



**AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



**Sweden
Sverige**

REPORT

THE 1ST PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR: “CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY”



**22ND – 23RD SEPTEMBER 2022
MOMBASA, KENYA**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONMYS	v
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. PARTICIPANTS	2
3. OPENING REMARKS	2
3.1 <i>Objectives of the Meeting</i>	4
4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS	4
4.1 <i>Technical Session 1: The Project</i>	4
4.2 <i>Session 2</i>	7
5. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING	9
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	9
7. NEXT STEPS	9
8. CLOSING REMARKS	10
ANNEXES	12
<i>Annexes 1: Terms of Reference and Composition of memberships</i>	12
<i>Annex 2: List of Participants</i>	17
<i>Annex 3: Speeches</i>	22
<i>Annex 4: Agenda</i>	30

ACRONMYS

ABES	The Africa Blue Economy Strategy
AFMESI	African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU MS	African Union Member States
AWFISHNET	African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCLME	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community for the West African States
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IGAD	Inter Governmental Authority for Development
IOC-UNESCO	InterGovernmental Oceanographic Commission/ Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IUU	Illegal unreported unregulated fishing
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NGO	Non Government Organizations
NSA	Non State Actors
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa
PRCM	Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTC	Project Technical Committee
REC	Regional Economic Community
RC	Regional Conventions
RFB	Regional Fisheries Body
RSC	Regional Sea Conventions
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEAU	Swedish Emabassy to the African Union
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SCM	Steering Committee Members
SP	Spatial Planning
SRI	Specialised Regional Institutions
SWAM	Swedish Agency for Water and Marine management
ToR	Terms of Reference
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UU	Unreported unregulated Fishing
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WTO	World Trade Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), is a specialized technical office of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR is mandated to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, bees and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union. The Vision of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is an Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace. AU-IBAR's intervention in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is guided by the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) which is aimed at improving governance of the sector for increased sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. Also, within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) envisioned an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's economic growth and institutional transformation.

The ABES was endorsed at the highest political level of the Continent. The Strategy incorporates key critical vectors for promoting blue economic development in Africa, including fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystem conservation; shipping, maritime safety and trade; climate change, environmental sustainability and coastal and marine tourism; sustainable energy and extractive mineral resources; governance, institutions finance, policies and job creation.

AU-IBAR, with support from the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (SIDA), is implementing a project on “**Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy**”, for three year's period. The overall objective of the project is to enhance the policy environment, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AUMS and RECs to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity);
2. Optimize conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes;
3. Strengthen 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,
4. Strengthen gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

Implementation of this project commenced on 15th October, 2021, and it is now one year since its inception. It was important that progress on implementation, sharing and dissemination of information to stakeholders is undertaken, in addition to seeking guidance and views for necessary adjustment to realize effective, efficient, timely and satisfactory implementation. In addition, the project design requires the

establishment of a Policy steering Committee to guide implementation of project activities. Consequently, AU-IBAR organized the 1st meeting of the Project Steering Committee from the 22nd to 23rd September 2022 at Paradise Inn Hotel, Mombasa, Kenya.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 34 participants drawn from 19 institutions comprising of: Four (4) Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Blue Economy and their representatives: from the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire and the Arab Republic of Egypt; Regional Sea Conventions (RSC): Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention. African Large Marine Ecosystem: Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME); Regional Economic Communities (RECs): Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community for the West African States (ECOWAS) and Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD); Specialised Regional institutions: Fisheries Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT); Technical Partner: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); AU Centers of Excellence: the Rhodes University, Non State Actors: African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative (AFMESI), African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA); and the Swedish Embassy to the African Union Commission (SEAU)/SIDA, and the hosts, the AU-IBAR staff members.

3. OPENING REMARKS

Welcoming remarks by Her Excellency, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.

The Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa on behalf of Her Excellency **Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko**, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment welcomed all participants to the PSC. He conveyed compliments from H.E Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and thanked the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting the organisation, and commending the Government of Kenya as a dependable collaborating partner. He wished the participants fruitful deliberations in the PSC meeting on conserving aquatic biodiversity in Africa Blue Economy project.

Statement by the Head of Regional Development Cooperation in Africa at the Swedish Embassy to the African Union

The Head of Regional Development Cooperation in Africa at the Swedish Embassy to the African Union, Ambassador Ulla Andrén delivered a solidarity message. In her message, she echoed the importance of the partnership between SIDA and AU-IBAR for addressing the threats faced by aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity. Finally, she pledged Sweden's commitment to the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems globally.

Opening statement by the Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Blue Economy in Gabon, Hon. Oswald Severin Mayounou

The Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Blue Economy in Gabon, Hon. Oswald Severin Mayounou remarked on the importance of conservation of aquatic biodiversity and underscored Gabon's support for the project. He highlighted Gabon's efforts to promote conservation and protection of aquatic ecosystems in through its Blue Gabon Project.

Opening statement by the Hon. Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt, Prof. Dr. Refaat Mohammed Ali El Gamal

The Hon. Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt, Prof. Dr. Refaat Mohammed Ali El Gamal commended the efforts of the AUC and development partners towards conservation of aquatic biodiversity and indicated Egypt's support for the implementation of the project, bringing to bear, its knowledge and experience in aquaculture management.

Opening statement by the Hon. Representative of the Ministry of Fisheries in Cote D'Ivoire, N'gandi Jean-Serge Kouadio

The Hon. representative of the Ministry of Fisheries in Cote D'Ivoire, N'gandi Jean-Serge Kouadio and Tanoh Tahadjo Firmin remarked on the need for collaboration for effective implementation of the project and prevention of duplication of efforts. He indicated Cote D'Ivoire's capacity in Blue Economy development through the African Development Bank supported Blue Economy project being implemented currently in Cote D'Ivoire.

Official Opening by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Kenya in charge of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Hon. Lawrence Angolo Omuhaka, (CBS).

