



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



**NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT TO
DOMESTICATE RELEVANT GLOBAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO AQUATIC
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION
AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.**

Minutes of Meeting



24th – 25th MAY 2023

Cairo - Egypt

Agenda of the workshop:

Time	Activity	Facilitator
Day 1: 24 th Wednesday, 2023		
08:00-09:00	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS	AU-IBAR Admin
OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION Moderator: Dr. Patrick Karani, AU-IBAR Environmental Expert		
09:30-10:30	Welcome remarks by Ag. Director AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa	Represented by Hellen Moepi-Guebama, Fisheries Officer, AU-IBAR
	Opening Statement by His Excellency, the Chairman, Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA), the Arab Republic of Egypt	H.E. the Chairman, Prof. Salah Mesalhy Aly, Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA), Arab Republic of Egypt
	Background & Objectives of the meeting and Overview of the project on Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy	Mr. Nadiope Eric, <i>Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Policy, Legal and Institutional Expert</i> , AU-IBAR
	Introduction of participants	
09:30 -10:00	<i>FAMILY PHOTO AND TEA BREAK</i>	AU-IBAR
TECHNICAL SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATION Moderator: Hellen Moepi-Guebama - Fisheries Officer AU-IBAR		
10:00-10:15	Presentation on the African Blue Economy Strategy	Dr. Patrick Karani AU-IBAR Environmental Expert
10:15-10:45	Presentation of the outcomes of the Consultancy report on Global Instruments related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management	Nadiope Eric, Aquatic biodiversity- Policy Legal and Institutional Officer AU-IBAR
10:45-12:30	Presentation on the status of ratification and implementation of Global and Continental and Regional Instruments as well as the gaps that exist in the Policy and Regulatory Frameworks of the Arab Republic of Egypt that needs to be aligned with the Global Instruments.	<i>Fifteen (15) minutes each</i>
	Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency	Representative
	Agriculture research Centre/Wildlife	Prof. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Abdel Wahab Gabr
	Environmental affairs Agency	Dr. Noha Samy Sayed

	Blue Economy Sectors Ministry of Tourism Ministry of petroleum and mineral resources	Prof. Dr. Sameh Bakr Elkafrawy Dr. Osama Mostafa Hassan Dr. Ahmed Abdrabo Mohamed
12:30 -13:00	Discussion	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Presentation on the outcome of review of relevant National Instruments/Regulatory Frameworks and the identified gaps vis a vis relevant Global Instruments by the technical facilitator <i>(based on the identified seven Ministries, Departments and Agencies listed above)</i>	Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali Mohamed <i>(National Consultant)</i>
14:30-15:00	Discussions	All
WORKING GROUP SESSIONS		
Moderators: Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali Mohamed (National Consultant), Mr. Nadiope Eric Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Policy, Legal and Institutional Expert, AU-IBAR		
15:00-15:10	Presentation of the terms of reference for the three working groups:	Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali Mohamed <i>(National Consultant)</i>
15:10-16:00	Working Groups on identification of issues, gaps, challenges and priority actions for harmonizing the National Strategy / Framework with the Global Instruments related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment management in aquatic ecosystems	Working Groups
16:00-16:15	TEA BREAK	ALL
16:15-17:45	Working group session CONTINUED	Working Groups
17:45-18:00	Closure for the day one	

Day 2: 25th Thursday, May, 2023

TECHNICAL SESSION 2 WORKING GROUPS

08:30 - 08:40	RECAP of DAY 1 proceedings	Dr. Patrick Karani AU-IBAR Environmental Expert
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08:40-13:00 (Incl. tea-break)	Working group session CONTINUED	Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali Mohamed (National Consultant)
13:30-14:00	LUNCH	
PLENARY SESSION: Dr Patrick Karani, AU-IBAR		
14:00 – 15:00	Plenary - presentation of identified issues, gaps, challenges and priority Policy actions or measures and objectives for mainstreaming relevant Global Instruments for conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment management into the following sectors:	All/ Group Chairs
15:00-16:00	General Discussions	All Participants
16:00-16:30	Presentation of the Outline for harmonization of sectoral Policies and Regulatory Frameworks to Global Instruments on conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management.	Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali Mohamed (National Consultant)
16:30-16:45	Adoption of Communique	Dr. Patrick Karani AU-IBAR Environmental Expert
CLOSING CEREMONY Mr. Eric Nadiope, AU-IBAR		
16:45-17:00	Vote of thanks Statement by participant representative By representative of AU-IBAR Closing statement by the Chairman, Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA), the Arab Republic of Egypt	

