VALIDATION OF THE BLUE ECONOMY FISHERIES SATELLITE ACCOUNT REPORT
22nd & 23rd February 2022
Nairobi, Kenya
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ECO 2022/41
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1. INTRODUCTION AND OPENING CEREMONY

The validation of the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA) report was held on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd} February in Nairobi, Kenya.

The workshop was chaired by Dr Yoseph S. Mamo of the COMESA, assisted by Dr Soobaschand Sweenarain, Project coordinator of the Ecofish programme. The Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA), (Activity 1.6.4.1/2) of the Ecofish workplan 3 has been championed by the COMESA.

The representatives of COMESA, Dr Themba Munalula welcomed all the participants and spoke about the COMESA’s Ocean Account. He welcomed the BEFSA in that it will provide the real growth figures of the fisheries sector in many countries (Annex 2).

The IOC representative, Mr. M. Maminiana in his opening remarks mentioned the importance of this initiative for countries of the region. He recalled that for more than thirty years, the IOC has advocated a policy of openness and sharing with the various actors on the continent.

He thanked the ECOFISH program team for drawing up an inventory of the existing institutional frameworks, the main stakeholders, as well as of all the economic data and indicators related to sea fishing in the national accounts. He remarked that this regional workshop was organized in order to be able to consult the representatives of the beneficiary countries and to validate the regional framework as well as the BEFSA manual, (Annex 3).

The workshop was officially opened by Dr Lucy Obungu, from the Ministry of Agriculture, livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Kenya in presence of representatives of the Duly Mandated Regional Organisations COMESA, IGAD, IOC and SADC. Dr Lucy mentioned on the collaboration of the Ecofish project with the Kenyan Research institute (KMFRI). She thanked Ecofish for this opportunity to train her staff and other members.

The list of participants is given at annex 1 and the opening remarks from COMESA and IOC are given at annex 2 & 3.

Cf. Annexe 2 – Dr Themba Munalula remarks

Cf. Annexe 4—Mr. M. Maminiana remarks.
2. MEETING OBJECTIVES AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Due to the Covid19, various lockdown and travel restrictions, face to face workshops could not be held and the programme accumulated delays. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss and validate the BEFSA report prepared by a consultant hired by Ecofish. It is to be noted that this particular activity was championed by the COMESA being one of the priority actions of the Duly Mandated Regional Organisation.

The agenda to the meeting was presented and approved without any amendments.

To set the scene for this meeting, Dr S. Sweenarain spoke of the high-level Log frame, theory of change and expected results of the Ecofish Programme. He also talked on the five workplans of the programme and zoomed in on the marine workplan 3. He further, gave an update on the Ecofish programme focussing on the activities implemented and achieved and the cooperation with the DMRO’s in the implementation of their priority actions. He also mentioned the BEFSA as a tool for sustainable management. This presentation was followed by a group photo.

Cf. Annexe 4 – Setting the scene
https://drive.google.com/file/d/11X54h1PnhxMvSKgtzpTT3-jKqM0ggaUz/view?usp=sharing
3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Presentation from UNECA

Dr Raquel Frederick (UNECA) and Dr S. Laing (from Seychelles) presented on the UNECA work on the Blue Economy. Dr Rachel laid focus on UNECA’s effort to mainstream and value the Blue Economy and the various publications namely the valuation toolkit and the work carried out in the Seychelles. Dr Laing from Seychelles focussed on the country profile, data entry and the data for the economic valuation of the blue economy. He mentioned that contribution to GDP was 27.4% and 41% of total employment. The marine ecosystem was valued at $40 billion. Dr Laing further expanded on the results of economic dimension, the ecological/environmental dimension and the social dimension. He furthermore presented a dashboard of the Blue Economy Snapshot for Seychelles.

