

DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANISMS FOR
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVE ROLE AND
PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN UNION MEMBER
STATES IN REGIONAL, CONTINENTAL, AND
GLOBAL AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION AND ENVIROMENTAL
MANAGEMENT RELATED FORA OR REGIMES
(NORTH, WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA)

SEPTEMBER 2023

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RATIONALE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

- Lack of effective participation in Global/International Fora or regime a major concern
- A need for a common voice from African Union Member States
- Low negotiating capacity
- Low resources

AU-IBAR commissioned a study with support from SIDA and EU & to support AU-MS to effectively participate in global fora and regimes

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

SECTION 1

1. Relevant International fora
2. Methodology in obtaining inputs from 31 AU-MS and Secretariats (North, West, Central Africa)

SECTION 2

1. Level of awareness of selected fora
2. Challenges identified in participating in relevant fora
3. Capacity development needs

SECTION 3

1. Recommendations to enhance effective participation
2. Strategies and Mechanisms for effective participation of AU-MS in relevant international fora
3. Priority actions

UNFCCC and the International Climate Regime

May 1992
Convention Adopted



December 11, 1997
Kyoto Protocol Adopted: the world's first greenhouse gas emissions reduction treaty.



December 2007
Bali – Action Plan



December 2009
Copenhagen – political v legally binding, Copenhagen Accord, GCF.



December 2015
COP 21 - Historical Paris Agreement adopted



SUCCESS STORY

Agreement on the Post State Measures (PSMA)

- ❖ AUDA NEPAD and AU-IBAR collaborated to support African Union Member States in providing inputs into the drafting of the PSMA to ensure the agreement was suitable for African. The head of fisheries at AUDA NEPAD (Dr Sloans Chimatiro) at the time convened a meeting with African Member States in Rome.
- ❖ During the initial discussion, AU MS were discontented with the PSMA as the agreement did not cater for some their needs. However, following several meetings, AU MS agreed on some common positions in the PSMA, resulted in two clauses being added to the Agreement.
- ❖ Currently the PSMA is well understood by AU MS who have or are signing the Agreement because they have contributed to it. Similarly, African Union can support MS to provide contributions to agreements before they are finalized to ensure that such agreements are well understood by AU-MS and they take ownership of the Agreements.



LIST OF FORA: AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of Party (COP) meetings
2. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) COP meetings
3. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals COP meetings
4. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP meetings
5. The World Heritage Committee meetings
6. Meeting of the Parties (MOP) of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
7. ICCAT - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, regular meeting of the Commission
8. Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABJN)
9. Committee on Fisheries (COFI), a subsidiary body of the FAO Council
10. Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) meetings

LIST OF FORA: AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

1. Meeting of State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (SPLOS) covering four conventions and an optional protocol: The convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone (CTS); the Convention on the High Seas (CHS); the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas (CFCLR); the Convention on the Continental Shelf (CCS) and the Protocol of Signature concerning the Compulsory Settlements of Disputes (OPSD)
2. IMO Council, Assembly and Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meetings on various Conventions e.g., International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties; Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter; International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships; International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973) as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78); International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, etc.
3. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Triple COP for the Rotterdam Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, The Rotterdam Convention on Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade such as DDT and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
4. Minamata Convention on Mercury COP meetings
5. IOPC Fund - the 1969 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (1969 Civil Liability Convention) and the 1971 International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution (1971 Fund Convention), regular meeting of governing bodies
6. Sessions of the International Sea Bed Authority
7. Barcelona Convention COP meetings

LIST OF FORA: CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Vienna Convention and the Meeting of Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including Paris Agreement COP meetings
3. UN Convention to Combat Desertification COP meetings

RAMSAR COP

Objectives

1. Work towards the **wise use of all their wetlands**;
2. Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "**Ramsar List**") and ensure their effective management;
3. **Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands**, shared wetland systems and shared species.

Governance

1. **Ordinary meetings of the Conference of Parties** held every three years (last in 2022)
2. COP15 may take place in Zimbabwe in 2025
3. Three standing committee meetings will take place in 2023, 2024 and 2025
4. **The Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Conference Bureau** and other committees and working groups meetings can be held during the same time as the COP meetings were possible

Considerations

1. National Wetland Committees, Inter-ministerial commissions or other coordinating bodies for wetlands issues supervise reviews of national policies
2. Teams comprising legal expertise, planners and economists, technical representation, e.g. hydrologists, biologists, ecologists, private sector and local communities should be part of the process
3. A handbook to guide Parties
: <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-03.pdf>

Incentives

1. Travel support for some participants to COP meetings
2. Research, training and capacity building
3. Transboundary and international collaborations
4. International support, e.g. from birdlife international, IUCN, IWMI, WWT, WWF etc.
5. Funding in collaboration with CBD from GEF

RAMSAR expressed interest to form strategic partnership with AU to enhance participation of AU-MS in COP meetings

ICCAT REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Objectives

1. To maintain tuna populations at levels which permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes and ensure the effective exploitation of these fishes in a manner consistent with the catch
1. The commission does this by **monitoring and researching populations** of nearly thirty fish species & recommending quotas for sustainable utilisation of the species

Governance

1. **ICCAT regular meetings are held every two years and a special meeting in alternate years (the next being in 2023 - Egypt)**
2. Several bodies established including Conservation and Management Compliance Committee to address compliance issues, Permanent Working Groups addressing statistical issues
3. **Standing committee on research and statistic, panels, etc.**
4. Commission's permanent seat is in Spain and several meetings are held in Spain