The Hon. Deputy Minister of Kenya in charge of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Hon. Lawrence Angolo Omuhaka, Chief of the Burning Spear (CBS) in his opening remarks pledged assurance of the Government of the Republic of Kenya towards security and thanked the participants for their prayers as the Country had just come out of a peaceful electioneering. The Minister emphasized the importance of transboundary cooperation as our valued aquatic resources are highly migratory and therefore trans-boundary management can improve on the management. He highlighted the strategic importance of the fisheries sector and its contribution to the economic development regarding food security, nutritional value, and employment. He informed the meeting that Kenya is committed to ensuring that the blue economy sectors are managed sustainably. The meeting was informed that Kenya had ratified the CBD and has already developed CBD strategy for 2019-2030. The hon. Minister officially declared the meeting open.

Objectives of the Meeting

Dr. Alberta Sagoe a Gender Specialist for the project in AU-BAR, introduced and took the participants through the objectives of the meeting. She briefed the meeting on the overall objective of the 1st first PSC meeting which was to review and adopt the draft terms of reference, and formally establish the PSC. She informed the participants that the 1st first Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting sought specifically to achieve the objectives of:

- Reviewing and adopting the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the PSC, Chairperson and the Secretariat;
- Create awareness among PSC members on the project implementation;
- Disseminate information on the status of project information, including progress on implementation of activities and challenges;
- Share information on planned and ongoing activities by relevant partners; and,
- Develop recommendations for strategic direction of the project.

4. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Technical Session 1: The Project

a. **Presentation of the Draft Terms of Reference for the PSC**

Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, AU-IBAR presented the draft terms of reference and composition of memberships of the PSC. She elaborated the terms of reference while highlighting the roles of the PSC, Chairperson, Secretariat, responsibilities of SCM. She presented general aspects of membership, quorum and decision-making, frequency of meetings and funding, agenda, minutes, and decision documents, validity period for comments on documents and confidentiality

Issues raised:

The meeting appreciated and endorsed the terms of reference and formally established the PSC. The endorsement was however subject to the following amendments:

- The Chairperson of the Steering committee shall be the commissioner of ARBE or his/her representatives
- The RECs should be represented by by the Commissioners or his/her representative
- AU-IBAR should be a member of the decision making body as secretariat of the PSC

b. **Presentation of the Theory of Change**

This presentation was made by Mr. Kennedy Oroko, Planning Expert AU-IBAR he presented the theory of change and it was noted that “Enhancing institutional capacity of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities is what informed the decision to undertake this project “**Conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy**”. He stated that this project was aimed at addressing the unsustainable utilization, conservation and protection of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems in AUMS and RECs. This would result into improving the livelihoods for aquatic-resource

dependent population that are threatened due to:

Over exploitation fisheries and other aquatic resources for food, livelihoods and income, leading to environmental degradation and loss of aquatic biodiversity.

He observed that the Goal of this project was to enhance policy, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of AUMS and RECs to sustainably utilize, conserve and protect aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems.

He further indicated that the strategic objectives were to:

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

c. Presentation of the project “Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in the African Blue Economy”

This was delivered by **Dr. Mohamed Seisay**, Senior Fisheries Management officer / Expert of AU-IBAR. He informed the meeting that the project had been delayed due to staff recruitment; that in the meantime short term consultants for aquatic biodiversity specialist, gender expert and a Policy, Legal and Institutional experts were procured to support project implementation; that the project has since commissioned various studies to enhance implementation of its objectives; that consultants have been procured and are now conducting these studies, some of the consultants even presented the progress of their assignments virtually as follows;

- a. Studies on impact of climate change on aquatic biodiversity and mitigation strategies – Mr. Giorgio Brandolini, Climate Change consultant.
- b. Mapping Marine Spatial Planning MSPs in Africa, document lessons, best practices; case studies in West, Central and Northern Africa by – Dr. Joseph Ansong, MSP consultant
- c. Studies to identify priority issues and actions for sustainable Coastal and Marine tourism, oil and gas exploration for aquatic biodiversity conservation and environment protection by – Prof. Adetola Jenyo-Oni, Sustainable coastal and marine tourism consultant
- d. Assessment of transboundary environmental issues affecting biodiversity in selected shared freshwater ecosystems by – Dr. Ruby Asmah, Transboundary aquatic environmental consultant
- e. Review of Marine Protected Areas MPAs, document lessons and best practices – case studies in East and Southern Africa by – Ms. Nathalie Maisonneuve – MPA consultant.
- f. Global instruments related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environment sustainability – case studies in the East and Southern African regions by – Prof. Wilson Waiswa Mwanja, on assessment of Global Instruments related to environmental governance and aquatic biodiversity conservation.

However, Dr. Seisay informed the meeting that there were some delays in finding suitable candidates to undertake consultancies especially on MCS and others hence, causing delays in project execution. The meeting resolved on this issue by directing AU-IBAR to fast-track the process of procuring consultants.

d. Presentation of the Project budget and expenditures

This was delivered by **Ms. Catherine Oduor**, Senior Finance Officer where she noted that first year of project implementation was low on financial uptake due to challenges of delays in recruitment of project staff. She reported that some of the budget lines had not been utilized due to the above challenge. But she noted that this challenge funds utilization will soon be sorted as consultancy services have already been procured and studies are already being conducted.

e. Presentation on the Roles of AU Member States and Regional Institutions in Project implementation

This was presented by **Mrs. Hellen Moepi**, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer. She stated that RECs have mandate for regional integration agenda, enhancing regional cooperation, regional policy coherence and inter/intra regional trade. She acknowledged roles played by various Specialised Regional Institutions SRIs. Areas of collaboration between the project, RECs and SRIs are mainly on transboundary issues and regional integration. AUMS are envisaged to play different roles in the project implementation such as Policy reforms, ratification and implementation of conventions related to conservation of aquatic biodiversity, pilot the recommendations from studies and building capacities on conservation and utilization of aquatic biodiversity, in addition, implement regional strategies for enhancing the role of women and youth in aquatic biodiversity and integrated environmental management amongst others.

The roles of other stakeholders like the environmental based NGOs include; supporting conservation efforts at regional level, these are mainly women groupings (AWFISHNET), Non state actor platforms and experts. She finally recognised the importance of partnership and collaboration.

f. Presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation framework and results of baseline survey

This was presented by **Mr. Admore Chakadenga**, M&E Expert AU-IBAR. He indicated that a baseline survey was commissioned to MS, RECs, RFBs and RCs involved in aquatic biodiversity conservation. He indicated that the response rate was low and the team was using all available avenues to get more responses. A preliminary analysis was done however, due to the too few responses, it was not sufficient to make estimates of key baseline parameters. But, preliminary results indicated that there were opportunities for collaboration and potential areas to work in. It was recommended that the team should continue collecting responses to update the baseline figures.