Cf. Annexe 5 – Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OyDw-Mqb2jGPryLKLHptaN6bRvy2C9/view?usp=sharing

3.2 Presentation from COMESA

Dr. Themba Munalula from the statistical department of COMESA gave an account of COMESA’s Ocean Economy account. He also mentioned the various thematic areas of AU’s blue economy strategy namely the following:

Thematic Area 1: Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems

2) Thematic Area 2: Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement

3) Thematic Area 3: Coastal & Marine Tourism, Climate Resilience, Environment and Infrastructure

4) Thematic Area 4: Sustainable Energy, Mineral Resources and Innovative Industries


Dr. Themba also mentioned that 38 states out of the 54 states are coastal and small island developing states. Thus, Blue economy plays a major role in these countries. He pointed out the lack of data for Ocean, blue economy and fisheries. He concluded on the potential improvements and with special emphasis on capacity building, data assessment and pilot studies.
3.3 Presentation from ECOFISH

Dr S. Sweenarain made a presentation of the technical consultative and way forward for the BEFSA in the region. He mentioned about setting the foundation for the development of the BEFSA and understanding the Ocean economy account. Dr Sweenarain also touched on the definition and characterisation of the SSF, Capacity building, Strategic alliances and Fisheries management information system. He mentioned on the linkages with other organisations. With regards to the BEFSA, he explained that the fisheries sector should be taken as “whole of the sector and value chain approach”. He expended on the socio-economic impacts and the resource and ecosystem impact assessment. He very briefly mapped the marine fisheries sector and talked on the pillars of sustainable development. Dr Sweenarain proned for a working group structure to tackle the BEFSA.

Cf. Annexe 7- Way forward
https://drive.google.com/file/d/13jjf193wZ0sOwTtD1Zfpyv1yPa_pCZft/view?usp=sharing

3.3 Status of National fisheries accounts – island states

3.1 Comoros

The Pre and post catch remain very poorly organized, whether concerning landing, collecting, processing, distribution, or marketing of the product. The landing of the production is dispersed in a multitude of sites at the fishermen's villages. After landing, each fisherman takes care of the preservation and sales of his catch himself or through an intermediary (independent saleswoman or a member of his family). Much remains to be done specially with regards to fisheries management, data collection and analysis, Boats and fishing gears etc. It is noted that some 18,000 tonnes of fish Mainly tunas were caught in 2018. Comoros is very much dependent on the license fees paid by the EU /others for its development. Note that license fees amounted to some $1.3 million in 2019. Fisheries contributed some 2.87% to the national economy in 2020.

Comments:
3.2 Mauritius

Mauritius is classed as an upper middle-income country with a GDP per capita of $8,700 and an 85 to 90% literacy rate. Mauritius has a vast exclusive economic zone of 2.3 million km² out of which some 400,000 km² is shared with the Seychelles. The economic outlook is as follows:

- Turnover: Around Rs. 20 billion (USD 540M)
- Total export of fish and fish products: Rs. 12,603 million (95,500 tonnes)
- Import of fish and fish products: Rs. 9,197 million (133,000 tonnes)
- Trade balance: Rs. 3.406 billion
- Local fish production: Rs. 4.0 billion (26,415 tonnes)
- Contribution to GDP: 1.3%
- Export of Fish and fish products: 20.8% of exports of goods.
- Fishing vessels calling at port: Rs. 3.8 billion (765 calls)
- Total direct employment: 9,000
- Total indirect employment: 10,000
- Per capita consumption of fish: 27.9 kg

Mauritius produced some 3,260 tonnes of cultured fish for local consumption and exports. Data on the quantity of fish caught are provided by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Island to the statistics dept for analysis.

3.2 Seychelles

The presentation from Seychelles focussed on the Social & environmental dimension. The fisheries catch in 2020 amount to 139,644 tonnes and 62,000 of fishery products. The Trap and line fishery, sea cucumber, lobster and tuna and tuna like species are all under management regimes as follows:

- Mahé Plateau (maximum fork length, restrictions on designated spawning sites, etc)
- (Individual quota allocation, licensing system of limited entry, fishing season)
• Lobster (licensing system of limited entry, fishing season)
• Tuna and tuna like species (IOTC measures, FAD management)

The potential of fisheries for Seychelles is given below:

• Sectorial launch of the Aquaculture industry with multiple species identified for farming including Finfish, Sea cucumber, Mud crab, Prawns and Oyster.
• Possible extension of sea cucumber exploitation on the Saya de Malha Plateau.
• Purse seine Bycatch
• Deep sea crustaceans (e.g., spanner crabs, lobster)
• Expansion of the Fresh Tuna market & Exploitation of new Frozen Tuna market at the semi-industrial longline level.
• Low temperature (-60) value addition.
• Diversification in further value-added products (secondary processing).
• Port developments to increase capacity (extension of quays and unloading facilities

Based on current SNA fishing sector GDP at market prices is SCR 197.2 million (1% of Total GDP). In 2018, a revision of fisheries contributions using 2014 data concluded that fisheries and fishery-related activities contributes an estimated SCR 4,923 million/US$ 328 million (27% of the GDP). By subsector: Artisanal = SCR 196 million (US$ 13 million), Semi-industrial = SCR 9 million (US$ 0.6 million), Industrial Longline = SCR 909 million (US$ 60 million), Industrial Purse Seine = SCR 1,147 million (US$ 76 million).

To conclude, Seychelles will need to improve on the macroeconomic indicators of the marine fisheries sub-sector in current National Accounts framework (SNA 2008). A review of the Current SNA which only covers the production from semi-industrial longline and artisanal fisheries will also need to be carried out. It is to be noted that due to classification issues the current SNA does not distinguish the production from semi-industrial longline and that of artisanal fisheries. Furthermore, there is need to complement existing national accounts with FSNA by integrating Blue Economy concepts. There is also a need to create awareness and advocacy for data-driven and evidence-based policymaking, also enhance monitoring to ensure long-term sustainability.

Comments:

Cf. Annexe 10- Seychelles Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qsbQLI4N7oBZL8VWICYB6CqIqPOUF3Vs/view?usp=sharing
3.4 Mozambique

The fishing sector contributes about 2% of GDP (MIMAIP, 2020). The total production oscillates around 434,000 tonnes which includes marine fisheries, in inland waters, and aquaculture valued at about 29.3 billion Meticais (2020). Exports of fishery products in 2019 totalled 16,540 tons and 9,229 tons in 2020, which earned the country some US$ 51.7 million, of which US$ 16,215 million (31.3%) came from surface shrimp exports.

The fishing activity is characterized by artisanal fishing units that contribute about 90% to the total production and by few large producers who practice industrial and semi-industrial fishing. Over the years, it appears that the results of industrial and semi-industrial fishing have been declining significantly. Thus, the contribution of this subsector has been going down from about 40% in 2006 to less than 10% in 2019. Aquaculture is still incipient, contributing less than 1% of the Sector's total production. The country lacks skilled labour and many gaps have been identified. These relates to registration & licensing, data collection/ analysis/ dissemination, financing, management, etc. Value addition is a must for increasing exports and revenue.

Comments:

Cf. Annexe 11- Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vq66C3yetKm1vCbKeGVrbJD-X98dt3I/view?usp=sharing

3.5 Kenya

Kenya came up with two presentations. The first deals with Kenya’s intention to move ahead with the BEFSA. The status of Fisheries national Accounts is based on the SNA approach,2008. It used a production approach with data from landings and values. It is to be noted that the KMFRI has 9 research centres with the main office headquartered at Mombasa. As far as capacity needs are concerned it would need training, costs data, and workshops to disseminate the results. Potential impacts need to be documented and valued.

Cf. Annexe 12 a- Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/11-KCU_c2KZxqAfVwopiRjdXQLK2hcl3d/view?usp=sharing

The second presentation relates to the fisheries ecosystem, fisheries potential, fish profile, aquaculture etc. Fisheries based on the present system contributes some 0.5% to GDP. Some 65,000 fishers are concerned, mainly lame with only 2.2% female noted. Normally females are more concerned in fish trade. There is need for more
infrastructure development (Laboratories, MCS centres, mariculture centres fish markets ports etc). Furthermore, capacity building at all levels is also required.