Considerations

1. Each Party is obligated to contribute annually to the ICCAT budget
2. The Commission **may suspend the voting rights of any Contracting Party whose arrears are greater or equal** to the amount due from the preceding two years
3. All ICCAT members to inspect tuna fishing vessels in their ports and report violations to the Commission
4. **States that send delegations of 4-6 representatives of their own accord cannot access funding from the Secretariat.**

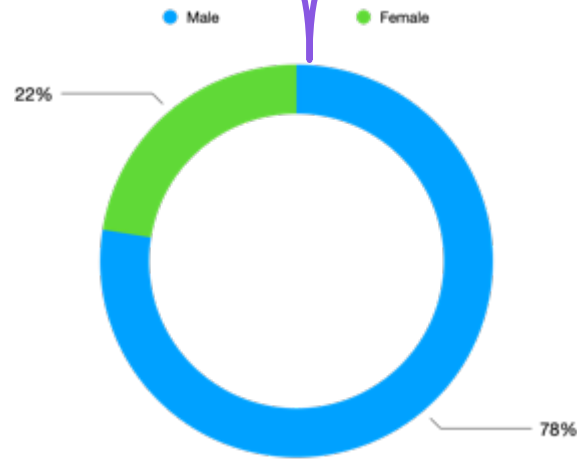
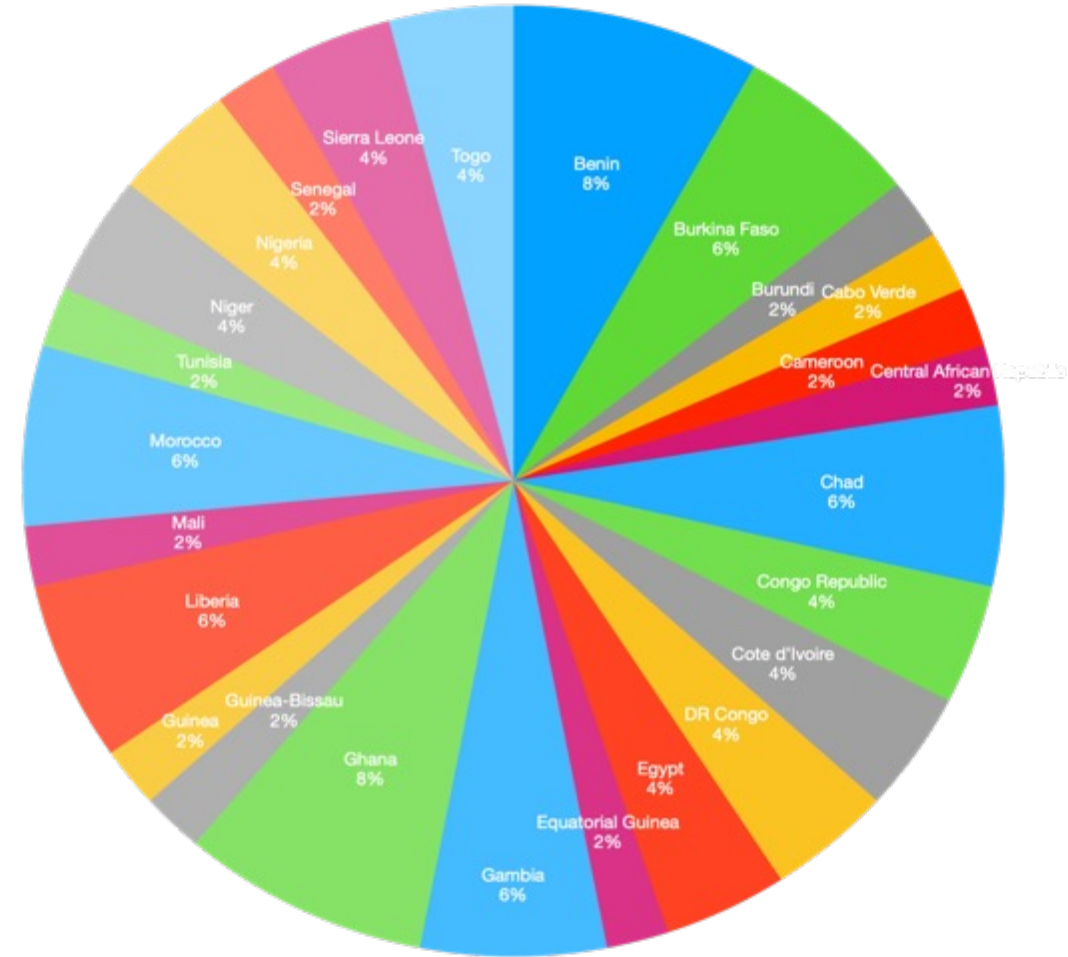
Incentives

1. Funding for participants to attend meetings
2. Data funds, e.g. improvement of statistics
3. Capacity building including exchange of scientists among research centres
4. Financing the participation of external experts at the Standing Committee Research and Statistics meetings

ICCAT interested to work with AU-MS to improve capacity and address visa issues

METHODOLOGY

- 49 respondents from 25 of the 31 countries gave inputs through an online survey
- Secretariates engaged, IOPC Fund, CITES, ICCAT, Ramsar, etc.
- 21 engagements with regional commissions, authorities, RECs, other stakeholders
- Field validation visits to Nigeria and Egypt



