



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

**REPORT OF
THE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP ON LESSONS LEARNT AND BEST
PRACTICES FOR ENHANCING GOVERNANCE OF AFRICAN LARGE
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS**

17-19 December 2014 Douala, Cameroon



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SUMMARY

A continental technical workshop on “Enhancing governance of African Large Marine Ecosystems” was organised by the African Union- Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in line with the provisions of the currently implemented Fisheries Governance Project.

The workshop was held in Hotel La Falaise, Douala, Cameroon from the 17 to 19 December 2014 and was attended by 25 participants including individuals or institutions that have been closely involved in GEF-World Bank supported Large Marine Ecosystem (LMEs) projects in Africa, acclaimed experts or institutions in marine fisheries and some selected relevant AU member states with some reasonable record of improved governance in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) or issues worthy of discussion. The meeting outcomes were lessons learnt, best practices and action plans with clear roadmap for improving management and governance of LMEs.

I. INTRODUCTION

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organised a workshop on “Enhancing governance of African Large Marine Ecosystems” in the Hotel La Falaise, Douala Cameroon from the 17 to 19 December 2014. The workshop was attended by participants who included representatives from the African Union Member States (AU-MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and independent experts as well as persons with experts knowledge on the implementation and outcomes of 5 African LMEs.

The AU-IBAR in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) are implementing a Fisheries Governance project aimed at “Strengthening institutional capacity to enhance governance of the fisheries sector in Africa” with the support from the European Union. A key activity of the Project is to strengthen the capacity for evidence based advocacy through the documentation of best practices and lessons learnt and exchange of experiences to foster reforms on fisheries. This was in consideration of several initiatives that have been or are being implemented including those aimed at improving the management of various LMEs in the continent, which includes but not limited to Agulhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME); Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME); Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME); Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) and Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MLME). There are significant amount of information with regards to lessons and best practices available in archives or institutions which, when shared, can enhance improved governance at regional and national levels. The meeting articulated lessons and best practices based on experience sharing amongst institutions or individuals that have been involved in some of these initiatives.

The overall objective of the workshop was to share and consolidate experiences on sustainable fisheries and environment management in Africa’s LME and facilitate the development of action plans for sound management of Africa’s LMEs.

While the specific objectives focused on the following aspects critical to the sustainable and integrated management of LMEs:

- Critical governance issues
- Institutional and policy issues in management of LMEs
- Challenges in fish stock restoration efforts
- Socio-economic issues in African LMEs

The expected outcomes are;

- Consolidated lessons and best practices on governance of Africa LMEs
- Developed action plans or roadmap for the sustainable governance of African LMEs

2. OPENING SESSION

The opening ceremony for the workshop was marked by speeches and opening remarks delivered by and on behalf of AU-IBAR, Government of Cameroon and COREP as highlighted below;

2.1 SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF AU-IBAR- DR MOHAMED SEISAY

Dr Mohamed Seisay, Senior Fisheries Officer of the AU-IBAR gave a speech on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR, Prof Ahmed El-sawalhy. He thanked the Government of Cameroon with particular emphasis to H.E Dr Taiga the Hon Minister in charge of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries for agreeing to host this important workshop which is aimed at conserving and managing our vast LME resources sustainably. He noted that the African LMEs are faced with enormous challenges which significantly contributed to AU-IBAR, a technical office of the African Union Commission (AUC) embarking on developing the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa with the goal to unblock all obstacles in ensuring the sustainable management and development of the fisheries and aquaculture. The two key thematic policy areas which addressed issues of LME governance are the sustainable conservation and resources use and capacity building.

He noted that 80% of the world's fisheries catches are produced in the 64 Global LMEs with African Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) among the most productive in the world. This is due to the prolific upwelling system that periodically brings nutrient-rich bottom water to the surface that provide sources of food for the living marine resources that constitute the food chain of these coastal waters. However, the African LME are poorly managed, it is estimated that more than 40% of the world oceans are threatened by overfishing, pollution, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, acidification and effects of climate change and 60% of the world's major marine ecosystems is estimated to have been degraded or is being used unsustainably. The degradation is continuing, nonetheless several initiatives have embarked on improving the governance of the LMEs and immense results and knowledge are available but not at disposal of other LMEs, AU-MS etc. AU-IBAR thus has recognised the importance of advocacy in strengthening African capacities through dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices. This has become a key method of imparting knowledge and strategic use of resources. However, this has been lacking in the continent, hence the AU-IBAR organised this continental workshop in order to create awareness of the current and past initiatives aimed at enhancing governance of the LMEs, share best practices and lesson learning and also targeted at enhancing the knowledge for better governance of the LMEs. The implementation of the Fisheries Governance project is a step forward in ensuring that all fisheries and aquaculture issues receive attention at a continental level. He concluded by reminding participants that the workshop is aimed at sharing lessons learnt and best practices that will guide in formulating concrete programs for years ahead and proposing actionable activities to chart the way forward with focus on comprehensive approach for reducing pollution, acidification, ocean hypoxia; expanding sustainable coastal management, particularly on protection of coastal ecosystems; and scaling up integrated approaches to abate unsustainable fisheries practices.

2.2 OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF COREP- MR EMILE ESSEMA

Mr Emile Essema on behalf of the Chairman of the Regional Commission for Fisheries of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP) acknowledging its member states also expressed appreciation to the Hon. Dr Taiga, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries of the Republic of Cameroon for agreeing to host this important workshop. He expressed gratitude to the Director of AU-IBAR for organising this interactive workshop on lessons learned and best practices for improving the governance of LMEs in Africa. According to him this is an exemplary act, a sign of willingness and determination of AU-IBAR to get involved in the

Governance Improvement Process both at regional and national levels. He acknowledged that fisheries and aquaculture has become one of the main pillars of growth and accelerators of economic and social integration in the regions as well as continent.

Hence, the purpose of the technical workshop to brainstorm and engage on matters relevant to strengthening of governance of LMEs in Africa is a healthy and welcome approach for sustainable fisheries development, environmental management, improved socio-economic and governance in LMEs of Africa. He also acknowledged that the African LMEs are among the most productive in the world. They are very rich in biodiversity and habitats; the coastal waters are among the most fertile in the world and most of which have complex transboundary characters in nature. In this regard, African countries are expected to take appropriate measures to develop and conserve their marine fisheries resources for sustainable utilization.

He urged the participants to actively share their expertise, experiences for enhancing governance and management of LMEs. He expressed the wish for the hopes and aspirations of organizers as well as delegates, stakeholders and practitioners be realized through the political will and the implementation of commitments of the Regional Economic Communities, Regional Organisations of Fisheries, member states and bilateral or multi-lateral and international partners.

2.3 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL INDUSTRIES OF CAMEROON- DR EMMA BELAL

Dr Emma Belal, the Director of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Animal Industries provided an opening statement on behalf of Dr. TAIGA, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, and proceeded with the opening of the interactive workshop. He thanked the Director of AU-IBAR for identifying Douala to host this important meeting. He enjoined others to acknowledge that African Large Marine Ecosystems are among the most productive marine ecosystems in the world and noted that several projects and initiatives aimed at improving the management of these ecosystems have been implemented or are underway. These initiatives have generated significant knowledge and experience, particularly in terms of integrated and sustainable management of marine resources, the fight against pollution and socio-economic and governance issues. But it is clear that these important knowledge and experience are most often contained in documents shelved in national or regional institutions that have implemented them. This workshop is therefore an ideal opportunity for exchange and sharing of that information and experience, consolidation of lessons learned and best practices to improve governance and sustainable management of marine ecosystems in Africa. He urged participants to fully engage in the discussions for these three days of exchange of information and declared the workshop open.

