exploration;
 - In line with the provisions of the national master plan, develop regulatory and policy guidelines for sustainable mining and oil and gas exploration policy and practice in the Republic of Angola.

Participants

- The national consultative workshop was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Urban Planning and Coastal Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Defense and War Veterans, Fisheries Association, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas, Maritime Affairs, Academia – University of Agostino, FAO, Southern African Development Community, AU-IBAR.

Methodology

- The methodology used in the workshop was participatory interaction, breakout group work and plenary. The agenda was adopted to guide the flow of discussions in breakout working group sessions and reporting in plenaries. The working group presented their main discussion points and received feedback for input into their final submissions. A Communique for the workshop (this document) was drafted and presented in a plenary for the participants to review, make input and adopt. The Communique was then shared in soft copy with all the participants.

Part 1. Opening Session – Initial considerations

- Dr. Mohammed Seisay, representing the General Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Huyam Salih, welcomed the participants, expressing the desire that Angola should have a national

blue economy plan, aligned with the African Blue Economy strategy. He stressed that the mission of the African Union is to attract investments for the development of the Blue Economy and, therefore, that the preservation of aquatic resources and biodiversity is fundamental for the development of the National Master Plan to mitigate major impacts on ecosystems. Additionally, he appealed to the Heads of State of the African Union to support the Government of Angola in this task.

- Ms. Katrina Hilundwa, Head of Fisheries and Industry Management at the SADC Secretariat, made a statement on behalf of the Secretariat, expressing her appreciation to AU-IBAR for supporting the Blue Economy initiative in the SADC Region, taking into account the challenges and adverse impacts that the region faces. He highlighted that this is a milestone for the region to leverage its diverse resources through inclusion for sustainable economic and social development, as prioritized in the Regional Instruments, for example, the Indicative Strategic Plan for Regional Development (2020-2030), the Protocol of Fisheries, the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts and the domestication of regional tools and initiatives to address and mitigate impacts and reaffirmed the Secretariat's dedication to supporting Angola and the work of AU-IBAR to ensure the development of the Master Plan.
- Her Excellency, Dr. Carmen Sacramento Neto dos Santos, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, thanked AU-IBAR for choosing the Republic of Angola to host this important event and recalled the tasks already implemented for the success of the Blue Economy in Angola. He highlighted that aquatic food systems will cease to exist if the contribution of ecosystems is not considered, recalling the fundamental role of the blue economy in food security, nutrition and the economic development of countries on the African continent. His Excellency discussed the policies, regulations and strategies already existing in the country regarding the implementation of a sustainable blue economy, and finally, welcomed the idea of developing a Master Plan for Coastal and Marine Tourism, Oil and Gas Exploration and Minerals.

Part 2. Presentation topics:

- Project overview and objectives of the national consultative meeting, presented by Mr. Joel Mokenye, Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist, AU-IBAR.
- African Blue Economy Strategy, presented by Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Representative of the Director of AU-IBAR.
- Study report on coastal and marine tourism and mining activities, presented by Mr. Joel Mokenye, AU-IBAR on behalf of Prof. Adetola Jenyo-Oni, University of Ibadan.
- Overview of existing relevant national instruments and the regulatory framework on the Blue Economy, presented by Dr. Carlos Borges, national consultant.
- Presentation of interventions and contributions on the development/initiative of the Blue Economy in Angola, by group delegates.

Part 3. Issues Raised and Recommendations from the technical session:

- Threats to ecosystem services
 - Economic dependence of oil and gas activities;
 - Economic activities to leverage in mining, transport, fishing, tourism and others;
 - Lack of investments and capacity;

- Governance and implementation (laws and guidelines);
 - Multi/cross-sectoral collaboration, coordination and participation;
 - Mainstreaming of youth and women.
- Key sectoral challenges
 - Environmental impacts;
 - Marine /coastal spatial use conflicts;
 - Overexploitation and IUU¹;
 - Marine pollution (tourism – plastic pollution/emission of GHG);
 - Effluent discharge and other runoff into the ecosystem;
 - Enforcement, monitoring and compliance;
 - Environmental awareness and education;
 - Displacement and loss of biodiversity;
 - Re-investment into society from resource usage.