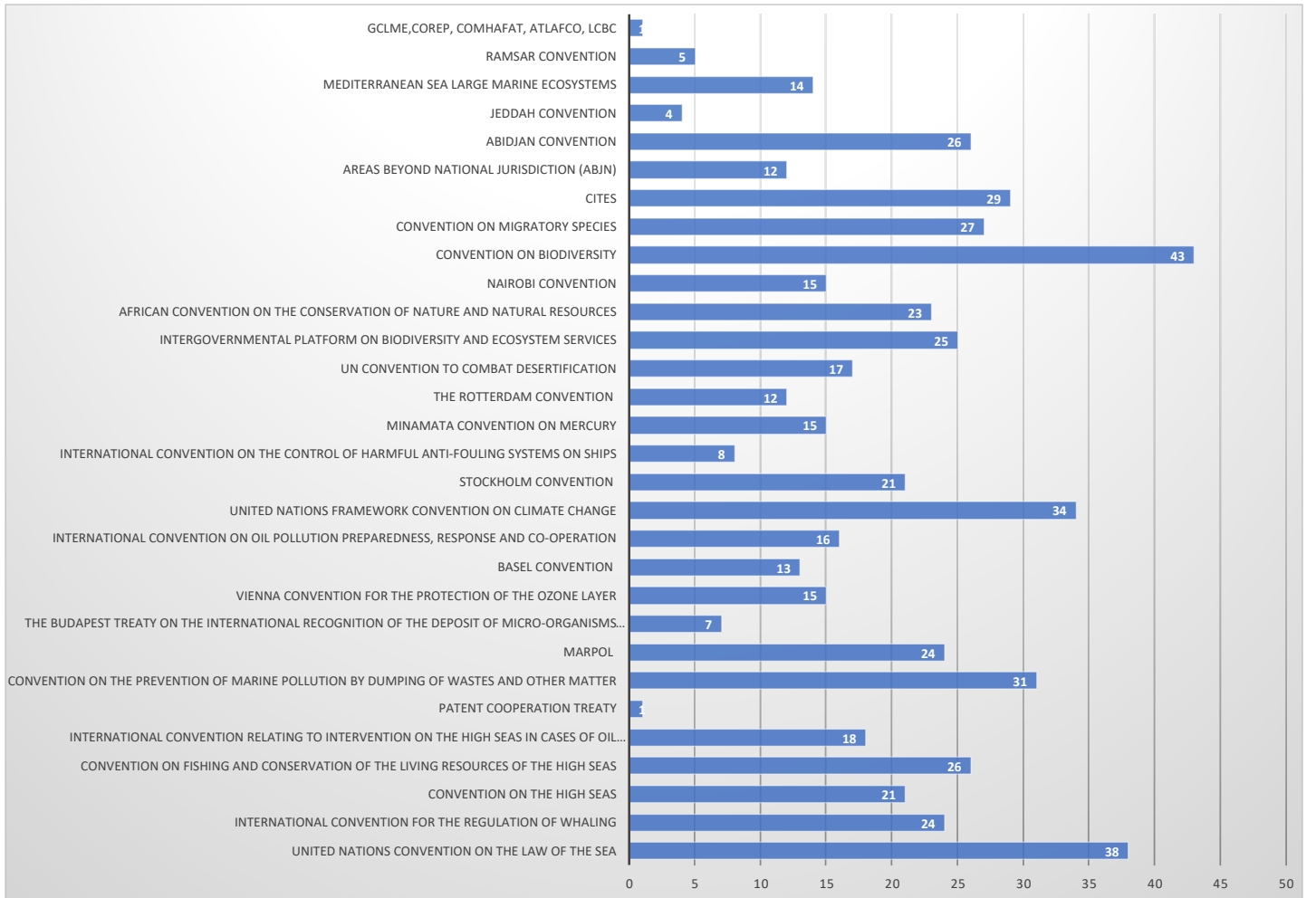


CHALLENGES AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS



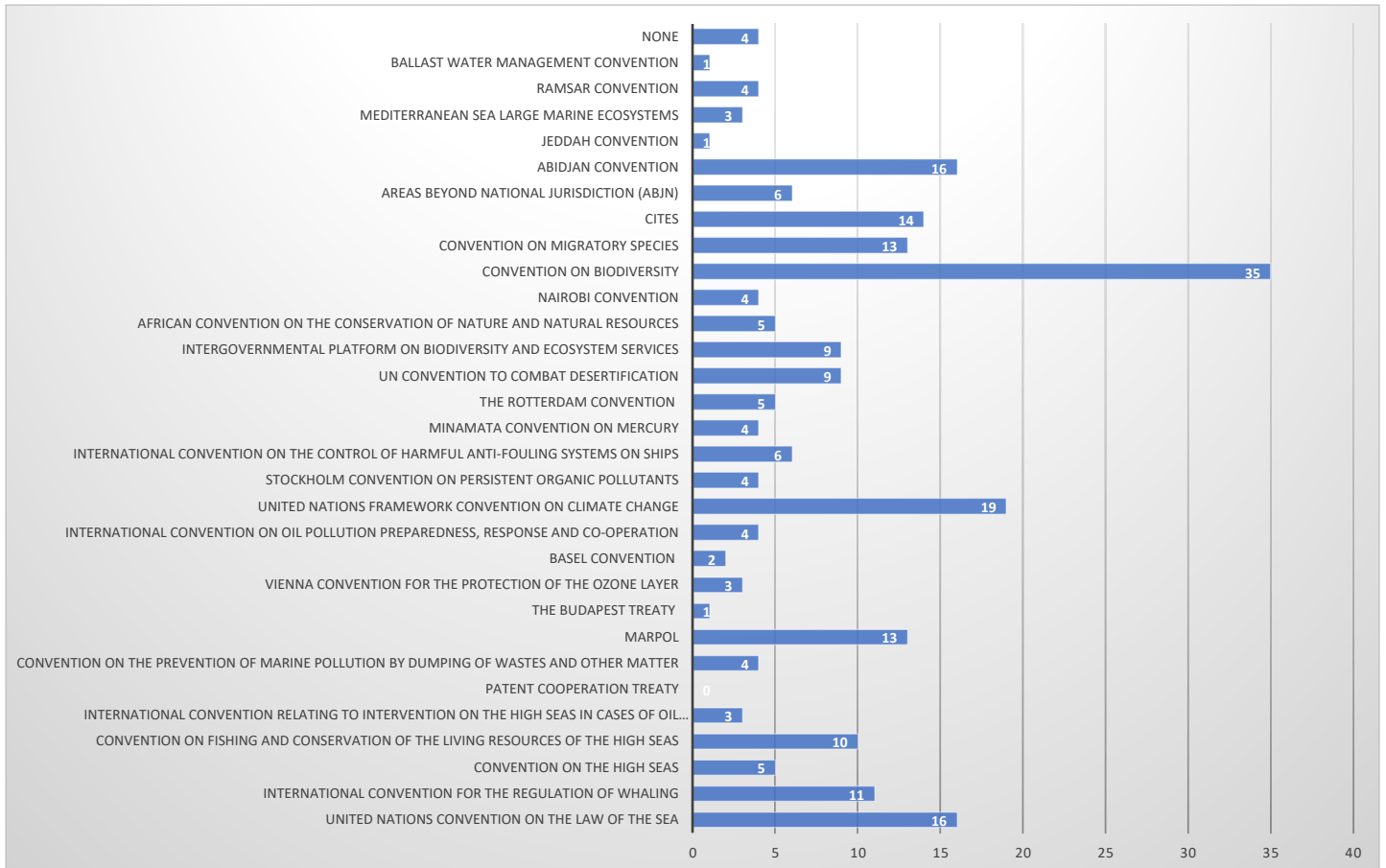
AWARENESS

- Level of awareness is highest on fora and regime that has been in existence