3. TECHNICAL SESSION

3.1 AU-IBAR PRESENTATIONS

Dr Mohamed Seisay paved way for technical session by providing presentation on the purpose and objectives of this technical workshop. He gave an overview of the African LME especially on their background and issues.

The five African LME's and geographical coverage are:

- i. **Canary Current LME (CCLME)**- Morocco, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry
- ii. **Guinea Current LME (GCLME)**- Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Benin, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome/Principe, Congo, DR. Congo, Gabon, Angola
- iii. **Benguela Current LME (BCLME)**- Angola, South Africa and Namibia
- iv. **Agulhas/Somali Current LME (ASCLME)**- Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania United Republic
- v. **Mediterranean Sea LME (MSLME)**- Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

The issues related to the Governance of the African LME are similar with minor discrepancies. The common issues includes habitat degradation; stocks depletion; deterioration in water quality; uncertainty regarding ecosystem status and yields in a highly variable environment; loss of biotic integrity and threat to biodiversity; inadequate capacity to assess ecosystem health; harmful algal blooms; inadequate capacity development (human, infrastructure and training); poor legal frameworks at regional and national levels; inadequate implementation of available regulatory instruments; inadequate planning at all levels; insufficient public involvement; complexity of ecosystem and high degree of variability and inadequate financial mechanisms and support; Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; fishing in spawning areas and climate variability. However, there are paradigm shift towards Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) for LME governance and management. In this regards the GEF (Global Environmental Facility) LME assessment approach includes Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) which provides situation analysis of the issues and challenges in the LMEs and the mechanism to foster participation at all levels. Based on the outcomes of the TDAs, the Strategic Actions Plans (SAP) is developed on how to address the issues and surmount the challenges highlighted in the TDAs. The five module LME module indicator (Productivity; Fish and Fisheries; Pollution and Ecosystem Health; Socio-economic and Governance) approach is also used for assessment and management of LMEs and has been useful in ecosystem-based projects.

Dr Aboubacar Sidibe, Project Officer for Fisheries Resources Management provided the presentation on the **Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa- LME Management and High Seas Fisheries**. He focused his presentations on the key pillars within the policy frameworks that address the LMEs issues:

Pillar I -Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use

- To establish national and sub-national governance and institutional arrangements that ensure that the societal contribution generated by Africa's sectors have the greatest impacts at the most appropriate level

Pillar 5- Regional and Sub-Regional Cooperation

- Strengthen South-South (bilateral and regional) cooperation, and develop coordinated mechanisms among RECs, RFBs and LME-based commissions to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and aquaculture development and their adoption and adaptation

Pillar 6- Awareness Enhancing and Human Capacity Development

- Increased awareness of the potential and importance of the sector and enhanced capacity of people and institutions in the African fishery sector to ensure the sustainable development of capture fisheries and aquaculture, based on current and emerging trends, challenges and needs

Pillar 7- High Seas Fisheries

- Increase and consolidate the African voice in the governance and management of high seas fisheries

He highlighted cross-cutting issues that the policy address such as gender and youth, investment in the aquaculture and fisheries sector and resilience to climate change. The Policy framework took into account that the implementation plan is a multi-stakeholder approach.

Dr Sidibe continued with the presentation on the **Fisheries Governance Project Activities on LME Management and High Seas**. Under the auspices of the implementation of the Fisheries Governance Project the following key activities in the 4 Results Areas of the Project would address the LME issues:

Key results 1: Institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for sustainable fisheries management improved;

- Enhance coordination in the fisheries sector for expeditious development of the sector
- Strengthen institutional capacity and systems for effective MCS to combating IUU fishing
- Promote coherence and harmonization in fisheries policies and regulatory frameworks
- Strengthen capacities for stock assessment, ecosystem based surveys and fisheries statistical data collection
- Strengthen capacities and promote regional arrangements for improved negotiation of fisheries access arrangements

Key results 2: Sustainable fisheries management in small-scale fisheries;

- Strengthen stakeholder organization, participation and promotion of community-based management of small-scale fisheries
- Strengthen capacity for improved management practices, including TURFs, Co-managements, and establishment of MPAs

Result 3: Institutional capacity and regulatory framework for aquaculture development strengthened

- Develop or improve regulatory frameworks and strategies for aquaculture development-mariculture development
- Strengthen capacities and policy frameworks for environmental monitoring, habitat and ecosystems preservation in aquaculture practices-applicable to mariculture development

Key result 4: Advocacy, Lessons Learning for knowledge sharing and capacity for increased returns from fisheries

- Strengthen capacity for evidence based advocacy

- Support advocacy fora for fisheries reforms

3.2 PARTNERS PRESENTATIONS

The presentations on improving management of Large Marine Ecosystems – lessons learnt and best practices from past and ongoing interventions and related activities were provided by various representatives from the LMEs, member states, experts, RECs, RFBs etc. below is the summaries of presentations provided by the participants:

3.2.1 Strategic Partnership for fisheries Investment in Africa (SPFIF)- Mrs Nancy Kitonga

SPFIF project initiative was developed to support African countries to reverse the depletion of fisheries in the LMEs. The aim was to avail additional financing from GEF and other partners to coastal countries of Africa to support sustainable marine fisheries, in an endeavor to achieve the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets of poverty alleviation and sustainable fisheries management by 2015. The Strategic Partnership comprising of key stakeholders led by AU was designed to advise and guide the initiative. The major partners are the AU, the FAO, and WWF, supported by GEF/World Bank funding. The Investment Fund of this initiative was established to support reforms towards more sustainable fisheries, through regional and country-level projects. To access the GEF grant the countries must meet the set criteria and be able to leverage the grant at a ratio of 1:3 through World Bank loan or other sources. The Strategic Partnership was funded through the GEF grant to promote fisheries policy reforms in the region, communicate lessons learned from the Investment Fund, and provide technical support to the countries in the preparation of the project concept notes (PCNs) and implementation of investments.

Main lessons learned

- The World Bank involvement in funding sustainable fisheries in Africa before the initiative was unprecedented. The fisheries investment portfolio grew exponentially over the 4 years of the project implementation to more than \$180 million, in 8 countries. Before this initiative, the World Bank had invested only a total of \$13 million in Africa's fisheries.
- There has been increased partnerships and focused continental fisheries reform mechanism for Africa catalyzed by the initiative.
- There has been improved information exchange among key players in the fisheries sector and the leadership role of AU is being recognized and appreciated as critical in expediting fisheries development.
- The impact of the initiative on the AU has been significant and permanent and the AU commitment to support fisheries development is demonstrable through creation of a Fisheries section at the AU-IBAR with permanent staff, and the establishment of the Conference for African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) and CAMFA secretariat.
- Strategic Partnership made good progress by launching projects in seven countries with high demonstration value within the three year of its existence.

Way forward

- There will be need for AU to evaluate the impacts of the initiative against the expected SPFIF outcomes, now and at the end of the regional and country-level Investment Fund projects and disseminate lessons learned.
- It is advisable for AU-IBAR to follow-up on the already developed and submitted project proposal for release of second tranche of the GEF grant through World Bank, its implementing agent. It would benefit Africa's LMEs if AU-IBAR could keep GEF engaged with more proposals for the grant, especially in support of Africa's fisheries coordination and reform mechanism.