Comments:

Cf. Annexe 12b- Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dpuVSm-UMQ6BxxO6j_Gioy_Zyofj29q/view?usp=sharing

3.6 Tanzania/Zanzibar

Tanzania produces some 41,319 tonnes of fish values at 223 million US$. Local fish consumption is around 8 kg/caput, which is much less than the recommended average from the WHO.

The fishing Environment and fishing types differs depending on whether the fish is caught in inland, internal, territorial waters and/or in the EEZ. Similarly, the fishing methods are usually long lines, hooks, Small Scale fishery with outboard engines and others using dugout canoe. The target Species are the Parrot fish, Rabbit fish, Surgeon fish, Thread fins, Snapper, Grouper, Peacock grouper, yellow fin fusilier, Blue-tail mullet, Sharks, Swordfish, Rachycentron canadum

Capacity building remains a priority for the country. There is also the question of harbour construction and rehabilitation of landing sites. Investments in deep water fishing and aquaculture have been prioritised, along with stock assessment, fisheries management measures, youth aquaculture and ecotourism have been identified as venues for future developments.

Comments:

Cf. Annexe 13a- Tanzania Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAeopn-GmbhCdgyFisGaGEUJw1V5A0/view?usp=sharing

Cf. Annexe 13b- Zanzibar Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D33ki-sqrZ4EXJyWAsmZfxhgO4x9KrOh/view?usp=sharing
3.7 Discussions

Some discussions relating to implementations followed. The Ecofish fisheries management expert and the Project Leader mentioned that every facility was given to the consultant/s during the implementation period. Gaps and other needs were pointed out to the consultants. The IPMU acted as a guide for the consultants. The project coordinator and the fisheries management expert remarked that the collaboration of all were necessary to advance/move forward.
4. Day 2

4.1 Presentation from the ECOFISH Project coordinator

Dr S. Sweenarain, project coordinator of the Ecofish programme introduced the BEFSA, what is it all about and why it is necessary? He mentioned on the ongoing work to redefine and the characterisation of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) and noted that presently a consultant is working on the characterisation of the SSF for the region, looking at the various indicators and adding as necessary. Redefining the semi-industrial fishery. He also focussed on the key drivers/key indicators of sustainable development and management and the shared value business model.

Comments:
Cf. Annexe 14 – SDRS Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tlgTNXoDEv_s9Fs3NGuGJWv4dLGL31xm/view?usp=sharing

4.2 Presentation from the ECOFISH Consultant Dr Anand Sookun

Dr Sookun introduced the Blue Economy Statistical system highlighting the following:

- According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the BE describes the sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources in both marine and freshwater environments.

- This will mainstream the principles of sustainable development of fisheries resources for the social, economic and ecological goals of the UN Agenda 2030 and the African Union’s (AU’s) Transforming Africa 2063.

- For this project the focus is on oceans and seas, and coastlines but the concepts can be extended to banks, lakes, rivers and groundwater.

- It comprises activities that exploit aquatic resources (fisheries, mining, petroleum, biotechnologies, etc.) or use aquatic environments (maritime transport, coastal tourism, etc.)

- Thus, here, the Blue Economy/Ocean Economy or maritime economy consists of all the sectoral and cross-sectoral economic activities related to the oceans, seas and coasts.

Dr Sookun also talked on the approaches to developing the BEFSA, which inter alia includes the following:
• Main
  – **System of National Accounts (SNA):** is the international statistical standard - macro-economic indicators, including Gross Domestic Product.
  – The **SEEA Central Framework (SEEA-CF)** is consistent with SNA and it measures the contribution of nature to the economy
  – The **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA AFF),** a subsystem of the SEEA Central Framework,
  – **SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA)** adds to the SEEA-CF guidance on measuring ecosystems as integrated assets that provide benefits to people. It includes guidance on measuring ecosystem extent, their conditions and the services they provide to people.

• Others
  – **National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)** - Much work on SEEA-CF Land and SEEA Ecosystem Accounts relies on integrating spatial data.
  – The **Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES),** provides guidance on a core set of environmental indicators that has proven beneficial to inform policy. 
  – The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR, 2015)** provides several disaster-related definitions, indicators, and priorities for action, and the Disaster-Related Statistical Framework (DRSF)
  – **COP 23 Ocean Pathway** has recognized that the ocean is closely linked to climate change concerns.