Recommendation

Once full scale implementation of activities start, the team should carry out regular monitoring to provide feedback on the implementation progress.

g. Presentation on the Communication, visibility and knowledge management

A presentation on the knowledge management and communications portfolio was given by **Mrs. Patricia Mweene Lumba**, Senior Knowledge Management Officer. The scope of the presentation included; an overview of the scope of strategic objectives, communication channels, capacity building and awareness, best practices and lessons learnt, monitoring and evaluation, networking and knowledge management. The presentation focused on the various activities undertaken in the past year. The communication elements during the past year pointed to the development and utilisation of a number of tools to facilitate messaging. These included; a micro-site for the project activities, social media spaces that are being used and utilising various thematic hashtags; video and radio clips from key project activities, such as launch of the project in 2021.

To facilitate knowledge sharing between multi-stakeholders, several tools are being deployed namely; an online community platforms and an online repository that has also been established to capture and transfer research outputs. With the increase in research activities, it is expected that the number of published documents will also increase. When usage statistics were shared, it showed that usage patterns needed to be enhanced among stakeholders as there is higher usage of tools by stakeholders outside Africa. The final part of the presentation dealt with priority activities to strengthen this portfolio. These included; dissemination and awareness of research outputs; capturing key messages through newsletter production; undertaking even communication and campaigns; strengthening knowledge management and use of information tools.

Recommendations:

After the presentation, a recommendation was made to link AU-IBAR website and social media channels to AUC online channels to enhance greater visibility of the programme. The meeting was assured that discussions had begun with AUC towards this effort.

h. Presentation of the recommendations of the project technical committee

The recommendations from the PTC were presented by Dr. Patrick Karani and thereafter, the recommendations were adopted by the PSC. Overall, the PSC expressed satisfaction and commended the progress made so far of project implementation.

4.2 Session 2:

Presentations of the related and ongoing activities by collaborating partners with the aim of strengthening synergies and collaboration.

The presentations were aimed at briefing the PSC on the ongoing activities on the Continent to create and strengthen synergies as well as avoiding duplication.

a. Presentation of the related and ongoing activities by the Abidjan Convention

This was presented by **Dr. Yocoub Issola** - Project Coordinator, Abidjan Convention. He briefed the meeting on the mandate, membership of the organisation. He specifically gave an outline of the ongoing

related activities. In addition, he presented proposals for collaboration between AU-IBAR and the Abidjan Convention

b. Presentation of the related and ongoing activities by the Nairobi Convention

This was presented by **Mr. Bonface Mutisya** - Project Assistant Coordinator, Nairobi Convention. He briefed the meeting on the mandate, membership of the organisation. He specifically gave an outline of the ongoing related activities and informed the meeting on the ongoing collaboration between the Nairobi Convention and the BCC. In addition, he presented proposals for potential collaboration between AU-IBAR and the Nairobi Convention.

c. Presentation of the related and ongoing activities on IGAD Blue Economy Project

This was conducted by **Dr. Eshete Degen** - Project Coordinator (IGAD). He briefed the meeting on the mandate, membership of the organisation. He gave an outline of the ongoing related activities and informed the meeting on the collaboration between IGAD and AU-IBAR. In addition, he acknowledged AU-IBAR for the support that has so far been extended to IGAD Member Countries most especially on the development of the the National Blue Economy Strategies. He highlighted the Member Countries that have received support from AU-IBAR and finally pledged support and collaboration with AU-IBAR on the project of conserving Aquatic biodiversity in the African Blue Economy.

d. Presentation of the related and ongoing activities by WIOMSA

This was presented by **Dr. Arthur Tuda** - Executive secretary, WIOMSA, he briefed the meeting on the mandate, membership of the organisation and ongoing activities related to aquatic biodiversity conservation. He further gave a highlight of the areas where collaboration and synergies can be established.

e. Presentation of the related and ongoing activities by the CCLME project

This was undertaken by **Dr. Aboubakar Sidibe**, Chief Technical Advisor CCLME. He made a virtual presentation where he briefed the meeting on the mandate, membership of the organisation. He gave an outline of the ongoing related activities and informed the meeting on the collaboration between CCLME and AU-IBAR

5. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

- The meeting adopted the terms of reference for the PSC and formally established the PSC and membership composition;
- The PSC adopted the report of the PTC and endorsed the second year workplan activities and budget;
- The PSC members were briefed on the current status of implementation of the project and challenges being encountered;
- The PSC members noted and praised the progress of activities inspite of the challeges
- There was enhanced understanding of the different aspects of the project, including implementation mechanism and sustainability measures;
- The PSC members were informed on the planned and ongoing activities by relevant partners and reviewed potential areas of collaboration with the partners;
- The PSC provided recommendations for the strategic direction of the project implementation..

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy Steering Committee provided the following recommendations:

- Awareness creation should be conducted for the NSA including the private sector to enable a realization of the blue economy objectives, community and private sector participation;
- AU-IBAR should endeavour to collaborate with existing marine clusters in the Continent;
- Provide support for the development of Regional Blue Economy Strategies in areas where they are lacking;
- Enhance communication and visibility of project outputs and knowledge products;
- AU-IBAR to explore mechnisms for placing advertisements on theAUC website for wider dissemination;
- Establish a mechanism for creating partnerships and collaboration with Ministers in Fisheries and Blue Economy sectors in AU MS and Regional Institutions including; RFB, RSC, RECs development and technical partners, NSAs, inclgding CSOs, NGOS. Privare sector, Women and youth groups, reseaech-based organizations, and Centres of Excellence.

7. NEXT STEPS

- The AU-IBAR to initiate a process of collaboration with Partners for next stage in the implmentaion of he project after completion of various studies.
- The second PSC meeting will take place in September, 2023. The venue will be determined and communicated to committee member in advance.
- The comunique for the meeting was adopted
- The draft minutes of the first PSC meeting to be sahred will members for inputs

8. CLOSING REMARKS

The Arab Republic of Egypt

The Hon. Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt, **Prof. Dr. Refaat Mohammed Ali El Gamal**. Thanked AU-IBAR and the Swedish Government through SIDA for the efforts being put in to conserve the aquatic biodiversity and pledged commitment of the Arab Republic of Egypt towards the conservation of aquatic biodiversity.

