



ND IGAD **BLUE ECONOMY** KNOWLEDGE SHARE FAIR 2024

Investing in Blue Economy
for Regional Integration



 26 - 28 November 2024

 Ayla Grand Hotel
Djibouti

Introduction

The African Union has identified Blue Economy (BE) development as a priority goal towards achieving the aspiration on 'A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development within the context of the Africa Union Agenda 2063'. Africa's Blue Economy can be a major contributor to continental transformation, sustainable economic progress, and social development. Africa's Blue Economy Strategy, launched under the theme «Developing a sustainable blue economy; increasing momentum for Africa's Blue Growth», envisions an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that significantly contributes to the continent's transformation and growth. The objective of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy is to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep-sea minerals and other resources.

With the financial support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), within the framework of the project entitled: **Enhancing Blue Economy in the IGAD Member States for Biodiversity Conservations and Livelihood Diversification**, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has developed a 5-year Blue Economy strategy (2025 – 2021) and Implementation Plan (BESIP), aligned with Africa's Blue Economy strategy and adopted on April 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The vision of IGAD's Blue Economy strategy is to develop an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy that significantly contributes to the Horn of Africa's transformation. It recognizes the region's rich resources from marine and inland water bodies. IGAD's efforts in promoting the blue economy focus on enhancing food security, economic growth, and poverty reduction by sustainably harnessing BE resources and services of water bodies.

Three main principles that underpin the implementation of the Blue Economy are the circular economy: good governance and environmental and social sustainability. The IGAD Blue Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan intend to structure the Blue Economy implementation at both national and regional levels while increasing cooperation and regional integration and strengthening support to the member states to effectively translate policies into concrete actions. It will also contribute to the effective implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (and its up-coming Action Plan). More specifically, the IGAD Blue Economy Strategy aims to:

- Improve the implementation of the BE in all IGAD members States.
- Contribute to the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.
- Develop strong harmonizing regional BE initiatives.
- Increase cooperation and regional integration by using the BE as a catalyst to stimulate a converging dynamic of interests and efforts.

One of the result areas of the project focuses on Blue Economy enhancing technologies and innovations promotion, documentation and dissemination.

It is to be recalled that a Knowledge Share Fair was held in Mombasa from June 2023, 16-13, jointly organized with AU-IBAR, and the EU funded ECOFISH Programme, under the theme: **“Enhancing the Contribution of Blue Economy for Regional Integration and Biodiversity Conservation”**. This event was the 1st edition of this kind and involved over 200 participants, including policymakers, NGOs, experts, private sectors, and practitioners, who gathered to share and exchange insights and invaluable knowledge and best practices on sustainable fisheries, aquatic biodiversity conservation, and the broader potential of Africa's blue economy.

The inaugural edition created a platform for fruitful exchanges on sustainable small-scale fisheries management, marine biodiversity conservation and innovative blue economy practices. It was a significant event aimed at strengthening Africa's blue economy where the key takeaways included:

- The need for collaboration and knowledge sharing,
- Sensitizing the untapped potential of the BE in Africa and IGAD region,
- The importance of sustainable utilization and innovation in BE areas, and
- The role of BE for regional integration and capacity building

The Africa Region has a wealth of knowledge and experiences in different Blue Economy (BE) sectors. However, documentation and dissemination of the region's experiences are limited. Blue Economy is a new concept for Africa where we can learn from each other and from outside the Continent.

The outcome of the 1st KSF was documented and served as a reference resource to know the status of BE and small-scale interventions in the continent. This event served as a lesson to other programs and projects in IGAD and other RECs to compile best practices in their domain.

It was further recommended in the 2nd Steering Committee meeting of IGAD BE project in November 2023 and at the IGAD-Sweden Embassy Partnership Annual meeting in March 2024 to strengthen on knowledge sharing and compilation of best practices.

In light of the above background, IGAD, under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of Djibouti is organizing the **2nd Blue Economy Knowledge Share Fair from November 26 to 2024 28 in Djibouti City, Djibouti, under the theme: “Investing in Blue Economy for Regional Integration”**

Share Fair Objectives and Themes

The IGAD region has a wealth of knowledge and experiences in different sectors of BE. However, documentation and dissemination of the region's experiences are limited. Blue Economy is a relatively new concept for Africa where we can learn within and from outside the Continent. The planned share fair will help in this regard by strengthening the IGAD Secretariat's knowledge management unit to ensure it is accessible to all member states and BE stakeholders.