Dr. Sookun also gave various examples of BE data for economic, social and environmental activities. He also explained the concept of the satellite accounting framework. He mentioned the various variables and the cross-cutting themes.

Dr. Sookun also presented a step-by-step approach to the BEFSA, explaining the various parameters and pitfalls to watch for.

Cf. Annexe 15 BEFSA concept Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WZPRT8WL5-b-H7U1_2PAq4XPeO0d8jM3H/view?usp=sharing

Cf. Annexe 16 Step by Step Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s-A2moG9luevJid2zWGt0fJ4fs_QHr/view?usp=sharing
5. SYSTHESIS of the workshop

Dr Sweenarain gave a synthesis of the workshop in general and proposed a guideline for undertaking the BEFSA. He noted the importance of the objectives and key questions to be asked when defining the objectives, thematic i.e the various themes to be discussed, defined and mapped including a root cause analysis and the final deliverables. He also noted that the BEFSA should be tackled by an interdisciplinary team at country level and the engagement of other stakeholder groups. He talked on the methodological approach, key steps, variables, activities etc. He laid stress on the effective collaboration of one and all.

The chairperson Dr Mamo concurred with the synthesis presented by the project Coordinator of Ecofish.

Cf. Annexe 17- synthesis Presentation
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a0Fh-9IXMd-5MBFdROAmH03f2A3lrZfj/view?usp=sharing

Conclusions and recommendations:

It was agreed that all participants/countries would be given till the 8\textsuperscript{th} of March 2022 to send in their comments, views, amendments to be made to the reports etc. to the IPMU. The reports will be amended considering the various comments and proposals received at the Validation meeting. If no further comments were received by the date mentioned above, the reports would be taken as validated.
6. CLOSING

The Chairman thanked the IOC and the IPMU for the commendable services provided. He thanked all the participants for their presence and contribution to the workshop. He wished them all safe return to their respective countries. He also thanked the host country Kenya for their usual support to COMESA and ECOFISH.

The Project Coordinator of the ECOFISH programme also thanked the participants, and all concerned with the organisation of the workshop, specially the ECOFISH national focal point in Kenya who spared no effort for the success of this workshop. He also thanked the host country, and all concerned.

The meeting closed at 17.00 hours.
## Annex 1: List of participants (BEFSA WS 22/23 Feb 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Duties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr Soobaschand Sweenarain</td>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Incatema Consortium</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Satish Hanoomanjee</td>
<td>R1 Fisheries Expert</td>
<td>ECOFISH</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Dr Anand Sookun</td>
<td>Consultant NKE</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Temba Munalula</td>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>DR. Y.S. Mamo</td>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Eshete Dejan</td>
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<td>Wassie Anteneh</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dr Shepherd Muchuru</td>
<td>CC &amp; BE</td>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mr. D. Jagai</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Dr. Kamal Thabiti Soudjay</td>
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<td>Direction Gén des Res Halieutiques, Min de la Pêche, de l'Environ, du Tour et de l'Artisan</td>
<td>Comores</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Ms. Thanay Mohamed Moegni</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Dr. Kundu</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Hon. Peter G. Munya, EGH</td>
<td>Cabinet Secretary</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives</td>
<td>Kenya-Nairobi</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Dr. Francis O. Owino,</td>
<td>Principal Secretary</td>
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<td>Kenya-Nairobi</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Mrs. Lucy Obungu</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mr. Daniel Mungai</td>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>Kenya Fisheries Service</td>
<td>Kenya-Nairobi</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Dr. Chrisphine Sangara Nyamweya</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Prof James Njiru Murithii</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Dr. Edward Ndirui Kimani</td>
<td>Chief Research Scientist</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Mrs. Mary Ontomwa</td>
<td>Fisheries Research</td>
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<td>Dr Davies Makilla</td>
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<td>RANDRIANASOLO John Brice</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Vikash Geeane</td>
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<td>Mauritius-Fisheries</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Mrs D. Ramphul</td>
<td>Stats Mauritius</td>
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<td>Samuel Sitoe</td>
<td>Fisheries Dept. - NFP</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Nelson Americo Cumbe</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Alexandre Bartolomeu</td>
<td>Head, Environment dept</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Assistant Statistics Section</td>
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<td>Department of Marine Conservation</td>
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<td>Marine Conservation Unit. Dept of Marine Conservation</td>
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Annex 2: Remarks from the representative of COMESA