3.2.2 Large Marine Ecosystem Approach: Ecosystem Based Management - lessons GCLME - Dr Emmanuel Ajao

Key issues

- the extent to which the project has been successful in supporting GCLME countries to undertake strategic planning for concrete actions to develop sustainable fisheries, restore habitats and improve water quality in the GCLME and achieve expected impacts in these areas;
- the extent to which it has created an enabling environment through broad stakeholder participation and creation of a sustainable institutional structure; and
- whether there are any lessons to be learned from this project with regard to the design and implementation of future initiatives.

Challenges

- The greatest challenge of governance to be addressed was the issue of fisheries. During the workshop on distant water fleet fishing the Fisheries Directors (or the representatives present) recommended a GCLME- wide fisheries body. The issue that arose upon further reflection was the accountability of the body with more than one ministry involved. The countries in the region have already established three regional fisheries bodies all or in part in the GCLME. To address this issue a “Fisheries Platform” concept was developed. This concept involves all of the parties coming together under the aegis of a single body to address LME-wide concerns and to agree where appropriate on joint actions.
- The second issue of developing a protocol whereby country positions not sectorial ones are the basis for decisions is still to be worked out as all sector need to bring their expertise and have their say such that cross-sectorial decisions could be made without infringing on the situations where within sector decisions are appropriate.

Best practices

- The LME approach was quickly internalized in the region through obtaining political support at the highest levels (Presidents, Ministers and relevant Directors in appropriate government levels);
- Sustainability of support was entrenched through networks of LME professionals in academia, government and the private sector working in the marine environment;
- The project conducted extensive capacity building (workshops, training activities, stock assessment cruises (Nansen campaigns), site visits and consultancies) to ensure enabling conditions for the implementation of a Strategic Action Programme;
- Early collaboration and cooperation with UN agencies allowed access to technical assistance and support for specialized trainings required for implementation of a SAP and the NAPs.
- A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was completed and endorsed by the 16 participating countries;
- A Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was completed and endorsed by all the countries, as well as National Action Plans (NAPs) to be implemented at the national levels;
- Increasingly, the project was seen by the participating countries as a “reference institution” to provide advice for their environmental and living resource management issues/problems;
- In 2011 in Accra at the invitation of the GCLME Project the African LME Caucus was formed;
- The Project conducted workshops on best approach for negotiating fishing agreements within the GCLME;
- The Project established 5 Regional Activity Centres –which included productivity and fisheries centres in Accra and Luanda respectively, among others;
- The Project established Inter-ministerial Committees and focal points at the national levels for visibility

and to build support for the LME approach;

- A draft Protocol for a Commission was developed so the stage was set for the establishment of a Commission to move forward to the ultimate goal of sustainable GCLME producing goods and services for the region's citizens.

Lessons learnt

- Strong political support was very essential for commitment to the Project.
- Institutional instability at national levels was one of the difficulties in the implementation of the project.

3.2.3 Environmental and fisheries resources sustainability in the GCLME- Dr Oumarou Njifonjou **Title of the project: Combating Living Resource Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current LME Through Ecosystem-Based Regional Actions**

Key Mile-stones

- The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) elaborated and disseminated;
- Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and the associated National Programmes of Action (NPA) as well as National Action Plans (NAP) elaborated and adopted;
- SAP implementation and demonstration projects executed;

Component 1

- Five Regional Scientific/technical Working Groups formed along modular lines and consistently met to fill gaps in the TDA
- Adequate capacity (at least 4,500 Scientists and Managers trained) built through technical and managerial training at Regional and National workshops
- Permanent Guinea Current Commission established by the second Ministerial meeting through the OSU declaration on July 2nd, 2010.

Component 2

- Fisheries management generic model plan adopted and published
- Quantitative productivity data completed and final report submitted by the Regional Activity Centre for Productivity at the University of Ghana
- Fishery Trawl in the southern Zone of the GCLME completed
- A demonstration project for entrepreneurial coastal poly/aquaculture established in Ghana.
- Fully functional EIMS Centre in Nigeria. GIS maps on fisheries spawning and nursery grounds prepared. Coastal erosion and pollution hotspots maps prepared

Component 3

- Demonstration project on Integrated Coastal Area Management in Cameroon completed. Final report submitted. Dissemination workshop organized in September 2011.
- Priority sites for mangrove restoration identified, final report of the demonstration project in Idua Assang Community in Cross River State, Nigeria submitted.
- Inventory of all MPAs in the GCLME completed
- 16 National Action Plans completed

Component 4

- The 16 NPA-LBSA documents published and integrated into NAPs and the LBA adopted by the COP9 of the Abidjan Convention

- Support provided to the Togolese Government on re-use of waste sludge from the Kpeme Phosphate mine and reduces untreated discharges into Guinea Current.
- A Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan adopted by the COP9 of the Abidjan Convention in March 2011
- An investment portfolio has been developed based on identified and costed priority projects in the countries and submitted during the Partners Conference.

3.2.4 Protection Project of Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) - Dr Ibrahim Khallahi

The project “Protection of Large Marine Ecosystem Canary Current” covers 7 countries: Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Guinea. It is characterized, in its northern part, Mauritania and Morocco, the phenomenon of upwelling allowing re-suspension of minerals deposited on the seabed. In the southern part of Senegal to Guinea is by tropical ecosystems distinguished by their particularly dense mangroves and hydrological system. The CCLME region and has one of the most important biological productivity in the world (primary and fish productivity). It also provides goods and services essential to the surrounding populations. The threats to this set are of anthropogenic order with declining resources due to over-exploited and degraded ecosystems due to pollution but also of climate change. The CCLME project that was implemented in March 2010, aims to “reverse the trend of degradation of the Large Marine Ecosystem Canary Current caused by overfishing, habitat changes and changes in the quality of water, using an ecosystem approach.”

The project is currently conducting several studies to elucidate specific problems of the region. It also organized training sessions on areas little known in the country, including the ecosystem-management and technical development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis. Some regional plans such as the regional plan for the management of small pelagic or emergency plan were developed. Others are in progress; it is the case of land-management plans, pollution sources and critical habitats. A draft of the TDA has been produced and is being broadcast in countries as well as the draft of the Strategic Action Plan. Among the major problems facing the project, the Regional Coordination Unit is currently operating with only the regional coordinator and administrative attached after the departure of two coordinators of the components 2 and 3 which caused the delays in the implementation of the project as some countries have not yet formed their national inter-ministerial committees to become more involved in the process and methodology of the project. Some demonstration projects and working groups are far behind in achieving the planned activities and thus the achievement of objectives.

3.2.5 Managing the Small-pelagic in CCLME for Sustainability- Prof Ben Satia

In the absence of Prof Ben Satia who could not attend the workshop but made available his presentation, Dr Mohamed Seisay provided a short presentation focusing on the lessons learnt and best practices. The CCLME is responsible for ensuring effective management of the region’s living marine resources especially the coastal small pelagic fish species which are mainly distributed across exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of four countries and are transboundary in nature. This includes but not limited to Coastal small pelagics: Sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*), Sardinella (*Sardinella aurita* and *Sardinella maderensis*), Bonga or ethmalose (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*), Anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), Horse Mackerels (*Trachurus trachurus*, *Trachurus trecae* and *Decapterus rhonchus*) and the Chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicas*). This means the stocks are shared bilaterally and/or sub-regionally. Like any other LME, there are several management issues such as stocks depletion and lack of regional agreements to ensure sustainability of stocks.