Introduction:

AU-IBAR in collaboration with the Arab Republic of Egypt held a National consultative workshop in Cairo, Egypt. The workshop was held from the 24th to 25th May, 2023 with the objective of supporting the Arab Republic of Egypt to review National Policy and Regulatory Instruments related to Blue Economy Sectors. The workshop also aimed at identifying gaps, priority issues and actions for domesticating and implementation of Global Instruments relevant to conservation of aquatic biodiversity, climate change mitigation and environmental management.

The workshop was organized as part of activities of the project on “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy” being implemented by AU-IBAR with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The project aims to enhance institutional capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Institutions on conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

The main purpose of the workshop is to discuss the report proposed by the national consultant to the addressed authorities and decision makers on the national level for improving and enhancing the national performance for the effectiveness of the laws and regulation instruments.

Workshop agenda:

1. 09:30-10:00 (Opening session)

The workshop started with official opening session moderated by Dr. Patrick Karani, AU-IBAR, and Environmental Expert. **Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama**, Fisheries Officer, AU-IBAR provided welcoming remarks on behalf of Dr. Nick Nwankpa, Director, AU-IBAR. She expressed gratitude and thanks to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the National Workshop in collaboration with AU-IBAR and encouraged participants to utilize the time effectively in deliberating on key issues that will inform the National report and enhance outcomes of the workshop.



Dr. Doaa Hammam, General Manager, International Cooperation, provided opening remarks on behalf of H.E. the Chairman, Prof. Salah Mesalhy Aly, Lake and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA). She emphasized the relevancy and importance of conserving aquatic biodiversity and environmental management as necessity to the growth of blue economy.

2. 10:00-10:30 (Background & Objectives of the meeting and Overview of the project on Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy)

Nadiope Eric, Aquatic biodiversity- Policy Legal and Institutional Officer AU-IBAR provided background information, overview, and objectives of the project on Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy with clarity on purpose for the workshop in Egypt. He presented the workshop Agenda for adoption with flexibility for amendments recognizing apologies from some of the presenters unable to make it to the meeting in time and requested for representatives to be accommodated in the agenda. The participants carried out self-introduction before the family group photo and coffee-tea break.



- **10:00-10:15** (Presentation on the African Blue Economy Strategy)
- **10:15-10:45** (Presentation of the outcomes of the Consultancy report on Global Instruments related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management)
- **10:45-12:30**

✓ **Dr. Abdelrazek Mohamed** representative of fisheries and aquaculture sector; provide a general view on statues of fisheries and the number of active vessels in the Egyptian waters, also he provide an overview on regulations related to fisheries in Egypt specially the law 146/2021. He represent the related articles and its effect.

✓ **Dr. Mohamed Elaraby** representative of fisheries and aquaculture sector focused on Aquaculture management and Development in the Arab Republic of Egypt; he represent the historic line of aquaculture development as well as the case studies and success stories of the aquaculture sector in Egypt.



✓ **Dr. Noha Samy Sayed** from Environmental Affairs Agency presented an overview on the regulations, laws and instruments in Egypt related to protected areas, wild life, Biodiversity conservation and tourism also she represent the projects and the national initiatives.



Dr. Noha also provides an overview on national monitoring programs, ICZM and the international conventions and agreements Egypt ratified.

✓ **Dr. Mohamed Abd Rabbo** representative of Agricultural Research Center- Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research and Wildlife; he provide a broad overview on the wildlife regulations, laws in Egypt also he present an overview on the biodiversity in Egypt.

- ✓ **Dr. Osama Mostafa Hassan** presented the national tourism initiatives related to Ecotourism in Egypt; also, he present the national efforts to execute COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh.
Dr. Osama present instruments used in tourism sector as establishment of green star unit, which certify hotels as ecofriendly certificates.
- ✓ **Eng. Mohamed Sayed**, Energy & Environment Consultant for Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR) and (EGPC) he present the EGPC strategy to fight oil pollution and the capabilities of the prevention of oil pollution accidents centers in Egypt.