for a long time, e.g. UNFCCC COP, UNCLOS – 63-88%
- Decreased awareness on some pollution related fora and regimes such as BRS Triple COP



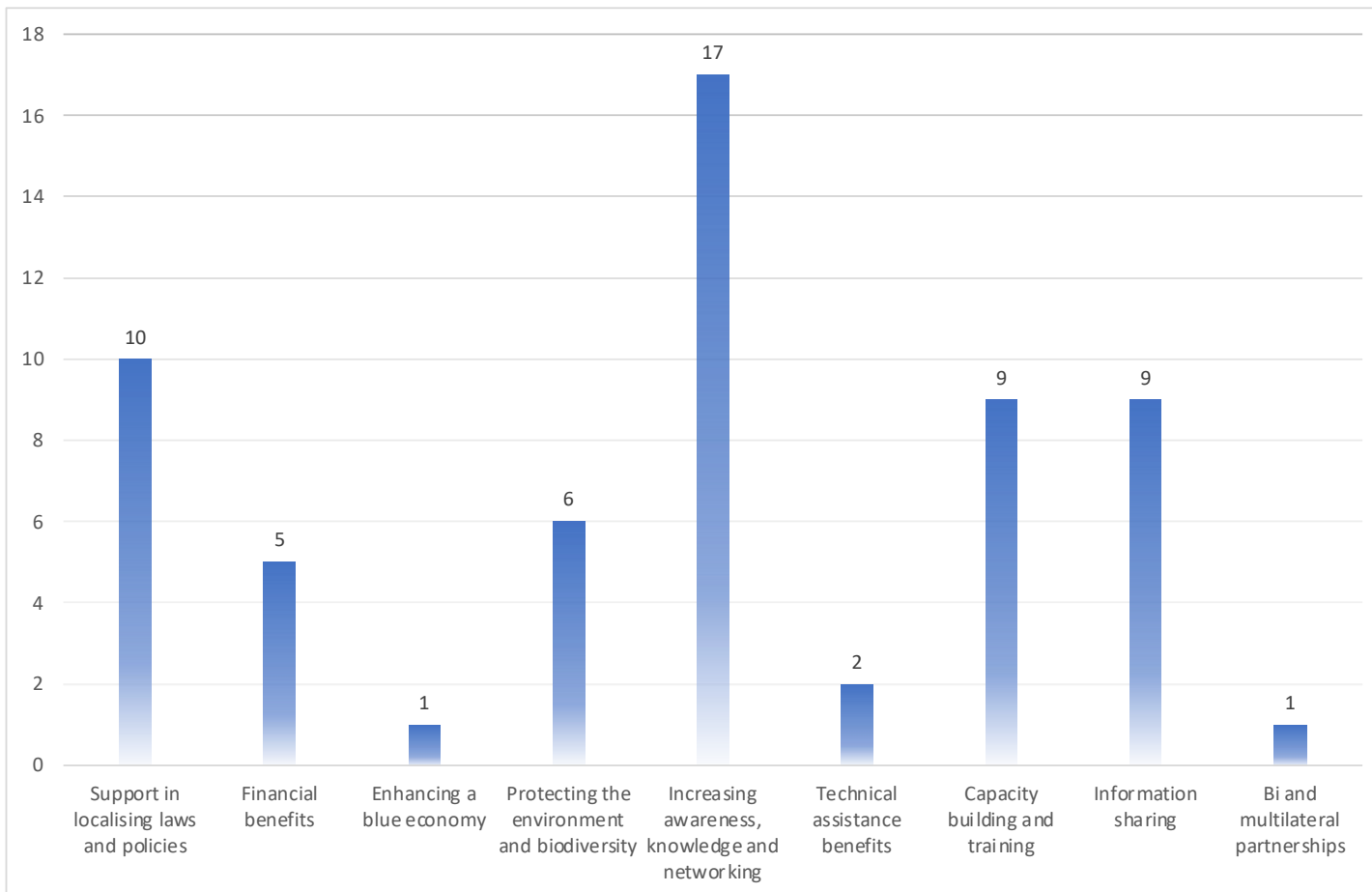
LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