The CCLME in collaboration with FAO, (EAF) Nansen project and SRFC are jointly collaborating to promote multi-country agreements on sub-regional resources assessment, policies and plans for the

sustainable management of these transboundary small pelagic fish species in North West Africa. He highlighted that it is greatly notable that the CCLME is a pilot project however it has achieved a lot. This includes awareness creation on the effective governance, strengthening human and institutional capacities, stakeholder participation and development of regional frameworks.

The lessons from this project are that the tools used were effective in identifying discrepancies and knowledge gaps; building block approach is useful for solving complex issues; improved cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration is important for best results; capacity building cannot be overemphasized ; promotion of partnership contributes to evidence-based interventions; processes engendered confidence, trust and buy-in by stakeholders and scientific advice/knowledge/input is essential for good policy and appropriate management decisions. He concluded that the main constraints to the sustainable management of these fish stocks are largely policy and political issues hence appropriate response is better cooperation and collaboration between the concerned countries and also within countries with other line ministries and organizations at high policy levels.

3.2.6 Improving Management of LME: BCLME Experiences- Dr. Hashali Hamukuaya

Key issues

From BCLME perspective, the following are the key transboundary issues:

- Non-optimal harvesting of transboundary living marine resources owing to (a) inadequate management practices; and (b) poor fishing practices, including over-fishing, wastage caused by illegal fishing, discarding of bycatch and the catching and discarding of undersize fish;
- Impacts of exploration and extraction activities on the ecosystem and inadequate monitoring of these activities to international best practices;
- The BCLME is a complex and highly variable system which is poorly understood;
- Deterioration in coastal water quality;
- Threats to species and habitats as a result of human impacts on the coastal zone;
- Social-economic needs and interdependencies are not adequately considered in regional decision-making within the BCLME;
- Conflicts between stakeholders undermine implementation of regional management.

Challenges

Below are some of the challenges facing regional approach to ocean governance in the BCLME region:

- Limited resources to adequately monitor and assess the marine environment;
- Existing human capacity is severely stretched due to current demands at national level, including high staff losses;
- Delays in Convention signature and ratification (resolved!);
- Incorporation of results into National Strategic Action Plans and legislation;
- Data accessibility: There are often no central data repositories in national institutions where each researcher/manager/technician is holding data in his/her files. Data policy at institutional levels is non-existent, making it difficult to share data that may be useful for shared fish stocks assessments or environmental assessments.

Lessons learnt and good practices

Among the lessons learnt and good practices for south-south cooperation amongst the BCLME countries are:

- TDA and SAP processes facilitated partnership and trust building which resulted in commitment for a

- regional integrated transboundary LME approach;
- Interim Agreement formed a strong basis for the Convention text – countries were familiar with the IA and had confidence in the Convention process;
- When there is strong political support and will, it is time to fast-track policy and management actions. Improved LME governance offer a legacy for political leaders;
- Open a lean Secretariat (say three staff) fully funded by Member States annual contribution. Then built the Secretariat gradually as needs increases;
- One country playing mediating role and regarded as “friend” in the region can serve as a champion to bring others on board for important decisions/ actions;
- Support from development partners becomes unparalleled where progress is visible including signing of SAP, negotiating, signing and ratification of legally binding convention as well as demonstration by Member States that they too are contributing financially and other resources to the Commission;
- From concept to Commission takes time!

3.2.7 Ecosystem restoration: establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas – lessons learnt and best practices from West African Eco-region- Dr Ibrahima Niamadio

Key issues include:

- **Contribution to the creation of MPAs habitat restoration and management of the West African fisheries.**

The Regional Network for coastal planning in West Africa (1997) and the Regional Programme of the coastal zone and marine conservation in West Africa PRCM (2001) were behind the creation of the MPA network in this sub-region. As part of an exchange between all stakeholders at the regional level, the process has involved all stakeholders (governments, research institutes/universities, private fishing industry, local and international NGOs, donors, regional organizations (CSRP, UNESCO, OMVS, UEMOA etc.). The mobilization of national experts and those of society helped convince donor partners to make contributions to this regional initiative.

- **Achievements and Lessons Learned from the MPA network in West Africa (RAMAO then ROASE) can be summarized as follows:**

The constraints and difficulties encountered were: a) conflicts of jurisdiction between departments for management of MPAs, b) the relatively low funding of MPAs by Governments, c) the existence of strong pressure from fishing with fishermen migrants and dominated the free access to fisheries resources and d) the establishment of MPAs in densely populated areas.

Under lessons learned and best practices, we can see the realization and achievement of the following objectives:

- Strong involvement of all stakeholders: policy makers, regional fisheries management organizations (CSRP), international NGOs, local stakeholders in the creation, support and monitoring of the whole process from the beginning until now;
- An exceptional mobilization of all stakeholders including partners donors who supported this sub-regional initiative for over 10 years;
- Strong institutional reforms in MPA management through the creation of appropriate structures to meet global targets for conservation and environmental protection of coastal and marine areas;
- The contribution of this initiative to the restoration of habitats and species important local, national or global as the Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) and the Delta Biosphere Reserve Saloum (Senegal).

3.2.8 Quantitative Estimation Method of an Index of Governance of Marine and Coastal Resources in the Ecoregion; WAMER- Dr Taib Diouf

In several countries of the ecoregion WAMER, lack of proper governance is one of the most important factors behind the degradation of marine resources and due to the precarious food situation of coastal communities. It is in this context that the project “Governance, policy management of marine and coastal resources and food security and poverty reduction in the countries of the ecoregion has selected this theme as one of the most important areas in its implementation work. It will develop a methodology for quantitative estimation of an index may describe, analyze and understand the situations of governance of marine and coastal resources across countries to propose appropriate strategies improving their management.

This methodology strongly inspired barometer of local governance developed by Impact Alliance among others, uses a relatively simple statistical approach to the scope of fisheries administrations and policy makers responsible for the management of marine and coastal resources. It thus promotes dialogue between different actors, builds capacity and promotes transparency. It combines quantitative and qualitative observations and can be applied in situations where reliable references and performance data are lacking, as in contexts in which these data are available in abundance. The estimation of the National Governance Index (INGRMC) is made in a sequence of calculations using five (5) criteria each having a number of sub consensually agreed criteria. It is automated to facilitate its implementation. It refers to rating scales whose values correspond to a lack of governance to perfect governance. From then recommendations are made every year, following a regional workshop towards various stakeholders for improvement with a view to contributing to the sustainable exploitation of coastal marine resources at the subregional level.

4. SUCCESS STORIES OF MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN AFRICA

4.1 Angola- *Maria de Lourdes Sardinha*; Ministry of Fisheries Angola

Angola has a coastline of about 1,650 km length and rich fishing grounds based on the Benguela Current System and Guinea Current System, where marine capture fisheries occur. The Southern fishing zone is the most productive of the Angola fishing zones, with an abundance of 2 species of horse mackerel, tunas and the big eye Dentex. The management system is based on recommendations from INIP (Institute National of Fisheries Resources) through an annual scientific report on the status of resources, fisheries statistical information, social and economic data when available. Measures are discussed and agreed in three meetings: the Scientific Council meeting and two Stakeholder Consultative meetings with the participation of the fishing industry and representatives of the community. The measures are approved at a Ministerial Council and Published as Presidential decrees. In summary, the management measures adopted are the TAC allocated by species and/or group of species, the quota allocated by vessel, closed areas and seasons. The Ministry of Fisheries also does limit the number of vessels in the fishery by species. One problem faced by the fishery is the by catch, and this is regulated by setting a percentage of the non-target species and establish a minimum mesh size.