3. 14:00 – 14:30 Presentation on the outcome of review of relevant National Instruments/Regulatory Frameworks and the identified gaps vis a vis relevant Global Instruments by the National consultant Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali, presented the outcome of review of relevant National Instruments/Regulatory Frameworks and the identified gaps vis a vis relevant Global Instruments. In the presentation, she highlighted an overview of status of the Instruments, prevailing gaps related to lack of and weak institutions for implementation and reinforcement.



4. Working groups sessions 1st and 2nd days:

The sessions started at **1st day and continued to 2nd day until 13:00**, was moderated by **Ms. Hellen Moepi-Guebema** and the presentation of the terms of reference to guide group discussions were made by **Prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali Mohamed**, National Consultant. She emphasized that the groups discussion will contribute significantly to enriching the National Consultancy Report. She encouraged the groups to deliberate on issues relating to identification of policy gaps, challenges, and priority actions for harmonizing the National Strategy /Framework with the Global Instruments in relation to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management in aquatic ecosystems. She classified the groups into three categories as follows:

1. Lake and Fish Resources Protection, Agriculture, and wildlife;

2. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Maritime transport sector and BE sectors; and,
3. Ministry of Petroleum & mineral resources and Hydrothermal Energy + Blue Economy sectors.



However, the third group on Ministry of Petroleum & mineral resources and Hydrothermal Energy + Blue Economy sectors was submerged into the other two groups due to inadequate number of participants. The terms of reference that guided the group discussions were summarized and presented in a table format shown below.

During open discussions after the technical presentations, several issues were raised as follows:

- Adoption and implementation of international conventions is low because of lack of clarity, lack of financial resources, lack of technical capacity.



- At the national level gaps are observed in implementation process and reinforcement mechanisms that are constrained by institutional and administrative challenges. The absence of fisheries management plans in the previous law is a clear indication of institutional inability to implement required policies. In addition, challenges in data collection, monitoring and surveillance of IUU is an indication of lack of reinforcement.
- The conflicting laws in fisheries and aquaculture posed challenges to implementation and

reinforcement capabilities. However, new laws provide clarity, guidance and directions on fisheries management plans and enforcement.

- The preparation of projects needs to integrate capacity building based on socio-economic studies.
- Some lessons can be drawn from the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) established for each cross-cutting sector in relation to fisheries & aquaculture, climate change, environment, biodiversity, energy, marine tourism, Blue Economy among others.
- There is lack of clarity on what to conserve, how to conserve, when to conserve drawing lessons and practices from the SDGs, and the right of land locked countries to benefit from the Blue Economy that seems to be heavily correlated to marine and coastal resources.



5. 2nd day 14:00 – 14:30

Plenary - presentation of identified issues, gaps, challenges and priority Policy actions or measures and objectives for mainstreaming relevant Global Instruments for conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment management into the previous sectors

represented by the group's chairs. each group made a presentation to emphasize the results of the different challenges and obstacles facing the sector, in approach to the regulation and laws instruments.

- Prof. Azza Elganayny the presenter of the first group which represent the Lake and Fish Resources Protection, Agriculture, and wildlife; present the group results to enhance the report made by the national consultant and to discuss the gaps, challenges and obstacles also to give the suitable solutions and recommendations for these gaps
- Dr. Noha samy the presenter of the second group which represent the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Maritime transport sector and BE sectors; present the group results to enhance



the report made by the national consultant and to discuss the gaps, challenges and obstacles also to give the suitable solutions and recommendations for these gaps

6. 16:00-16:30

Presentation of the Outline for harmonization of sectoral Policies and Regulatory Frameworks to Global Instruments on conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management; presented by the national consultant prof. Elham Mahmoud Ali. The national consultant discus with the groups their results and the ways to enhance and improve the report to its final image.

7. 16:30-16:45

Adoption of Communique;

Communique endorsed and adopted at the workshop on 25th, May, 2023.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EGYPT TO ATTEND CAIRO MEETING ON 24TH -25TH MAY, 2023

	Name	Désignation	Email :	Tel:	Organization
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