The Republic of Gabon

The Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Blue Economy in Gabon, **Hon. Oswald Severin Mayounou** thanked both the AU-IBAR and the Swedish Government through SIDA for the efforts being put into conservation of the aquatic biodiversity and pledged commitment of the Republic of Gabon towards the conservation of aquatic biodiversity. H.E. the Minister was extremely happy with the progress that the project has made. He invited SIDA to consider implementation of phase two project.

The Republic of Cote D'Ivoire

Hon. representative of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire representing the Minister for Fisheries **Hon. N'gandi Jean-Serge Kouadio** thanked both the AU-IBAR and the Swedish Government through SIDA for the efforts being put into conserving aquatic biodiversity and pledged commitment of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire.

The Policy Steering Committee (PSC) Chairperson

The Acting Director of AU-IBAR, **Dr. Nick Nwankpa** on behalf of Her Excellency, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment Her Excellence the Commissioner, Hon. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, thanked the PSC and the other participants for honouring the invitation to attend this important meeting.

The Government of the Republic of Kenya

The Hon. Deputy Minister of Kenya in charge of Fisheries and Blue Economy, **Hon. Lawrence Angolo Omuhaka**, (CBS) thanked AU-IBAR for the confidence accorded to the Government of the Republic of Kenya that has for long been exhibited and the close cordial collaboration with the Government. The Hon. Minister stressed the importance of collaboration to address the challenges of transboundary management. H.E. the Hon Minister declared the meeting closed and wished every body journey mercies as they depart.

ANNEXES

Annexes I: Terms of Reference and Composition of memberships

I. BACKGROUND

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (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). AU-IBAR is mandated to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU MS). The Vision of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2018-2023 is an Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace. AU-IBAR's intervention in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is guided by the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) which is aimed at improving governance of the sector for increased sustainable contribution to food security, livelihoods and wealth creation. Also, within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) envisioned an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to Africa's economic growth and institutional transformation.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy is endorsed at the highest political level of the continent. The Strategy incorporates key critical vectors for promoting blue economy development in Africa, including fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystem conservation; shipping, maritime safety and trade; climate change, environmental sustainability and coastal and marine tourism; sustainable energy and extractive mineral resources; governance, institutions finance, policies and job creation.

AU-IBAR, with support from the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (SIDA), is implementing a project on "Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy", for three year's period. 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 (RECs) to sustainably utilize and conserve aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes (with specific reference to protecting and conserving biodiversity);
2. Optimize conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while minimizing conflicts among blue economy sub-themes;
3. Strengthen 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,
4. Strengthen gender inclusivity in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

The AU-IBAR is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Project.

2. ROLE OF PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC)

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is an advisory body and shall guide, oversee and validate the overall policy direction of the Project. This includes adoption of annual work-plans and approval of related implementation reports.

Mandate and Functions

The PSC shall have the mandate of providing strategic and policy guidance to the project's implementation, review past performances, approve annual work plans and recommend the adoption of its budgets. Specifically, the Project Steering Committee will:

- Advise the project management on strategy, taking an overview of the shape, direction and implementation of the project to meet its objectives;
- Review and endorse annual work plans and periodic reports; and,
- Review and advice on the strategic direction of the project to ensure project's activities are in synergy and complementary with other related ongoing initiatives.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Steering Committee Chair is H.E. the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the AUC or his/her representative. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee Chair are as follows:

- Chairs the Steering Committee Meeting;
- Clarifies and summarizes presentations and deliberations during each meeting;
- Reviews the agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Secretariat;
- Clarifies the purpose of each meeting to members and also the agenda items at the beginning of each meeting; and,
- Provides a summary of decisions and tasks at the end of each meeting.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF STEERING COMMITTEE

The PSC Secretariat will be at AU-IBAR. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- Preparation of meeting agenda in consultation with the Chair;
- Preparation of invitation letters and sending invitations to members;
- Ensures that agendas and supporting materials are delivered to members in advance of meetings;
- Preparation of minutes of Steering Committee meeting and circulate to members; and,
- Captures and consolidates recommendations of the meeting.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Individual Steering Committee members shall have the following responsibilities:

- Represent the interests of projects' stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- Take a genuine interest in the project's outcomes and overall success;
- Act on opportunities to communicate positively about the project;
- Check that the project is aligned with the organizational strategy as well as development policies of African Union Member States; and,
- Actively participate in meetings through attendance, discussion, and review of minutes, papers and other Steering Committee documents.

6. GENERAL

6.1 Membership

6.1.1 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will comprise of not less than 12 and not more than 20 decision making members. Membership will reflect the geographical diversity and representation, gender, technical and strategic interests of 'Aquatic Biodiversity Project' and will be jointly nominated by the Implementing Partner(s) of the project.

Members will be designated as following:

6.1.2 Decision making members:

- a. 1 Chairperson (H.E. Commissioner) AUC-DARBE or his/her representative;
- b. 5 Representative AU Member States (Represented by Hon. Ministers of AU MS that are current members of the STC-ARDWE Bureau and in charge of environment or blue economy: Arab Republic of Egypt; Republic of Rwanda; Republic of Gabon; Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; Republic of South Africa);
- c. 1 Representative of the SIDA or Swedish Embassy to the African Union;
- d. 4 Commissioners of the RECs or his/her representative
- e. 1 Representative from Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) or Water Basin Commissions (WBC) or Authorities on rotational basis;
- f. 2 Representatives from UNEP Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) on rotational basis;
- g. 1 Representative from AU Centres of Excellence or other knowledge-based institutions in disciplines related to aquatic biodiversity, environmental or ecosystems or coastal zone management (rotational);
- h. 1 Representative from regional NSAs (e.g. NGO involved in Environmental-based conservation) on rotational basis;
- i. 2 Representatives from private sector; mining sector, coastal and marine tourism, oil and gas industries on rotational basis; and,
- j. 1 Representative of women and youth groups: on rotational basis.