Part 4. Working Group Sessions

- An outline overview of the National Master Plan, terms of reference for the Working Groups, arrangements and allocation of participants were briefly presented to the participants. Three groups according to the following thematic areas were created: (i) Coastal and Marine Tourism; (ii) Oil and Gas Exploration; and (iii) Minerals. The Working Groups were requested to identify the key issues and challenges posed to their thematic areas, determine priority actions to be undertaken, institutions responsible and policy guidelines to be included in the Master Plan in the context of the Republic of Angola. Additionally, these groups had to list existing legislation (regulations) frameworks to further the development of the Master Plan for the period of the workshop.
- Policy formulation process: i.e. formulation of policy objectives, expected outcomes, identification of existing policy frameworks/mechanisms and legislation should be clarified in the master plan. The groups tried to define priority actions, their challenges in the aquatic biodiversity and environmental and management in the Republic of Angola.

Part 5. Issues raised by the working groups

Coastal and Marine Tourism:

- Infrastructural development;
- Marine/coastal recreational activities;
- Coastal pollution;
- Environmental awareness and information centres;
- Monitoring of tourism activities.

Recommendations:

- a) Strengthen the application of current national policies, laws and legislation and the specific declaration for ecotourism;
- b) Protection of the coastal and marine environment through the application of laws and regulations;

¹ UUI – Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

- c) Peer-to-peer learning and best practices from other partners;
- d) Improve communication and conflicts between resource users and interested parties;
- e) Increase local capacity and community awareness;
- f) Encourage local users and regulate social investment in the local economy;
- g) Promote the polluter pays principle for the use of resources;
- h) Monitor beach activities to reduce impact on aquatic resources.

Oil & gas:

- Drilling platform and equipment;
- Oil and gas exploration and emissions;
- Greenhouse effect;
- Oil spilling;
- Pollution;
- Ballast water and effluent discharge.

Recommendations:

- a) Development of national sector monitoring guidelines;
- b) Technical capacity building to ensure that Angola has resources and skills equipped for implementation;
- c) Implement a strategy in environmental law;
- d) Encourage the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when exploring resources;
- e) Educating the population about monitoring and reducing greenhouse gases;
- f) Share of the oil and gas master plan;
- g) Mobilize resources for investment in technology and innovation to mitigate oil spills and accidents;
- h) Inspection to prevent spills and accidents by strengthening laws and regulations;
- i) Develop guidelines and methodologies on marine/coastal spills and incidents;
- j) Improve the database, the quality of information and increase the participation of communities/locals in data collection, reporting and monitoring (decision-making in petroleum activities);
- k) Strengthen regulations on oil spills and technology in oil operations;
- l) Ratification of effluent release into the system.

Minerals:

- Deforestation and soil erosion;
- Human-induced activities;
- Degradation of ecosystems;
- Displacement of wildlife and aquatic biodiversity.

Recommendations:

- Good management practices for sustainable exploration;
- Increase awareness and capacity building at local and national level;
- Enforce environmental and social safeguards;
- Develop or increase enforcement and compliance;
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) usage;
- Map, monitor and report on best practices and decision making;
- Social investment/CSR.

Part 6. Workshop recommendations

The AU-IBAR consultant made the following recommendations to the groups:

- Angola should review the strategy, the national framework and reinforce the implementation of the framework for environmental sustainability and conservation of aquatic biodiversity;
- Integration of gender and youth in decision-making and awareness-raising activities;
- Allocation of resources and social investment in society/SER;
- Recognize traditional custom in preparing the national master plan;
- Identify sensitive coastal/marine hotspots for biodiversity;
- Encourage multisectoral collaboration between marine/coastal users and building partnerships for cooperation;
- Share best practices and lessons learned with local, national and international partners;
- Invest and capitalize on opportunities (value addition) to support ecosystem sustainability;
- Explore appropriate and conducive models for the local market;
- Develop adaptation and mitigation management plans for marine and coastal tourism, oil and gas exploration.
- Develop a National Master Plan for marine and terrestrial resources and biodiversity in Angola.

Overall conclusion

- It is important to have the inclusion of all relevant/priority sectors included in the development of the national master plan. This will entail wide consultation across the relevant sectors of the Blue Economy.

2. Next Steps

According to the methodology and after this first session, where detailed briefings with relevant personnel at AU-IBAR on the tasks, and a preliminary consideration of the report on the developed framework for sustainable environmental coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration, and mineral mining and references endorsed by the African Union, including the ABES and the preliminary identification of information repository relevant to the subject within Ministries, Departments and Agencies, we conclude the first round of this initiative.

Based on the outcomes of the national consultative workshop, priority issues and actions were then identified for the development of a national master plan, and as part of the deliverable of the consultancy, regulatory and policy guidelines to strengthen environmental sustainability in the development of coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas exploration (mining), and practices in Angola will be shared, including a detailed report of the whole consultancy – see **“Preliminary paper structure for the Policy Guidelines.”**

Workshop Team