A new Law on Aquatic Biological Resources (Law 6-A/04), which replaced the previous Legislation on fisheries (Law 20/92) was approved in October 2004. In 2005 it has been approved by the General Regulation on Fisheries (D.R. n. 70) and the regulations on Fishing Rights and Licensing (D.R. n 65), Fisheries Research (D.R. n. 66), and Aquaculture (D.R. n. 67). The main policy document is Fisheries Master Plan aiming at defining the key management measures for the sector for increasing and improving the production, taking into account the sustainability of the resources.

4.2 Mauritania- *Dr Khallahi Brahim*

In Mauritania, fishing plays a very important social and economic role. It contributes 3.4% to the national GDP and 17% of the GDP of the primary sector (agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries). The value of exports in the sector (excluding fisheries agreements) has averaged 16% of total export earnings (2008-2013). The fisheries sector direct jobs are about 53000. The average catches in Mauritania are between 1.1 million and 1.2 million tons, divided between small pelagic fish (sardines, mackerel and horse mackerel), offshore pelagics (skipjack *Katsuwonus pelamis*, Thunnus albacares and bigeye tuna *Thunnus obesus*) and demersal resources cephalopods (octopus, cuttlefish and squid), crustaceans (shrimps, lobsters, crabs) and demersal fish (variety of species). These resources are exploited by national and foreign fleets.

Fishery resources are managed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy which is based on an active search (i) heavily involved in fisheries management. It sets out the fishing opportunities and gives advice on all measures, and (ii) a system of control / monitoring for rigorous enforcement. To this must be added a profession's awareness that involves positively and voluntarily in fisheries management. It sometimes requires the closure of some areas following the observation of numbers of juveniles. A consultation system administration / research / profession and NGOs are introduced for the definition and implementation of policies and regulations. Several technical measures for the conservation of resources have been taken. The most important concern: mesh fishing gear was regulated (eg for the cephalopod trawl 70 mm, 40 mm Pelagic etc.); several vehicles are banned from use in Mauritania, so monofilament nets, dredges, beach seines, nets drifting; the first catch sizes have been set for the most abundant species (eg. 500 g octopus, squid and cuttlefish 13 cm LM, horse mackerel 19 cm, 21 cm green lobster and pink 23 cm); adoption of a catch rates by species and fishery (ex. 8% for shrimp octopus); to reduce conflict between coastal area of 12 miles to the north and six miles south have was reserved for artisanal and

coastal fishing; trawling is prohibited in depths less than 20 m; judgments of the demersal trawling 4 months are taxed annually.

4.3 Somalia - Dr Mohamed Ali

Dr Mohamed Ali on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries provided a presentation on the management of fisheries in Somali. He commenced by mentioning that Somalia has a largely untapped economic exclusive zone (EEZ) stretching 200 Nautical miles. The shore of Somalia has over 3,330 km of coast line with estimated potentially fish yield of approximately 320 metric tons per year. Between the 1960 and 1964, the small coastal communities were engaged in fish trading for local consumption and sale to neighbouring countries mainly in the form of dried salted fish. The Somali government intervened after 1964 to increase fish catches and also providing large central preservation and storage facilities such as canning factories, cold storage fish processing plants fishing boats, repairing ships. However due to civil war, the fisheries sector collapsed and the illegal unreported and unregulated fishing activities, piracy and nuclear waste dumping in Somalia waters became dominant. However the Somali government put measures in place to prevent illegal fishing and a permanent patrolling company have been put in place, implementing a fishery law for registration and licencing of fishing vessels. Any contravening vessels face sanctions.

5. COMBATING IUU IN AFRICAN LME - INITIATIVES ON ESTABLISHING REGIONAL MCS CENTRES IN AFRICA AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

5.1 West (SRFC and FCWC)

5.1.1 SRFC By Dr. Babacar

The presentation highlighted (i) an overview of the SRFC; (ii) Department of Control and Monitoring of the Management of the Fisheries (DSCSA) including Surveillance Operations Coordination Unit (UCOS); (iii) projects managed by DSCSA/UCOS and (iv) lessons learned. Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) as an intergovernmental organization, created in March 29, 1985 by Convention is composed of seven (07) Member States (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone) has its headquarters located in Dakar-Senegal. SRFC has an area of coverage of coastline of nearly 3,500 km, estimated EEZ of 1.6 million square kilometres and a population of about 32 million people, of which approximately 70% reside near the coast. Fisheries sector contribute significantly to food security, trade balances, rural economy and job creation involving more than 1 000, including 700 foreign industrial vessels operating under fishing agreements and more than 30 000 canoes. The annual value of the catch is estimated at USD 1.5 billion with an annual export volume of USD 350 million.

The major projects activities of the SRFC the coming years with focus on maritime fisheries data management with particular reference to IUU fishing in the region are (i) the operationalization of the Technical Committee which includes the SCS structures guiding the Member States, (ii) the finalization of the SCS Convention to harmonize SCS regional legal framework under (iii) the establishment of a sub-regional register of fishing vessels and a SCS database, (iv) the completion of the study on the sustainability of financing to avoid SCS to depend on unpredictable financing TFP, (v) the creation of an Observer Corps jurisdiction Sub-regional and (vi) the standardization of training.

In terms of lessons learned from the management of these projects, the following achievements are noted: operational information sharing;

- exchange of technical personnel in the sub-regional operations;
- harmonization of procedures for planning and conducting surveillance operations and those of control of fishing vessels;
- the approximation of the SRFC with national structures SCS MS; allowing a better assessment of the technical difficulties, operational and physical structures;
- deterring IUU fishing enthusiasts, especially in the southern part of the SRFC area more vulnerable to the phenomenon;
- improving the working conditions of SCS structures beneficiary Member States through financial benefits from fines imposed on boarded ships.

However, the challenges below have been encountered in project implementation:

- unavailability of the ocean and the air component patrol during most of the implementation phase of the EU project;
- difficulties to radio communications making it difficult coordination of operations;
- suspension of EU activities in some countries;
- cumbersome administrative procedures for disbursement of support funds for the operation of SCS means of EM and charter naval assets;
- slow procurement procedures which resulted in non-realization of coastal stations programmed in the EU project.

5.1.2 FCWC by Mr. Seraphine Dedi

Currently, none of the FCWC member countries are able to neither penalize nor deter stakeholders for flying vessels and its flags who are engaging in the fishery in their waters. This should not be the case for some countries that have vessel registration programmes such as Nigeria but it is clear that vessels flying Nigeria and Ghana flags are regularly found in Benin, Togo waters without being the subject of legal prosecution. States exercise little control over their Nationals.

The objective of the FCWC is to reduce IUU fishing activities in the FCWC maritime space through the creation of regional operational unit and reinforce national centers for the processing of satellite data to monitor fishing vessels in operation. Data are exchanged between centers. States are encouraged to apply VMS to industrial fishing vessels operating in their waters.