Then the best practices will be disseminated at different platforms. Knowledge management will include products on gender equity and women empowerment in the BE sectors. The event will also enhance knowledge dissemination through the regional dialogue platforms

In this regard, the share fair seeks to:

- Share success stories and good practices in the BE areas
- Share ideas for improving work processes, operation, quality, and cost effectiveness, etc.
- Share knowledge with other organizations involved in similar activities
- Improve decision making and performance and help future projects avoid similar difficulties
- Influence policy decisions related to the development and implementation of future Blue Economy projects.

Methodology

- **Exhibition:** Exhibitions will be held to showcase the outputs of different regional projects, and this will be an opportunity to disseminate knowledge products.
- **Plenary and Parallel sessions:** To increase opportunities for intra- and inter-regional knowledge exchanges; parallel sessions with Power Point presentations will be conducted followed by discussions.
- **Panel Discussion and field visit:** The last day will be dedicated for panel discussion on selected thematic areas takeaways (Investment and private sector engagement in BE Business, BE role in Regional Integration and next steps to enhance the contribution of Blue Economy). There will be a field visit in the coastal city of Djibouti, with its thriving maritime sector and rich marine resources and services.

Participant Institutions

The event participants will be invited from all IGAD MSs, including selected private sector representatives, AU (AUC, AU-IBAR, AUDA-NEPAD), Sweden Embassy in Addis Ababa, RECs (COMESA, EAC, IOC, etc), selected regional and international institutions such as LVFO, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), EARSFISH, TradeMark Africa, SwAM, SIWI, Wetland International EA the African Maritime Safety & Security Agency (AMSSA), International Water Management Institute, GIZ, UN Agencies (FAO, UNECA, UNEP, UNESCO UNIDO, etc.) Development Partners (EU, WB, AfDB), NGOs ie WWF, and others.

About 150 participants are expected to attend the event.

Expected Outputs and Results

The outputs of the discussions will be documented in the form of a report of lessons and good practices for Blue Economy interventions. It is expected that the stakeholders will incorporate these lessons into their interventions.

The share fair outputs will be disseminated through IGAD and Partners Platforms.

The knowledge exchange and dissemination of lessons learned, and good practices is expected to result into:

- Increased information among stakeholders to inform and influence the development of future blue economy activities
- Outputs that could inform the development of future collaborative programmes/projects
- Dialogue with policy makers to influence decisions at different levels.



Meeting Venue & Location

The Blue Economy Knowledge Share fair will be organized at **Djibouti Ayla Grand Hotel.**

Themes and Topics for Panel

1. Private Sector role in BE (AUDA-NEPAD)
2. Biodiversity and Ecosystems (AU-IBAR)
3. Sustainable Blue Tourism (UNECA)
4. Blue Economy and Regional Integration (IGAD)
5. Financing Blue Economy (AfDB)
6. Blue Economy and Climate Change (IGAD)

Exhibition booths (banners, publication and other products 15- 10 booths)

1. IGAD AED
2. IGAD ICPAC
3. Djibouti Tourism
4. Djibouti Ports Authority
5. Djibouti plastic recycling factory
6. Somalia boat making factory
7. AUDA/NEPAD
8. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
9. Others

Revised Provisional Program

DAY 1 – 26 November 2024

MORNING SESSION:

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
09:30	Registration	IGAD (AED TEAM)
09:40	Opening Remarks by IGAD	Mr. Daher Elmi, AED Director
10:00	Introduction of participants	Dr. Eshete
10:30	Objectives and Expected Outcomes of 2 nd KSF	Mr. Simon Oswan, KM and M&E Expert, IGAD
11:00	Health Break	
11:15	Overview of the IGAD's Blue Economy project and expectations from the event	Dr Wassie Anteneh, Senior BE and Fisheries Expert, IGAD
11.30	Overview of the AU Blue Economy Strategy	Ms Linda, AUC Representative
11.45	Overview of Blue Economy Strategy of EAC	Dr. Robert, LVFO Representative
12:00	Overview of Blue Economy Strategy of COMESA	Ms Stella, COMESA Representative
12.15	Overview of AfDB Blue Economy Flagship Programme	Dr. Ahmed Khan, AfDB Representative
13:30	Discussion	
14.30	Lunch Break	