6.1.3. Observers, Non-voting members:

- a. Representatives of other development or technical partners (e.g. World Bank, FAO, UNEP, WWF, CITES);
- b. Representative of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), namely: ICCAT, IOTC, SEAFO, and CCAMLR will be invited on rotational basis; and,
- c. 1 Representative of the The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management SWAM (SwaM)

6.1.4. Co-opted experts

The chair can invite an expert to provide expert opinion on specific subject matters as deemed necessary.

6.2 Quorum and Decision-making

A minimum number of 10 Steering Committee members are required for decision-making purposes. The quorum shall include representatives of the AU MS, RECs, RFBs/WBC/RSC and Private Sector.

6.2.1 Decision-making Process

- a. Decisions will be made by consensus.
- b. Meetings will be conducted in English and French languages.

6.3 Frequency of Meetings and Funding

6.3.1 Meeting Frequency, Convening and Chairing

- a. The Project Steering Committee will meet once a year (physical or virtual as the case may be). The first meeting will be held as soon as practical after the establishment of the Steering Committee.
- b. An extraordinary meeting may be convened as and when need arises.
- c. The date, time and venue for each SC meeting shall be determined during the previous meeting and should be included in the minutes of that meeting, apart from the first meeting for which these details will be communicated in a written invitation by the Secretariat at AU-IBAR.
- d. The payment of honoraria to SC Members is not envisaged. However, direct costs associated with travel and attendance at meetings will be met by the 'Aquatic Biodiversity project'.

6.4 Agenda, Minutes, and Decision documents

The relevant documents will be sent to members seven working days in advance of a Steering Committee meeting. These shall include:

- Agenda for upcoming meeting;
- Minutes of previous meeting;
- A progress report for the project; and,
- Any other documents/information to be considered at the meeting.

6.4.2 Procedures for Agenda and Minutes

- a. The Secretariat (Project Coordination Team at AU-IBAR), in consultation with the Chair and members, shall prepare the agenda for each meeting. It will be circulated to implementing Partner(s) for agreement or amendment prior to distribution. The Draft agenda will be circulated to members of the PSC for their comment and adoption.
- b. The Secretariat for the SC shall draft the minutes of each meeting and circulate to members of the PSC within 14 days after the meeting.
- c. The minutes shall record only deliberations reached against each agenda item, not the detailed discussion, unless so determined by the members during the meeting for specific issues.
- d. The AU-IBAR Aquatic Biodiversity Project Team will act as Secretary of the Steering Committee meetings and will be responsible for keeping records and minutes.

6.4.3 Validity Period for comments on documents

In the event of tasks assigned to the PSC or selected members (such as drafting documents, commenting on reports and documents, or endorsing project outcomes), the deadline for validating the SC deliberations/ contributions will be one month after circulation of the draft. If the deadline expires without the PSC's reaction, the proposal will be considered approved.

6.4.4 Confidentiality

PSC members are expected to treat any reports and other forms of information derived from the 'Aquatic Biodiversity Project' activities with utmost confidentiality.

Annex 2: List of Participants

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Annex 3: Speeches

I. Welcome Remarks by H.E. The Commissioner, Ambassador Yosefa Sacko Delivered by Dr. Nick Nwankpa – Director, AU-IBAR

Hon. Ministers or representatives from Gabon, Cote D'Ivoire, Kenya, and Egypt; The Head of Regional cooperation, Swedish Embassy, Her Excellency Madam Ulla Andren; Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs); Representatives of African Union member states; Representatives of specialized regional institutions; Development partners; Experts; Non-state actors, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to you all.

I have the honour and privilege to welcome you to this First Steering Committee meeting of the Project 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy'. The project is implemented by the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), for which the African Union is profoundly grateful to the Swedish Government. I wish to take this opportunity to underscore and register my appreciation to Madam Ulla Adrien for her singular role and support that culminated in the realization of this Project for implementation by AU-IBAR.

I wish to acknowledge the presence of the Hon. Ministers or their representatives from the AU Member States. Their participation is a clear sign of their commitments to African Union's overall vision of "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena." – as embedded in the continent's strategic framework, Agenda 2063, for the socio-economic transformation of the continent. My gratitude also goes to the representatives of the RECs, Experts, Non-State Actors, women and youth representatives. AU-IBAR has always valued and continues to value your cooperation. Lastly but not the least, I wish to express my profound appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting this African Union organized event and the unrelenting collaboration with AU-IBAR in animal resources development in general.

Hon. Ministers, Ambassador Ulla and all distinguished delegates, our continent is endowed with abundant marine and freshwaters resources which provide abundant opportunities for blue economy development. The current economic value and employment generated by African Blue Economy sectors (including fisheries, shipping, tourism, mining, energy) have been estimated at USD 296 billion with 49 million jobs. Undoubtedly, there is enormous potential to increase these values by several folds. But this potential can only be realized through enhanced capacity for integrated, inclusive and sustainable development of the blue economy sector.

Distinguished delegates would agree with me that the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held at Nairobi in November 2018, was an eye opener to the challenges and opportunities for blue economy growth in the

world, not least in Africa. The Nairobi Conference unraveled and made explicit the complexities involved in promoting sustainable blue economy development and thus created impetus for the concept to be embraced in Africa.

Hon. Ministers, Ambassador Ulla and all distinguished delegates Following the Nairobi Conference, African leaders committed to embarking on the development of blue economy sectors in the respective African Union member states. Consequently, in a bid to guide the member states, I directed my department to develop a framework for African Blue Economy Strategy to be led by AU-IBAR. Accordingly, the African Blue Economy Strategy was developed and endorsed by the African Union Executive Council in February 2020.

I am indeed delighted that the Government of Sweden has taken this giant step to address key issues in African blue economy focusing on conserving aquatic biodiversity. This is by far an important intervention in supporting the implementation of the 'African Blue Economy Strategy'. Given that the African continent is losing a conservative estimate of about \$10 billion USD annually from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, aquatic environmental pollution and habitat degradation leading to ecosystems dysfunction, this support could not have come at a better time. This support is also significant in aligning with the aspirations of the African Union development encapsulated in the AU Agenda 2063.