A cooperation agreement, through FCWC mandate and framework, between the States has set the rules and modalities of minimum access conditions of the fisheries resources and exchange of information and it is accordingly working well. A new project, under Fish I and TMT Company supported by NORAD will emphasize this collaboration through establishment of a Task force in each country and a coordination team at FCWC Secretariat.

Meanwhile, modalities for an operational unit and rules to prosecute the offending ships are expected to be endorsed by all member countries. In this regard, we are looking for Sub regional and international organizations as partners to provide support to this initiative to create a regional operational unit that is designed to adequately address IUU fishing issues.

5.2 Central (CMC and COREP)

5.2.1 THE MULTINATIONAL CENTRE AREA OF COORDINATION (CMC) presented by: Lieutenant Commander Jérôme Emilien Boulingui

The Technical Agreement of May 6, 2009 in Yaoundé by ECCAS and Defence Ministers of Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe led to the creation of the CMC. The CMC is a civil-military structure based in Douala, supported by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Cameroon and attached to the strategic level of the CRESMAC (Maritime Safety Regional Center of Central Africa). The Missions of the CMC is effective planning and operations of the ligand securing device “ZONE” by developing a security plan that includes: plan of equipment and facilities; monitoring plan; training plan with training rules and harmonized operational procedures.

The CMC is responsible to secure the vital interests of States on the fight against: overfishing; piracy; illegal transportation of goods; illegal immigration; and maritime pollution.

Some positive developments generated by the joint patrols of the CMC as Lessons include;

- Group exercise with tactics harmonization of procedures
- The action of the sea state is a reality in our space maritime
- The synergy of forces effectively contributes to the fight against all the above evils
- Effective and efficient protection of offshore installations: almost no cases of hostage-taking on our platforms to date.
- The sea is no longer empty: permanence of ECCAS patrol
- The CMC is highly sought after by Western navies for joint exercises mixed
- Active and deterrent presence at sea with the help of friendly forces, more or less contributed to the

decline of sea banditry phenomenon

- Satisfaction of several companies operating in our maritime area
- Good regional integration for the countries of the Marines zone D.
- United Nations recognized area D cooperation efforts by resolutions 2018 and 2039 and ECCAS to do the same for synergy for Security and Marine Security of the entire Gulf of Guinea.
- Creation of the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC) for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea June 25, 2013 in Yaounde at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS countries and ECOWAS which reinforces collective responsive actions carried out in zone D since 2009. This strategic framework will accompany tactical actions in the legal aspects of information exchange for cooperation and harmonization of legislation on the action of the sea state for all countries of the Gulf of Guinea

The presentation concluded by;

- Asserting the need to redefine the strategy against the new tactics by pirates including new cases of piracy observed in the ECOWAS zone which may become contagious with the ECCAS zone.
- Acknowledging that the phenomenon of over-fishing has been hindered by our complementary actions in Zone D, but the harmonization of legislation regulating the field of fisheries impose it with coercive measures to discourage recidivism.
- Noting that exchange of information with partners A Latin is necessary to fight against IUU in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Recognizing that the will and determination of States In zone D in particular and in general of ECCAS to implement maritime security strategy ratified by the Heads of State and Government is as necessary to the effectiveness of our multinational patrols. This determination requires the availability of all these states to actually cooperate and pool their resources where necessary.

5.3 Initiative of IOC in MCS activities to combat IUU for fisheries resources and environmental sustainability- Ms Jérôme Fanjanirina

In 2005 at the 3rd Summit of Heads of State of the IOC, decided to strengthen cooperation in the fight against illegal fishing in the South West Indian Ocean. This decision was followed by a Ministerial Declaration in 2007, the five ministers responsible for fisheries engage in a common will to act to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Subsequently a framework agreement was signed between the European Union and the IOC for the implementation of an action plan “Regional surveillance plan in the South West Indian Ocean.”

Key issues:

- Fight against illegal fishing
- Deter potentially tempted fleets
- Transshipment
- To comply with national regulations and resolutions of IOTC

Challenges

- Better operational coordination of the monitoring and control actions
- Pooling of resources and know-how for more effective and less costly monitoring
- Build on the strengths and complementary resources of each Member State
- Use of new control technologies against illegal fishing
- Increased national capacity
- Exchange information and know-how

Lessons Learnt and best practices

- Governance: a regional coordination unit that stops the broad guidelines of the project, identifies the monitoring requirements and meets every three months
- Cooperation arrangement active and efficient network
- Information sharing: regional database
- Regional VMS: a regional vision-plan of fishing activities
- Strengthening national capacities
- Sustainable Management

5.4 Southern African Development Community- Dr Nyambe Nyambe

Background

Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was identified by SADC Ministers for Marine Fisheries in 2003, as a threat the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region. IUU fishing also threatens livelihoods of fishing communities, promotes unfair trade, destroys aquatic ecosystems and is an environmental crime that deprives nations of potential revenue. SADC Ministers responsible for Marine Fisheries signed the SADC Statement of Commitment to Combat IUU fishing in 2008. This Statement was also endorsed by the SADC Council in August 2008. One of its aims is to strengthen regional collaboration on fisheries law enforcement and enhance capacity on monitoring control and surveillance through the establishment of the SADC FRMCSCC. The Centre will be located in Mozambique and under the principle of subsidiarity and its start-up phase over 3 years is estimated to cost USD3 million.

Policy Instruments

The establishment of the Centre is in line with the objectives of the SADC Treaty to “ensure sustainable utilisation of natural resources and effective protection of the environment”. It also aims to facilitate the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries, whose overall goal is to “promote responsible and sustainable use of the living aquatic resources and aquatic ecosystems”. It has been prioritized in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2015-2020) and in the Regional Agricultural Policy. In addition, it is also supported by the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (2014), Sirte Declaration (2004) and Abuja Declaration of 2005.

Objective of the Centre

To improve coordination of law enforcement activities and to enhance MCS capacity of Member states in line with the SADC Protocol on Fisheries.

Benefits

- Improved cost-effectiveness of national MCS; Increased efficiency of national MCS; Greater MCS coverage; Improved monitoring for stock assessment;
- Improved overall deterrence to the region; Improved capacity and intelligence;
- Regional harmonization; and improved knowledge for decision making.

Services and Functions

- Regional fishing vessel register (FVR); Regional fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS); Fisheries MCS data and information sharing; Regional fisheries MCS information portal; Regional fisheries observer coordination; Regional fisheries surveillance coordination; Fisheries law enforcement and legal support;
- Port state measures support; Build and support national MCS capacity to facilitate regional integration.

6. THEMATIC SESSION

Mr. Obinna Annozie, the Policy Analyst (Fisheries and Aquaculture) introduced the session on working groups, the working group areas, the issues for discussion, the members and elaborated the terms of references

There were three thematic areas during the workshop that the participants addressed. These were:

- i. Policy and governance
- ii. Ensuring sustainability fisheries resource exploitation and biodiversity in LME
- iii. Collaboration and coordination between agencies, regional projects, LME based commissions etc.

To this effect participants divided in to 3 Thematic Groups which addressed the thematic areas in accordance with questions;

Based on the LME based presentations;

- i. What are the common issues/challenges with regards to each thematic area?
- ii. What are the lessons learned and best practices in addressing these challenges or regarding these issues?
- iii. Develop action plans as way forward for these thematic areas.