DAY 1 – 26 November 2024

AFTERNOON SESSION:

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
14:45	UNIDO Blue Industry approach	Ms Einav, UNIDO Representative
15:00	Sustainable Ecosystem for BE Development	Mr. Bonface, Nairobi Convention Representative
15:15	Seaweed Value Chain	Ms. Iren, Healthy Seaweed Café, Tanzania
15:30	Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Mr. Joel, AU-IBAR Representative
15:45	Blue Economy and Climate Change	Dr. Paulino, ICPAC/IGAD
16:00	Research and Academia in BE	Dr. Ibrahim, UBC
16:15	Marine Spatial Planning in Africa	SwAM Delegate
16.45	Discussion	
17:30	Health break and End of day 1	

DAY 2 – 27 November 2024

MORNING SESSION

Opening Session Provisional Program

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	IGAD (AED Team)
09.00 – 10:00	Welcoming and facilitation	Mr. Daher Elmi, Director of Agriculture and Environment, IGAD
	Welcoming Remarks from Djibouti City	Mr. Said Daoud, Mayor of Djibouti City
	Welcoming Remarks by IGAD	H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu IGAD Executive Secretary
	Statement by UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa	Dr. Zeynu Ummer, Director UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa
	Statement by FAO	H.E Meshack Malo, FAO Representative to the Republic of South Sudan
	Statement by Africa Development Bank	Dr. Ahmed Khan, Chief Fisheries Officer and Coordinator Blue Economy Flagship, AfDB
	Official Opening Statement	H.E. Mohamed Abdoukader Moussa Helem, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Djibouti
11.30	Visit of booths at exhibition area and health break	

Parallel sessions			
BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES (BE FOCAL PERSON AND FISHERIES)		BLUE TOURISM, PORTS AND MARITIME TRANSPORT (TOURISM AND PORTS)	
TIME	ITEM	TIME	ITEM
MEMBER STATES' PRESENTATIONS		MEMBER STATES' PRESENTATIONS	
11.45	Djibouti (NFP)	11.45	Djibouti (Ports)
12:00	Djibouti (Fisheries)	12:00	Djibouti (Tourism)
12.15	Ethiopia (NFP)	12:10	Ethiopia (Ports)
12:30	Ethiopia (Fisheries)	12:30	Ethiopia (Tourism)
12.45	Kenya (NFP)	12.45	Kenya (Ports)
13.00	Kenya (Fisheries)	13.00	Kenya (Tourism)
13.15	Somalia (NFP)	13.15	Somalia (Ports)
13:30	Somalia (Fisheries)	13.30	Somalia (Tourism)
13.30	Lunch break	13.30	Lunch break
14.45	South Sudan (NFP)	14.45	South Sudan (Ports)
15.00	South Sudan (Fisheries)	15.00	South Sudan (Tourism)
15.15	Uganda (NFP)	15.15	Uganda (Ports)
15.15	Uganda (Fisheries)	15.15	Uganda (Tourism)
16:30	Discussion	16:30	Discussion
17.00	Tea Break and End of day 2	17.00	End of day 2

Day 3 - 28 Nov 2024

MORNING SESSION

Panel Discussion

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
09.00-10.00	The role of Private Sector in BE Panel discussion on thematic takeaways	Recorded Video by Dr. Bernice Mclean, AUDA-NEPAD Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Private Sector • Mr. Meshak Malo, FAO • Ms. Stella, COMESA • Ms. Linda, AUC • Dr. Wassie, IGAD • Dr. Paulino, ICPAC/IGAD
10.00-10.30	Health break	
10.30-12.30	Field Visit	IGAD
12:35	Closing Remarks by AUC	
	Closing Remarks by IGAD	
	Official Closing Host Government representative	
13:30	Lunch Break & end of the Knowledge Share Fair	



IGAD Secretariat Avenue Georges Clemenceau,
P.O. Box 2653 Djibouti,
Republic of Djibouti