Opening Statement from COMESA Secretariat

at

At the official opening of workshop for the Validation of Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account for Eastern Africa-Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region

February 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2022
Mrs Lucy Obungu, Acting Fisheries and Blue Economy Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives

Professor James Njiru, Director General, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

Representatives from Member States and Partners

European Union Representatives

Colleagues RECs Representatives

Colleagues from IOC, ECOFISH

Ladies And Gentlemen,

Warmest greetings!

It is our great honour as COMESA Secretariat to be part of this workshop and the work associated with the Blue Economy in general and specifically the work associated with economic measurement of the Blue Economy and its contribution to national output.

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and gentlemen

The realization of the under achievement of the blue economy in our region and internationally has spurred a lot of work around development of frameworks that include this sector in our narratives of sustainable development.

COMESA member states on their part recognized that regional integration without a deliberate targeting of interventions on the blue economy will not yield an all-inclusive developmental result. For that reason, under the productive integration pillar of the COMESA medium term strategic plan for 2021-2025, an objective of catalysing inclusive sustainable transformation of the blue economy was embedded.

This objective has the following attendant results,

a. Improved production & trade of fish and fisheries products

b. Increased contribution of tourism to economic growth in COMESA

c. Improved management of natural resources

d. Improved capacity to measure the blue economy

This workshop is convened under this fourth result of improved capacity to measure the blue economy.

As we are aware, information is crucial to effectively determine the contribution of a particular sector to livelihoods, household, and national economy and above all to social as well as individual wellbeing. Moreover, it helps one to identify the challenges, opportunities and helps present a strong argument for policy change through an
informed decision. Information also helps to measure the effectiveness of a given strategy and direct scarce resources where they are most needed in the improvement of quality of life for people. In COMESA as in the rest of Africa, information with regards to blue Economy is scarce. For instance, to this day almost all fish capture is mostly subsistence and traditional artisanal and it remains without scientific and socio-economic information to enable its sustainable management. They are part of the informal sector and their contribution to the household and national economy is not captured.

Hence the development of Blue Economy Satellite Account will help our region to get appropriate data that can be translated into information for an informed policy making.

**Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As COMESA secretariat, we look forward to deep discussions on the framework for developing blue economy fisheries satellite account and based on the recommendations from this week, commit to seeking ways of moving the process to the next level.

In conclusion, I want to sincerely thank the Indian Ocean Commission, ECOFISH management, the European Union for supporting ECOFISH program, the Regional Economic Communities, and Regional fisheries Bodies. I wish to express our gratitude the government of Kenya for their continued hospitality and support to this endeavour and to COMESA programs generally.

GOD BLESS YOU and thank you very much for your attention.
Annex 3: Remarks from the representative of the IOC

Honorable Monsieur le Secrétaire de Cabinet du ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Élevage, de la Pêche et des Coopératives de la République du Kenya,

Monsieur le Secrétaire principal du département d’État pour la pêche, l'aquaculture et l’économie bleue de la République du Kenya,

Mesdames et messieurs les représentants des organisations et institutions régionales de développement,

Mesdames et messieurs les représentants des pays,

Distinguished invited,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

En 2019, la Commission de l’océan Indien a adopté son plan d’action régional pour l’économie bleue, qu’on appelle communément le PAREB. Ce plan d’action entend répondre aux besoins de structuration aux niveaux national et régional tout en consolidant la coopération et l’intégration régionale. Le PAREB vise également à renforcer l’appui aux États membres par des actions concrètes.