Hon. Ministers, Ambassador Ulla and all distinguished delegates, the onus lies on us as a continent to utilize the outcome and specific outputs of this project to advance our capacity and improve management of Africa's aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems for benefits of our citizens. I am delighted in the knowledge that the project identified a dedicated result area on strengthening effective engagement of women in the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management. This result is crucial in that women most often face the brunt of biodiversity and environmental destruction. A clear example is the case of the near-collapse of artisanal fisheries in which women play critical role along the value chain vital to their livelihoods. Worth noting is the important role of women in ecosystems restoration; tree planting for restoration of mangroves in coastal areas, as an example, to enhance carbon sequestration and hence climate change mitigation.

Before concluding, I wish again to reiterate my gratitude, on behalf of the African Union, to the Government of Sweden for this timely support in our endeavor for blue economy development in Africa. I also wish to convey the gratitude of the African union to the government of Kenya for hosting AU-IBAR in Mombasa and providing the necessary enabling working environment. I thank the Hon. Ministers or their representatives that are present here today and all other delegates.

I thank you for your attendance and wish you all successful deliberations

God bless us all

2. Speech from the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa

Delivered by H.E. Ulla Andrén, Head, Regional Development Cooperation for Africa

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to take part in this important meeting. I would like to congratulate AU-IBAR for bringing us together to deliberate on the project Conserving aquatic biodiversity in the context of the Africa blue economy strategy. The African continent is adjacent to highly productive marine ecosystems. It is also endowed with inland freshwater resources. Unfortunately, Africa's aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity are exposed to mounting threats.

Sweden recognizes the importance of sustainable management and utilization of these ecosystems including their biodiversity. Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity is of great importance for livelihoods of millions of people in Africa. Therefore, Sweden is happy to have partnered with AU-IBAR on this important topic of Biodiversity in Blue Economy.

A Kenyan proverb says: The water of the river flows without waiting for the thirsty man. At this point in time humanity is at a critical moment, facing the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. And we cannot wait to act! Two important global commitments to reverse the negative trend will be discussed under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biodiversity in November and December this year. Sweden is committed to environmental sustainability at home, in Africa and globally. Sweden's place as the highest per capita contributor to multiple climate change and adaptation finance mechanisms is a testament to this commitment.

In Africa, in addition to a number of projects financed through bilateral windows, Sweden supports regional development cooperation, and the area of Environment, Climate and Natural Resources management constitutes the largest portfolio. Our support with a specific focus on biodiversity include our contributions for the initiatives by AUC/UNECA for Africa's Position on Biodiversity, the AFR100 initiative for which AUDA-NEPAD serves as a Secretariat, the Wetlands International Source to Sea project, the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network (HoAREC), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI) as well as IGAD Blue Economy, to mention few. Despite the complexity and the intensification of the challenges, we all have to keep pushing for sustainable utilization of Africa's aquatic resources in order to abate the devastating consequence for the millions of poor and vulnerable people who depend on them for their survival. I would like to encourage AU-IBAR to strengthen its collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management for the purpose of experience sharing and coordination between the agencies.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Sweden's commitment to work with AU-IBAR, the Regional Economic Communities and their Member States including all stakeholders in the endeavor to bring about a vibrant, equitable and sustainable blue economy sector on the continent. We must have foresight and be innovative in this work. And I would like to end with a Kenyan proverb that I think is very suitable for this meeting: He

who does not look ahead, always remains behind. Let us look ahead so we can ensure that the rich aquatic biodiversity is conserved, also for future generations. I thank you!

3. Speech from the Arab Republic of Egypt

Delivered by Prof. Dr. Refaat Mohammed Ali El Gamal - Director of Central Lab. Of aquaculture (CLAR)

Your Excellency, Ambassador Yosefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment; Your Excellency, Madam Ur. Ila Andrén, Head of Regional Development Cooperation in Africa; Honorable ministers and representatives, Director of AU-IBAR; Distinguished delegates and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of his Excellency Mr. Sayed El Kasseer, Minister of Agriculture and land Reclamation,

Let me thank AU IBAR for organizing this workshop and convey the best wishes from his Excellency the minister to you and his wishes of having a successful and fruitful deliberations.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure all of you that Egypt will provide all what we can to support the development process of the African aquaculture. There are many lessons to be learned from the Egyptian experience in the field of aquaculture development.

The Egyptian aquaculture industry provides a very important source of animal protein for the Egyptian people. Farming of tilapia and other species has now grown to a production of over 1.6 million tons/year. The government of Egypt considers aquaculture a priority food producing sector and also the Egyptian fish farmers are behind a remarkable blue revolution that has seen aquaculture production rises to this unprecedented level, around four times the amount produced a decade ago.

As nearly all the fish is sold locally, this has resulted in the supply rising from around 15 kg to over 20 kg per person per year, a remarkable achievement when per capita fish supplies are declining across the rest of the African continent. Farm raised fish is now the cheapest animal-sourced food and provides a valuable source of protein and micronutrients for Egypt's 100 million people.

The rapid growth of Egyptian aquaculture is based on commitments made in the early 1980s when large areas of land were set aside for development of fish ponds, key personnel were trained in the best educational institutions around the world, the General Authority for Fisheries Resources Development (GAFRD) was established and hatcheries and feed mills were set up. There are now around 120,000 ha of aquaculture ponds.

Despite this bright picture, there are many concerns and challenges out there to assure the sustainability of this successful aquaculture sector including water availability, environmental conditions and climate change, and the risk of diseases.

The ability to develop early warning systems and farmer friendly management packages and establishing capacity to detect disease at the breeding nuclei, multiplication centres, hatcheries and on-farm by smallholder fish farmers.

And building on the knowledge gained from the work done in the first year of the project, we and our research partners will progressively achieve the project objectives towards CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY PROJECT.

I am sure that with this gathering of scholars and specialist, this project outcomes will deliver to the heart of these issues and problems.

I conclude with wishing you a very successful deliberations and tangible and realistic outcomes.

Thank you.

4. Speech from the Republic of Gabon

Delivered by Hon. Oswald Severin Mayounou, Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy

Excellence madame l'Ambassadeur; Monsieur le Directeur de l'UA BIRA; Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des états membres de l'Union Africaine; Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations Internationales; Mesdames et messieurs, chers participants.