- Member States involvement in most fora were below 30%
- CBD has the highest level of participation (70% of respondents) with local focal points well integrated into the system
- IMO managed meetings and BRS had some of the least participation rate



BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- Funding to support participants to travel to meetings
- Technology transfer opportunities
- Training opportunities – technical and other including training on compliance issues
- Support for awareness raising
- International collaborations in conserving aquatic biodiversity
- Knowledge exchange
- Funding for implementation of different initiatives/projects/programmes and for capacity building
- Collaboration in conservation and policy issues
- Research collaboration opportunities



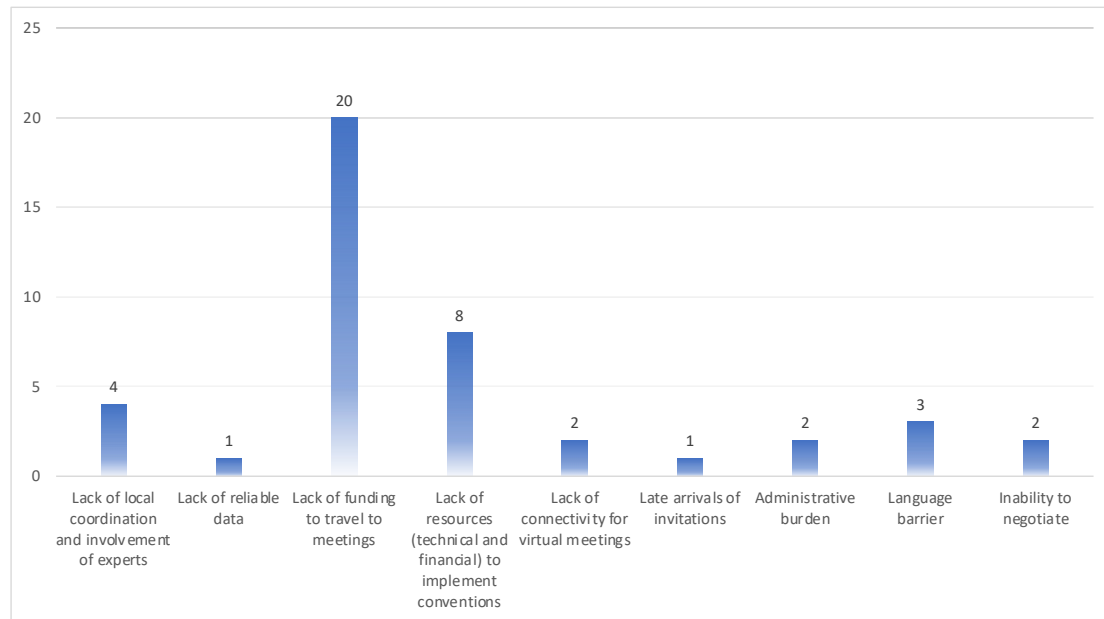
A NEED FOR A COMMON VOICE

Lack of a common voice due to:

- ❖ Different realities of each country
- ❖ A need to balance local socio-economic realities
- ❖ Lobbying that resulting in some AU-MS voting in line with previous colonial allies

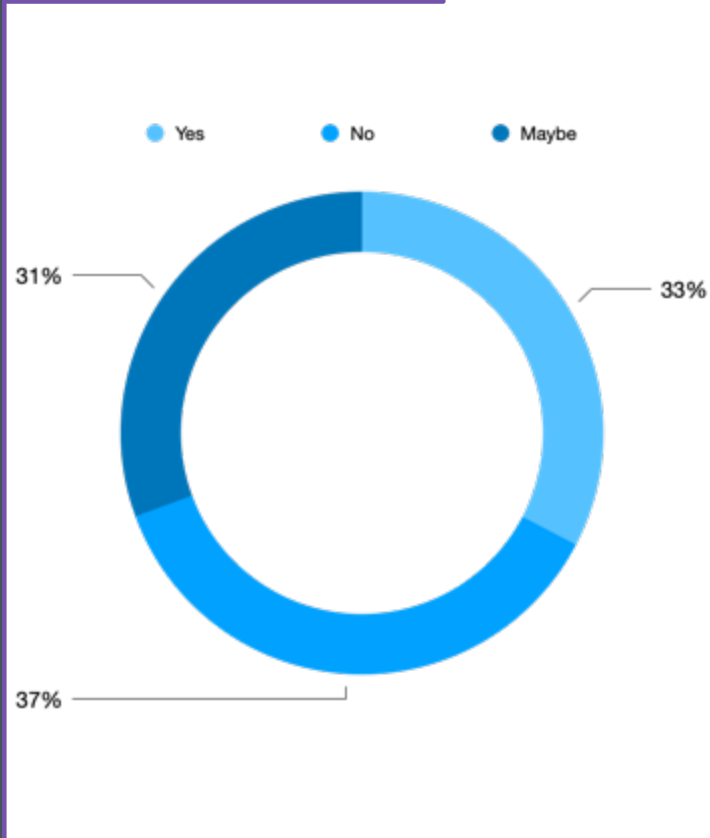
Ineffective participation due to:

- ❖ Lack of funding to travel to meetings
- ❖ Inadequate resources to implement fora requirements
- ❖ Lack of involvement of experts
- ❖ Visa issues
- ❖ Lack of internet connectivity for online meetings
- ❖ High administrative burden from fora secretariats
- ❖ Inadequate coordination by responsible focal ministry



TECHNICAL AND OTHER SKILLS

Negotiation Skills



Technical

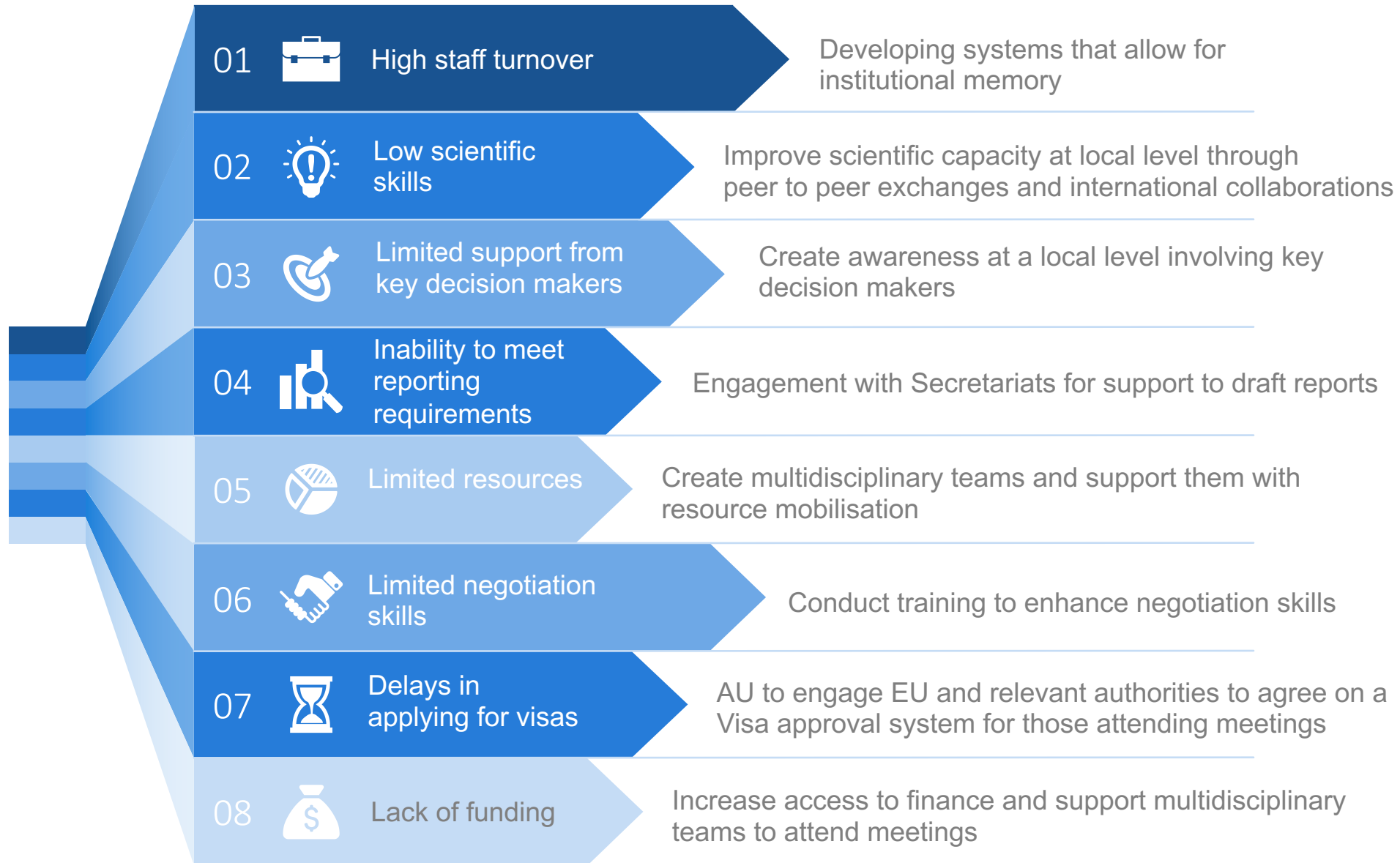
- ❖ Research skills and use of advanced modern equipment
- ❖ Biodiversity conservation
- ❖ Marine biology
- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Endangered species biology
- ❖ Marine coastal planning
- ❖ Identify toxic algae using molecular techniques
- ❖ Determining toxins in marine environment
- ❖ Hydrology
- ❖ Fisheries management
- ❖ Ecosystem management
- ❖ Aquatic stock assessments
- ❖ GMO detection
- ❖ DNA sequencing
- ❖ Data collection
- ❖ Fish stock assessment
- ❖ FAO PDMA and GIRS
- ❖ Food safety
- ❖ Circular economy