The findings of each of Thematic Working Group in line with addressing the above questions and the validated Action Plan at the plenary as the Way Forward are as presented in the following matrix below;

6.1 Thematic Group 1: Policy and Governance

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
1.	Problem of human resources (at the country level and the LME)	Lack of stability, adequacy and quality oriented personel	Fixed terms appointments with dedicated and motivated personal with well-defined ToRs,	In BCLME project three activities centers were created with national personal appointed through competitive process (Benguela Current)	Capacity-building for the management of the African LME
2.	Low ownership by countries of the related issues worked the SEMA (ownership) weak coordination between national institutions	-Create or operationalize the frameworks of national dialogue between the different national administrations, - ensure good communication and the exchange of information, - technical coordination between the various administrations concerned	Attachment of the framework of the LMEs has a hierarchical student level and a provision of a consequent budget,- Definition of the clear Tor of the national framework	Planning and conducting regular meetings and development of reports	Support the national focal points of the LME for the establishment or operationalization of consultations LME executives

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
3.	Existence of a clear or shared vision (national and regional)	Integration of the LME in national policy issues	Awareness (concept note) of countries on a common vision - Governance arrangements for the use of marine goods and services developed in an additive and integrated manner across multi-sector of the LME (fisheries, marine transportation, tourism, offshore oil and gas, etc.).	Good cooperation and communication between stakeholders	Support the development of a mechanism which takes into account the interests of each country or parts in lea LME, harmonization of policies and institutional when required
4.	Insufficient visibility	Promote and popularize the sustainable exploitation of the LME at all levels	Promotion of partnerships through an iterative process involving grass-roots communities, scientists, the various institutions and representatives of stakeholder groups	Lack of communication module for breast LME to local populations	Development and popularization of LME activities at the level of populations (advocacy and lobbying, etc.)

6.2 Thematic Group 2: Ensuring sustainability fisheries resource exploitation and biodiversity in LME

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
1.	Depletion of stocks	Overfishing/ overcapacity Environment Impact (CC) Weak enforcement or regulation	Elaborate and implement management plan Adaptation to CC Enforce laws and regulations Develop mariculture and aquaculture Develop MPA network	Close season fishing area Implement results research in management Limit access to MPA Develop alternative livelihood (aquaculture) Artificial reefs in coastal can reduce overexploitation Involvement of fishing communities and stakeholders in planning and implementation of management plan and policy making Develop and implement management plan by fishery	Elaborate and implement management plan for targeted and sustainable species (stock assessment) Promote a sustainable aquaculture Update and enforce laws and regulation Identify and create a network of MPAs Promote and implement measures for adaptation to Climate Change

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
2.	IUU and Piracy	Absence / inadequate MCS Lack of collaboration Security at sea	Emplace and reboot MCS Enhance collaboration between member states to combat IUU and piracy	Promote collaboration in combating IUU Capacity building of MCS	Create and promote a network of MCS Implement inter-agency collaborations to combat insecurity and piracy at sea
3.	Bycatch / discards	Trawling Demarcation of fishing (zoning) Abs. Or inadequacy of MCS	Limited trawling Adapt appropriate mesh size Limited trawling grounds Adopt zoning Enforce laws and regulations Enforce MCS capacity	The use of trawling inshore area increase bycatch and discards The appropriate mesh size can reduce bycatch and discards Disproportionate discards in shrimpers catches	Conduct assessment for identification of sensitive areas Enforcement of regulation of to these areas Promote the use of Bycatch reduction devices and turtle excluded devices Create and promote a network of MCS
4.	Habitat degradation	Trawling Pollution Climate change	Limited trawling in sensitive ecosystems Prevent and combat (habitat) pollution Adapt to CC strategy	Implementation of guidelines and standards has controlled the pollution of coastal water in Nigeria	Develop program of sensitisation and combat pollution Develop program to combat physical alteration and destruction of habitat, prevent pollution and adapt Climate Change
5.	Under-exploitation of some resources	Lack of technical capacity Limited knowledge	Increase fishing capacity Develop scientific knowledge	Limit formal agreement for underexploited species	Develop capacity building and collaboration of underexploited species

6.3 Thematic Group 3: Collaboration and Coordination between Agencies, Regional Projects, LME Based Commissions

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
1.	Lack of Projects impacts assessment	M&E is usually done for the project performance but the real impacts on fisheries sustainability are not well documented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop lessons learned briefs for dissemination and sharing • Develop a forum for sharing best practices • There should be incorporated in the projects exit strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable fisheries achievements such as reduction of by-catch, reduction of illegal fishing etc • Stakeholders involvements • Comprehensive studies available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU-IBAR should develop a system for impact assessment. • Develop dedicated linkage at AU-IBAR website for lessons learned and best practices. • Newsletters and annual reports sharing with AU-IBAR as the depository • AU-IBAR should develop a data-bank of fisheries
2.	Policy harmonization framework at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without harmonized policies, common issues may not be addressed • Poor collaboration and coordination between different players e.g. Linkage of LMEs institutions and programmes with RECs and AU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas in PFRS and AFRM policy frameworks to assist in policy harmonization process. 	Development of policy mechanism through AFRM and PFRS and cascade it to all levels of fisheries management systems	There is need to develop active linkages between RECs, AU, RFMOs and LMEs

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
3.	<p>Poor Information and data sharing and dissemination systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of skills and expertise in communication in many of the projects and programmes • No structured mechanism for sharing information among key players on fisheries in the region • No institutional data policy • Poorly developed databases • Weak fisheries data management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of appropriate data management • Develop data policy at the national and regional levels • Database development • Promote updated and active website development for all projects with a linkage to AUIBAR, relevant RFBs, LMEs and RECs • Develop networks on areas of information sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly updated databases in place for all projects and programmes. • Develop an easy to use and access databases and establish a databank at AUIBAR • Establish an exchange/study programme for lesson learning for best practices. South-south 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of websites/linkages to make them more interactive through new tools • African union should support development databases in relevant institution and programmes for easy flow of information.

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
4.	Weak Collaboration between RECs and RFBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of prioritization of fisheries at the RECs • No appropriate framework for collaboration • Lack of financial support to RFBs by RECs 	Apply ECCAS/COREP model that works well.	The ECCAS/COREP model is achievable and needs to be replicated through AU effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU should give guidelines and direction, including action plans for collaboration between RECs and RFBs • Appointment of fisheries experts at the RECs • Structures for Advocacy on fisheries importance should be put in place.
5.	Weak collaboration between LME Projects and RFBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of prioritization of fisheries at the LMEs • No appropriate framework for collaboration and information sharing • Weak donor collaboration in regional and LMEs project formulation and implementation • Lack of sustainability on LMEs projects e.g. ASCLME, GCLME, SWIOFP due to lack of linkages with RFBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a framework for collaboration and information sharing • Develop donor platform under AFRM for project formulation, funding and implementation • For sustainability, LMEs programmes should operate under RFBs • Development of Best management practices and popularization of the same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASCLME/SWIOFP collaborated after intervention by AU-IBAR and there were gains. • Formation and establishment of LMEs caucus linked to RFBs • Developed Management best practices for dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU should endeavour to build linkages between LMEs and existing RFBs • AU should assist RFBs to take up the closed LMEs programmes assets and products. • AU should support RFBs to design new projects based on closed or ending LMEs information and lessons learned through a smooth handing over process. • There is need to establish a unit of partnership/collaboration in the RFB and LME institutional structure