Je me réjouis que l’initiative qui nous réunit aujourd’hui s’inscrit entièrement dans le cadre de ce plan. En effet, la mise en place d’un système statistique de l’économie bleue pour le secteur de la pêche, que nous appelons le BEFSA, améliorera les structures nationales et régionales pour une meilleure gouvernance du secteur de la pêche.

Cet outil est d’autant plus important qu’il n’y a aucune information socio-économique ou scientifique sur près de 80 % des captures de pêche dans le monde. Aussi, les décisions politiques relatives à l’exploitation du secteur sont fondées sur une infime partie de la réalité par rapport à l’économie de la pêche.

Grâce à la mise en place du BEFSA, les données sur l’économie de la pêche, tant au niveau national qu’au niveau régional, se rapprocheront de la réalité sur le terrain. Il en résultera donc des décisions plus avisées et pertinentes au contexte de la région en matière de politique de pêche qui engendreront une nette augmentation des bénéfices des pays et de la région dans le secteur. En effet, la Banque mondiale estime que la région de l’océan Indien occidental a le potentiel d’augmenter de 5 milliards de dollars par année ses bénéfices dans le secteur de la pêche.

Au vu de l’importance de cette initiative pour la région et ses pays, la Commission de l’océan Indien réitère son engagement envers les efforts de développement grâce à son leadership et à son expertise en matière d’économie bleue. Depuis plus de trente
ans, elle a prôné cette politique d’ouverture et de partage avec les différents acteurs du continent.

Grâce aux efforts de l’équipe du programme ECOFISH et de chacun d’entre vous, à ce jour nous avons pu dresser un inventaire des cadres institutionnels existants, des principales parties prenantes, ainsi que de l’ensemble des données et indicateurs économiques des différentes branches de la pêche maritime dans les comptes nationaux. Par ailleurs, un document technique a été préparé pour (i) évaluer les faiblesses et les lacunes dans la collecte et la gestion des données halieutiques ; (ii) évaluer les besoins et les déficiences en termes de capacités et (iii) identifier d’autres initiatives concomitantes.

Cet atelier régional a été organisé afin de pouvoir vous consulter en tant que représentants des pays bénéficiaires et valider le cadre régional ainsi que le manuel du BEFSA. Au nom de la COI, je tiens donc à vous remercier d’avoir répondu présent à l’appel.

Avant de terminer, j’aimerais remercier tous ceux qui ont travaillé dans les coulisses pour mettre en place ce système. Menée par la COMESA à travers le programme ECOFISH, cette initiative est appuyée par la CEA, l’IGAD, la SADC, l’Agence du lac Tanganyika, l’Organisation de la pêcherie du lac Victoria, la CTOI et la Commission des pêches du Sud-ouest de l’océan Indien. Vous n’avez épargné aucun effort pour que le BEFSA voit le jour. Merci!

Enfin, je tiens à remercier notre partenaire privilégié, l’Union européenne, qui promeut et finance les activités menées dans le cadre du programme ECOFISH. Depuis plus de trois décennies, elle nous accompagne, par divers projets.

Je vous remercie de votre attention et vous souhaite de fructueuses discussions et délibérations au cours de cet atelier de validation du BEFSA.

In view of the importance of this initiative for the region and its countries, the Indian Ocean Commission reiterates its commitment to development efforts through its leadership and expertise in the blue economy. For more than thirty years, it has advocated this policy of openness and sharing with the various actors on the continent.

Thanks to the efforts of the ECOFISH program team and each of you, to date we have been able to draw up an inventory of the existing institutional frameworks, of the main stakeholders, as well as of all the economic data and indicators of the different branches of sea fishing in the national accounts. Furthermore, a technical document was prepared to (i) assess the weaknesses and gaps in fisheries data collection and management; (ii) assess capacity needs and gaps; and (iii) identify other concurrent initiatives.

This regional workshop was organized in order to be able to consult you as representatives of the beneficiary countries and to validate the regional framework as well as the BEFSA manual. On behalf of the IOC, I would therefore like to thank you for responding to the call.