Admin/Management

- ❖ Negotiations and high-level engagements
- ❖ Relevant legislations
- ❖ Resource mobilization
- ❖ Oceans governance
- ❖ Proposal writing of bankable projects
- ❖ Leadership and change management
- ❖ Designing of agreements
- ❖ Risk management
- ❖ Content of Conventions

SECRETARIAT INPUTS

FORA Secretariats
RAMSAR,
IPOC FUND,
CITIES,
ICCAT



REGIONAL COORDINATION STRUCTURES - RFMOS

ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT: The Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean

Objectives which are to:

- *The promotion and strengthening of regional cooperation on fisheries development; and*
- *The coordination and harmonization of efforts and capacities of stakeholders for the conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources.*

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Some programmes dealing with:

- *Harmonization of legislation on marine fisheries,*
- *Assessment of fish stocks,*
- *Fisheries data collection,*
- *Fisheries co management*

REGIONAL COORDINATION STRUCTURES - RFMOS

Sub regional Fisheries Commission

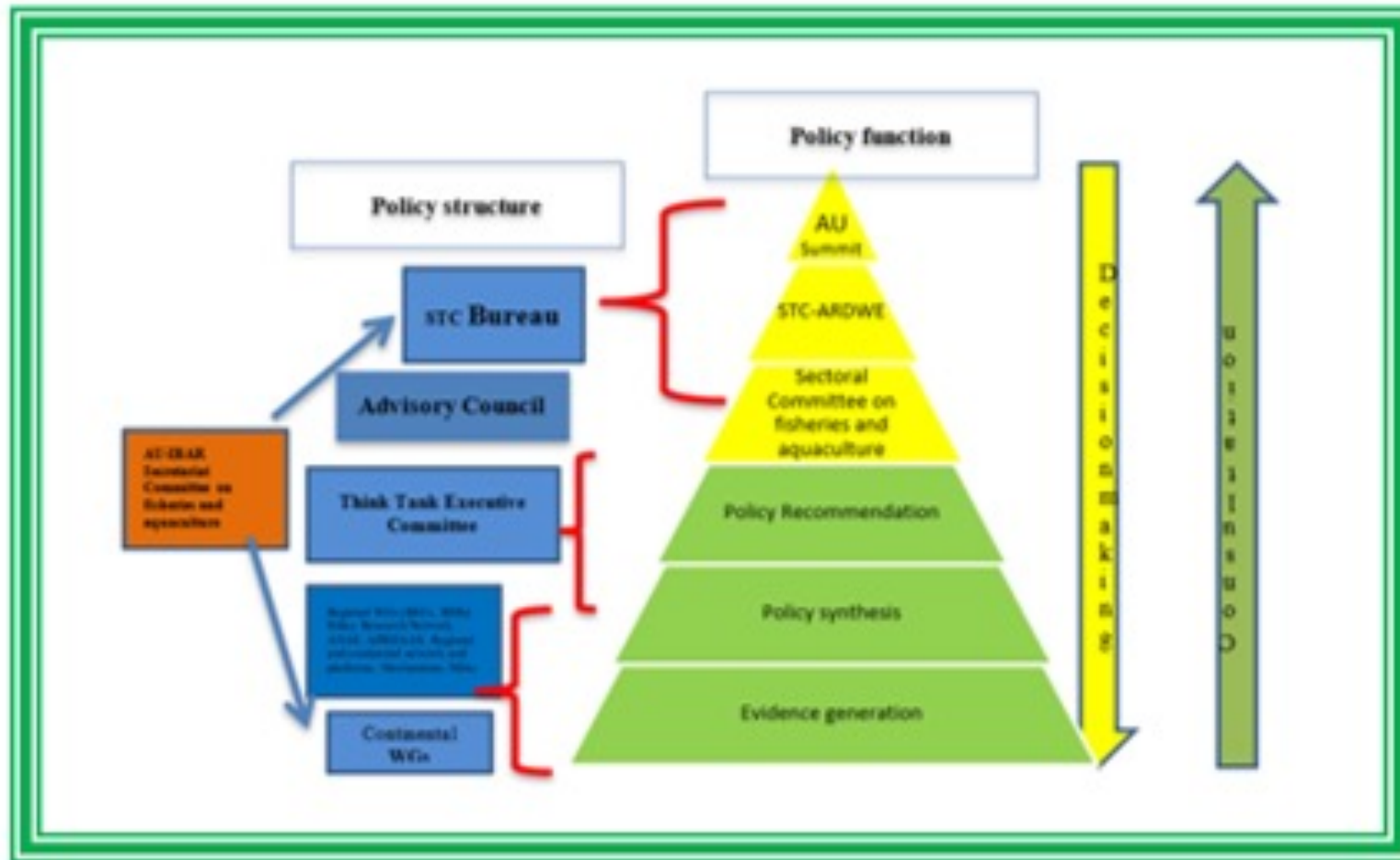
Objectives include:

- *Ensuring harmonization and consistency of national fisheries policies, with regards to the conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources.*
- *Fostering sub-regional cooperation for monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries zones, including providing institutional, legal and operational support to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.*
- ***Strengthening human capacities to undertake fisheries research activities.***
- ***Reinforcing the scientific and technical information system.***
- ***Ensuring adoption of joint strategies by international bodies***

REGIONAL COORDINATION STRUCTURES

- ECOWAS: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Comprehensive strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
 - ECOWAS Coastal and Marine Resources Management Centre
- ECCAS coordination structures