SN	Common Issues	Challenges	Suggested Best Practices / Measures to Address these Challenges	Lessons Learned	Action Plans as Way Forward
6.	Poor national fisheries management systems hinder effective collaboration and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor collaboration and coordination between countries, regions, LME, programmes/Commission and RECs has hindered information flow and development 	Enhance fisheries management systems using tried and paradigms such as EAF, RBFM to enhance collaboration at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of EAF, RBFM and other known success management systems at the country and regional levels. Promote trans-frontier MPAs 	AU should develop a framework to ensure countries conform to appropriate Fisheries management plans that enhance collaboration.
7.	Capacity of AU-IBAR to facilitate collaboration and coordination	The establishment of the AU-IBAR in terms of capacity has not yet evolved to accommodate new mandate for collaboration and coordination of fisheries (AFRM/PFRS)	Establish strong structures to implement AFRM and PFRS Development of international instruments to enhance collaboration	Ensure effective change through AFRM and PFRS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AU to review the structure to align it with the new mandate AU should Appoint focal points at RECs Design and implement administrative instruments (e.g MOUs) for bilateral and multilateral collaboration.

6.4 Action Plan and Roadmap

The following Action Plan as the way forward for the effective management of the LMEs was validated in a plenary session of the workshop;

Thematic Group 1: Policy and governance

SN	Policy and Governance	TIMELINE												RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Action Plans as Way Forward													
1.	Capacity-building for the management of the African LME													
2.	Support the national focal points of the LME for the establishment or operationalization of consultations LME executives													
3.	Support the development of mechanisms taking into account the interests of each country or parts in the LME.													
4.	Harmonise political and institutional in the LMEs when frameworks are required													
5.	Make visible the LME activities at the level of populations (advocacy and lobbying, etc.)													

Thematic Group 2: Ensuring sustainability fisheries resource exploitation and biodiversity in LME

SN	Policy and Governance	TIMELINE												RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Action Plans as Way Forward													
	Elaborate and implement management plan for targeted and sustainable species (stock assessment) Promote a sustainable aquaculture Update and enforce laws and regulation Identify and create a network of MPAs Promote and implement measures for adaptation to Climate Change													
	Create and promote a network of MCS Implement inter-agency collaborations to combat insecurity and piracy at sea													
	Conduct assessment for identification of sensitive areas Enforcement of regulation of to these areas Promote the use of Bycatch reduction devices and turtle excluded devices Create and promote a network of MCS													
	Develop program of sensitisation and combat pollution Develop program to combat physical alteration and destruction of habitat, prevent pollution and adapt Climate Change													

SN	Policy and Governance	TIMELINE												RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Action Plans as Way Forward													
	Develop capacity building and collaboration of underexploited species													

Thematic Group 3: Collaboration and Coordination between Agencies, Regional Projects, LME Based Commissions

SN	COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES, REGIONAL PROJECTS, LME BASED COMMISSION ETC	TIMELINE												RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Action Plans as Way Forward													
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a system for impact assessment. Develop dedicated linkage at AU-IBAR website for lessons learned and best practices. Newsletters and annual reports sharing with AU-IBAR as the depository develop/facilitate/support a databank of fisheries as Data repository especially for LMEs in AU-IBAR, Abidjan or Nairobi Convention <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support the caucus on data Take advantage of initiatives such as ACP Fish 2/ GCLME etc Data by AU as repository and RFBs/ RECs at the region 													
2.	There is need to develop active linkages between RECs, AU, RFMOs and LMEs													
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of websites/linkages to make them more interactive through new tools Support development of databases in relevant institutions and programmes for easy flow of information. Support for improved Fisheries Data Management and facilitate Data Policy formulation. 													
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AU should give guidelines and direction, including action plans for collaboration between RECs and RFBs Appointment of fisheries experts at the RECs Structures for Advocacy on fisheries importance should be put in place. 													

SN	COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES, REGIONAL PROJECTS, LME BASED COMMISSION ETC	TIMELINE												RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	Action Plans as Way Forward													
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build linkages between LMEs and existing RFBs • Assist RFBs to take up the closed LMEs programmes assets and products. • Support RFBs to design new projects based on closed or ending LMEs information and lessons learned through a smooth handing over process. • Establish a unit of partnership/collaboration in the RFB and LME institutional structure 													
6.	Develop a framework to ensure countries conform to appropriate Fisheries management plans that enhance collaboration.													
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU to review the structure to align it with the new mandate • AU should Appoint focal points at RECs • Design and implement administrative instruments (e.g MOUs) for bilateral and multilateral collaboration. 													

7. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Some comments and recommendations generated during presentations and discussion at the plenary sessions are articulated and highlighted below;

- Proper and adequate awareness of the activities and operations of the LMEs need to be created and improved on where they exist. The visibility is good at governmental level but at coastal community level the visibility can be achieved through radio programme and jingles.
- An overall study of the LME activities needs attention for further discussion and interventions.
- LME are supported by partners, eg Canary supported by partners (PRAO) but expectations from partners and LMEs that are almost collapsing needs to be properly defined and coordinated.
- The information on African LME Caucus should be downscaled to larger communities and provision of articulated ways on how information and experiences are shared among partners.
- AU-IBAR needs to do a follow up with SPFIF II spin-over so that countries and organisations do not loose opportunities. Central African has embarked on applying and even developed a concept note for this and would like AU-IBAR to assists with follow-ups.
- Trade of fishery products is a challenge to lucrative markets. SPFIF should be considered for assisting in fish trade issue of competent authorities.
- Fisheries issues with Central African have problems with world and with development of Countries assistance strategy (CAS).
- Who will lead with SPFIF phase 2 project will it be AU-IBAR or NEPAD. AU-IBAR to do a study on lesson learnt on sustainable fisheries and share with World Bank. This will enhance more funding even from GEF.
- Cooperation and collaboration among partners is clear from GCLME and can be built on and learn from it and move forward
- Minister of Finance should be considered for inclusion among cooperating Ministers of LME MS. The partners/ funding agencies are on board however there should be a structure in place within the commission to facilitate easy entrance.

8. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

Dr Simplicie Nouala, the Chief of Animal Production Unit of the AU-IBAR, alluded that the common issue affecting the various sectors is coordination and collaboration. Coordination is within individuals who are committed not institutions. Therefore it is important to enhance coordination among ourselves so that we do not lose important information generated over the years for the effective management of LMEs. Another key issue is capacity building and knowledge management. Almost 4 African LMEs are projects orientated with the exception of one. As a results an important information and knowledge is after the completion of projects. There is a need to strengthen collaboration between LME based projects and RFBs so that practical and scientific information can be used to inform policies. There needs have a repository for the information generated by the LMEs. AU-IBAR is keen to work with LMEs to enhance the coordination. On behalf of Director of AU-IBAR, he thanked all participants for attending this meeting especially during festive season. Regarding the Action plans, AU-IBAR will endeavour to implement them.

Dr Emma Belal, on behalf of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries of Cameroon thanked everyone for participating in this important meeting. He emphasised the urgency to better manage and govern the African LMEs as a source of ensuring food security, employment, economic development and poverty alleviation in Africa.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP ON LESSONS LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES FOR ENHANCING GOVERNANCE OF AFRICAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS:

17-19 DECEMBER 2014, DOUALA, CAMEROON

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