Permettez-moi au moment de la clôture de la présente 1^{ère} réunion du comité Directeur du projet pour "la conservation de la biodiversité aquatique dans l'Économie bleue en Afrique," qui se tient à l'issue de la 1^{ère} réunion du comité Technique dudit projet d'exprimer au nom du Gabon notre fierté d'avoir participé aux ateliers et autres travaux dont l'économie des recommandations est faite ce jour. Merci aux organisateurs et aux participants pour la qualité des travaux à en juger les thématiques abordées durant ces travaux.

Comme rappelé à l'entame de la présente rencontre, Le Président de la République Gabonaise, Son Excellence Ali BONGO ONDIMBA accorde une part fondamentale à la préservation des écosystèmes aquatiques du Gabon dans le pilier Gabon vert du Plan Stratégique Gabon Emergent. Le Gabon c'est 20 aires marines protégées et des réserves marines représentant 23% de notre Zone Économique Exclusive, le Gabon c'est l'aménagement des zones communautaires de pêche afin de garantir le cadre d'exploitation de la ressource sécurisée pour la filière pêche artisanale, le Gabon c'est l'usage des dispositifs d'exclusion des tortues, le Gabon c'est un quai dédié à la pêche, le Gabon c'est une usine de transformation du poisson et du thon, le Gabon c'est bientôt un grand centre d'excellence dédié à la surveillance avec des équipements de dernière génération. Tout ceci pour vous dire toute l'importance que mon pays accorde à la préservation de la biodiversité.

Le Gabon note avec intérêt les problématiques prises en compte dans ce projet notamment:

- La lutte contre la pêche INN ;
- Les actions menées pour l'économie bleue équitable ;
- La question du genre à travers le renforcement des capacités des femmes ;

Le Gabon s'accorde avec l'ensemble des pays membres pour dire que les ressources de l'économie bleue étant transfrontalières, nous œuvrons aujourd'hui pour nos générations futures. La mutualisation de nos efforts de préservation et la révision des politiques nationales pour une harmonisation des instruments juridiques reste une étape très importante pour avancer ensemble vers les objectifs fixés.

Aussi, mon pays le Gabon souhaite être retenu par l'UA BIRA parmi les pays choisis pour la mise en œuvre du projet de la biodiversité aquatique dans l'économie bleue. Le Gabon souhaite se faire accompagner dans le cadre de la mise en place de la planification spatiale marine. Après la première année de démarrage du présent projet, nous souhaitons que la deuxième année de son fonctionnement favorise son lancement dans la sous-région d'Afrique centrale. C'est ici le lieu pour nous de lancer un appel aux partenaires internationaux que vous êtes pour nous appuyer à travers une collaboration étroite. Le Gouvernement Gabonais par ma voix, réaffirme ici sa volonté de poursuivre les efforts déjà entrepris par la prise en compte des recommandations formulées dans le compte rendu de la présente rencontre. Cette première réunion sur "la conservation de la biodiversité aquatique dans l'Économie bleue en Afrique," est porteur d'espoir pour notre pays.

Nous sommes convaincus que notre prochaine rencontre permettra d'établir des avancées sur les sujets discutés. Aussi permettez-moi, tout en réitérant mes sincères remerciements et félicitations à la République de Suède pour ces efforts inlassables et son accompagnement incommensurable dans ce projet, de solliciter, au regard de l'importance du projet, une extension de celui-ci ou une deuxième phase afin de permettre à tous les pays membres, dont le Gabon, d'en bénéficier de ces bienfaits.

Le Gabon par ma voie se félicite du travail effectué et remercie le Gouvernement du Pays Frère du Kenya pour l'accueil qui a été réservé à la délégation Gabonaise pour cette rencontre, sans oublier le gouvernement de la Suède et l'UA BIRA qui ne ménagent aucun effort pour mener à bien ce projet.

Veuillez trouver Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, l'expression de nos félicitations pour le travail abattu ici à MOMBASSA.

Je vous remercie.

5. Speech from the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire **Delivered by Dr. N'gandi Jean-Serge Kouadio**

Monsieur le Représentant du Ministre de la Pêche et de l'Economie Bleue du Kenya; Monsieur le Directeur de l'UA-BIRA; Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Communautés Economiques Régionales; Honorables invités; Chers amis de la presse; Mesdames et Messieurs.

Je prends la parole, au nom de Monsieur le Ministre des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la Côte d'Ivoire, Monsieur Sidi Tiémoko TOURE, Président en exercice de la Conférence Ministérielle des Pays Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT), à l'occasion de la cérémonie de clôture de la

première réunion du Comité de Pilotage du projet « conservation de la biodiversité aquatique dans l'économie bleue africaine ».

Le Ministre des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la Côte d'Ivoire, par ma voix, est d'autant plus ravi que ce Projet soit le fruit des efforts actuels visant à renforcer la mise en œuvre harmonisée de la Stratégie africaine de l'économie bleue par les États membres de l'UA (UA MS) et les Communautés économiques régionales (CER).

L'Union africaine (UA) présente l'économie bleue comme la nouvelle frontière de la renaissance africaine et lui accorde une place centrale dans son agenda 2063 qui affirme que « l'économie bleue de l'Afrique sera un contributeur majeur à la transformation continentale et de la croissance, en permettant les progrès des connaissances sur la biotechnologie marine et aquatique ».

C'est d'ailleurs dans cette perspective, que le Bureau Interafricain des Ressources Animales de l'Union africaine (UA-BIRA) avec le soutien de l'Agence suédoise de coopération internationale au développement (SIDA), met en œuvre ce projet de trois ans sur la "Conservation de la biodiversité aquatique dans l'économie bleue africaine" dont l'objectif global est d'améliorer l'environnement politique, les cadres réglementaires et les capacités institutionnelles des États membres de l'UA et des communautés économiques régionales pour utiliser durablement et conserver la biodiversité et les écosystèmes aquatiques.

Honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs. La mise en place d'un comité de pilotage pour fournir une direction stratégique globale et une orientation politique pour une mise en œuvre efficace, y compris l'examen critique des plans de travail annuels et l'avancement de la mise en œuvre des activités et d'autres questions connexes est à saluer. Les principaux objectifs du premier comité de pilotage du projet (PSC) ont été principalement d'examiner le projet de mandat du comité, d'établir officiellement le comité de pilotage du projet, de sensibiliser les membres aux activités du projet et de diffuser des informations sur l'état et les progrès de la mise en œuvre du projet et de mettre en évidence les leçons et les défis.

Je voudrais noter au passage que des initiatives en faveur de l'Economie bleue en Côte d'Ivoire, au sein du Ministère des Ressources Animales et halieutiques, ont permis avec le soutien financier de la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD) et l'appui technique de la représentation de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO) en Côte d'Ivoire, la mise en place du Projet de « Préparation pour le Financement des Activités de l'Economie Bleue en Côte d'Ivoire (PPF Economie Bleue) » depuis le 18 janvier 2022.

L'objectif global du PPF Economie Bleue est de préparer un cadre de réformes et d'investissements (transition vers l'Economie Bleue) pour faire participer d'avantage le potentiel en ressources océaniques, côtières et des eaux intérieures de la Côte d'Ivoire à la transformation de l'économie nationale.

Ce projet devra permettre à terme de :

- Identifier les principaux moteurs de l'EB et élaborer un plan national d'investissement pour sa promotion ;
- Réaliser l'étude de faisabilité détaillée d'un programme prioritaire de promotion de l'EB y compris le renforcement des capacités nationales publiques et privées.

Honorables invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, Permettez-moi au passage de saluer tous les efforts consentis pour l'organisation de cette première réunion du Comité de Pilotage du projet « conservation de la biodiversité aquatique dans l'économie bleue africaine ».

Je ne voudrais pas terminer mon propos sans exprimer, au nom de Monsieur le Ministre des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la Côte d'Ivoire, Monsieur Sidi Tiémoko TOURE, toute ma gratitude au Gouvernement de la République du Kenya, pour son engagement et son soutien constant à notre Institution ainsi qu'à tous les partenaires techniques et financiers de l'UA-BIRA, pour l'appui sans cesse renouveler.

Je demande que toutes les recommandations formulées au cours de ces assises soient intégrées dans les politiques de nos Etats membres.

Vive la coopération régionale en matière de pêche, d'aquaculture et d'économie bleue. Bon retour aux délégations venues d'ailleurs.

Je vous remercie de votre bienveillante attention.

Annex 4: Agenda

Time	Activity	Facilitator
Day One		
09:00--09:30	REGISTRATION	AU-IBAR
OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION		
09:30-10:15	<p>Welcome remarks by Her Excellency, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Statement by Swedish Embassy to the African Union</p> <p>Opening Statements by Hon Ministers or designated representatives</p> <p>Official Opening by Kenyan Government</p> <p>Objectives of the Meeting</p>	<p>H.E. Amb. Yosefa Sacko</p> <p>H.E. Madam Ulla Andrén, Head of Regional Development Cooperation in Africa</p> <p>Hon. Ministers or Representatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egypt 2. Gabon 3. Cote D'Ivoire <p>Hon. Minister in charge of Fisheries and Blue Economy</p> <p>Dr. Alberta Sagoe, Gender Policy and Strategy Expert</p>
10:15-10:30	FAMILY PHOTO AND TEA BREAK	
TECHNICAL SESSION 1: THE PROJECT		
10:30-11:00	Presentation of Draft Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Committee	Ms. Hellen Moepi, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer
11:00-11:30	Presentation of Africa Blue Economy Strategy	Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental expert
11:30-11:45	Theory of Change	Mr. Kennedy Oroko, Planning Officer
11:45-12:15	The Project 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy'	Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Aquatic Ecosystems Management Expert
12:15-12:45	Presentation of progress of implementation of the Project	Dr. Mohamed Seisay, Aquatic ecosystem Management Expert
12:45-13:00	The Budget	Ms. Catherine Oduor, Snr. Finance Officer
13:00-13:30	DISCUSSIONS	
13:30-14:30	LUNCH	
14:30-15:00	Roles of AU member states and regional institutions in Project Implementation	Ms. Hellen Moepi, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer
15:00-15:30	Monitoring and Evaluation framework and Results of Base line survey	Mr. Admore Chakadenga, M&E Expert
15:30-16:00	Communication, Visibility and Knowledge Management	Mrs. Patricia Lumba, Senior Knowledge management expert

Time	Activity	Facilitator
16:00-16:15	Presentation of project second year workplan with Budget	Mr. Kenney Oroko, Planning Officer
16:15-16:45	DISCUSSIONS	
16:45-17:00	TEA-BREAK, MEETING LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND CLOSURE FOR THE DAY	
Day Two		
TECHNICAL SESSION 2: PRESENTATION BY PARTNERS: GENERATING SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION		
09:00-09:15	RECAP of DAY 1 proceedings	Dr. Alberta Sagoe, Gender Policy Expert
09 :15- 09 :30	Abidjan Convention	Dr. Yacoub Issola Coastal Fisheries Initiatives Project Coordinator
09 :30 :09 :45	IGAD Blue Economy Project	Dr. Eshete Degen, Project Coordinator
09:45-10:00	The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	Dr. Arthur Tuda, Executive Secretary -WIOMSA
10:00-10:15	The CCLME Project	Dr. Aboubakar Sidibe, Chief Technical Adviser
10:15-10:30	PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING	Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental expert
10:30-11:00	DISCUSSIONS	
11:00-11:15	TEA BREAK	
11:15-13:00	Development of communique (and recommendations) by the Steering Committee	Mr. Joel Mokenya/Dr. Patrick Karani
13:00-14:00	LUNCH	
14:00-14:30	Presentation of Communique and adoption by the Steering Committee	Dr. Alberta Sagoe, Gender and Policy Expert
14:30-15:00	CLOSING STATEMENTS	Chair by H.E. Commissioner for ARBE
	1. Egypt 2. Gabon 3. Cote D'Ivoire	Hon. Ministers or designated representatives
15:00-15:00	CLOSURE	
	Chairperson's Closing Remarks	H.E. Commissioner for ARBE
	Closure by the Government of Kenya	Hon. Minister in charge of Fisheries and Blue Economy



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