CONTINENTAL CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM



RECOMMENDATIONS, MECHANISMS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATION



MECHANISMS TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATION

Goal 1: Increase awareness

1. An information sharing platform
2. Conducting regular awareness raising workshops (annually)
3. Coordinate a network of experts from various rosters to provide data and. Insights on key pertinent issues
4. Establish partnerships with relevant fora secretariats
5. Conducting high level meetings with relevant decision makers (Ministerial level)

Strategic Goal 2: Improve capacity & skills

1. Enhancing negotiation skills (training sessions held annually/every 2 years)
2. Improving technical capabilities, address technical gaps and make use of COE, e.g., CLAR, Egypt
3. Leveraging technology (tech transfer & localisation)
4. Enhancing research and data collection
5. Augment existing information and data sharing platforms

Strategic Goal 3: Enhance coordination

1. Strengthening local coordination through local institutional support, e.g., tools and systems for coordination with all tiers of society and reporting
2. Strengthening regional coordination by supporting RECs, Commissions, Authorities to consolidate efforts
3. Strengthening continental coordination (e.g., arranging preparatory meetings)
4. Supporting the harmonisation of legislation

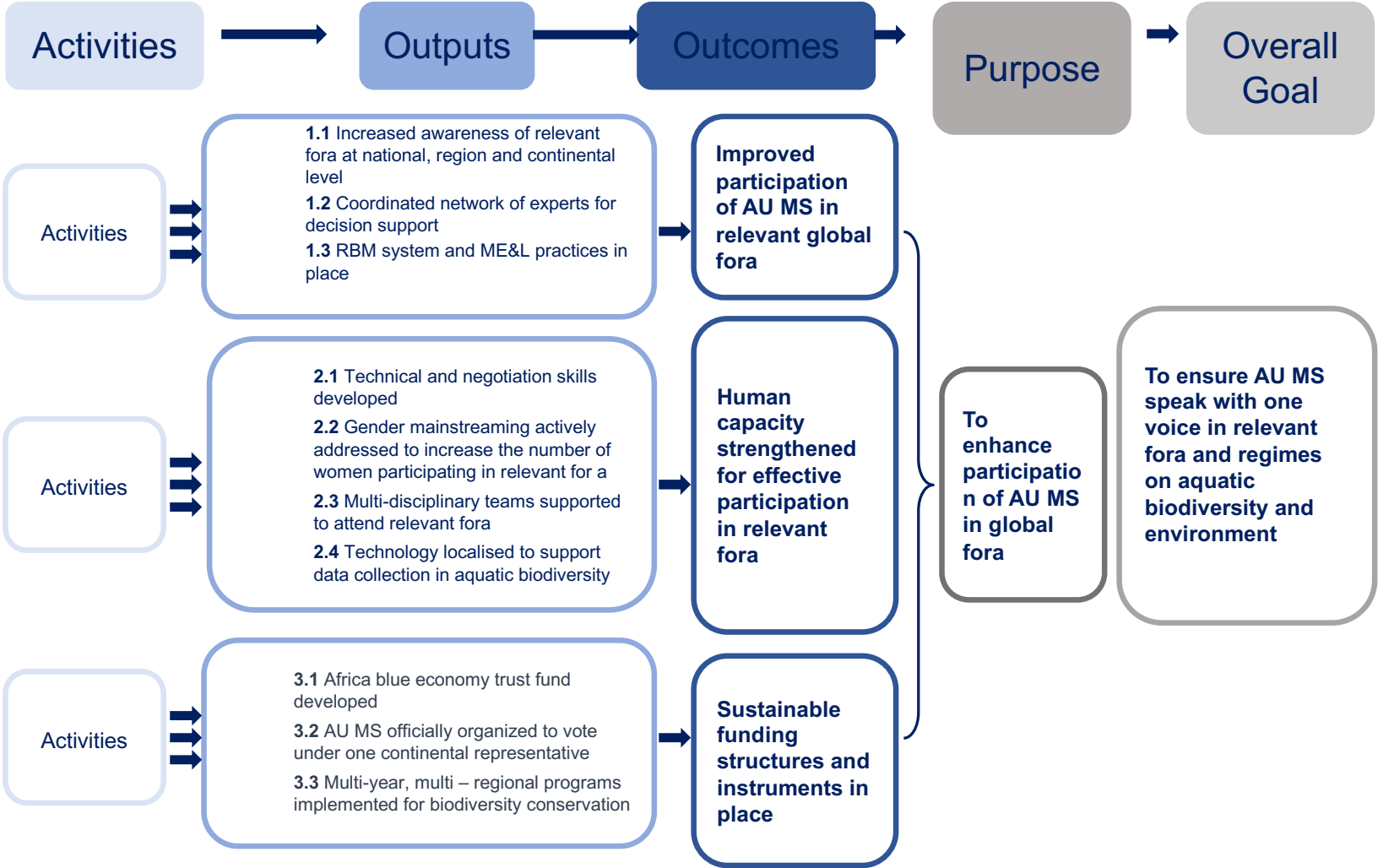
Strategic Goal 4: Enhancing implementation

1. Establishing partnerships with international organisations for implementation of multi year strategic/anchor programs
2. Establishing a resource mobilization team for developing bankable proposals
3. Support the establishing of an Africa blue economy trust fund
4. Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework

PRIORITY ACTIONS



RESULTS FRAMEWORK



THANK YOU!

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