

AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY



Implementation Plan 2021-2025

**Africa Blue Economy Strategy
Implementation Plan 2021-2025**

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources.

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Foreword

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

The Global Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy was organized in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2018. African leaders at the Conference directed the African Union to work with relevant stakeholders to develop a blue print of Africa's Blue Economy Strategy that will guide sustainable development and utilization of resources of the Oceans, Seas, Lakes and Rivers for blue economy growth and livelihoods.

Accordingly, the AU-IBAR was requested by the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission to lead the process of formulation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy¹ was eventually developed and subsequently endorsed in October 2019 by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE).

In this regard, a consultancy contract between the blue economy team of experts and AU-IBAR signed on 14th August 2020, aims to prepare the current implementation plan for the Blue Economy Strategy as well as the tools to ensure the monitoring of progresses realised.

¹ Available in 4 languages at: <https://www.au-ibar.org/strategy-documents>

Table of Contents

Foreword	v
List of Acronyms	viii
Acknowledgements	x
Context	1
Objectives and Contents	2
Overview	3
<i>Thematic Area 1: Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Thematic Area 2: Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Thematic Area 3: Coastal & Marine Tourism, Climate Resilience, Environment and Infrastructure</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Thematic Area 4: Sustainable Energy, Mineral Resources and Innovative Industries</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Thematic Area 5: Policies, Institutional and Governance, Employment, Job creation and Poverty Eradication, Innovative Financing</i>	<i>14</i>
Context and Specific Objectives	14
Institutional arrangements to set-up	15
Thematic areas in detail	17
Annexes	51
<i>Annex 1 Proposed Minimum List of Indicators</i>	<i>51</i>

List of Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement
AFREC	African Energy Commission
AIMS	African Integrated Maritime Strategy
AMDC	African Minerals Development Centre
AOSTI	African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency/New Partnership for African Development
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
BE	Blue Economy
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
CIFAA	Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
COMELEC	Maghreb Electricity Committee
COREP	Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea
DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
EAPP	Eastern African Power Pool
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for West Central Gulf of Guinea
EREP	ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy
FPV	Floating photovoltaic
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association

IUU	Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LTA	Lake Tanganyika Authority
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
NSA	Non-State Actors
MCS	Monitoring Control and Surveillance
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
R&D	Research and Development
RCREEE	Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
REC	Regional Economic Committees
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Land Degradation in Developing Countries
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SACREEE	Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
SAPFA	Strategic Action Plan on Fisheries and Aquaculture
SAPP	Southern African Power Pool
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TFE	Twenty feet Equivalent
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
WSA	Watershed Approach

Acknowledgements

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Context

The African Blue Economy (BE) Strategy was developed and endorsed in October 2019 by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE). The African Blue Economy Strategy is consolidated based on the following five detailed thematic areas considered critical to the blue economy growth in Africa:

1. Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems
2. Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement
3. Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment and infrastructure
4. Sustainable energy and mineral resources, and innovative industries
5. Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, and innovative financing

These five thematic areas are driven from the framework of the November 2018 Nairobi Sustainable Blue Economy Conference. The objectives of the conference were in line with the Vision of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and African Union Agenda 2063 both contributing to Africa's integrated and secured transformation and growth.

Therefore, implementation of the Africa Blue Economy strategy will contribute to driving inclusive economic growth, social prosperity and environmental management and protection. These would effectively be achieved through building upon the recommendations of STC-ARDWE in October 2019. The recommendations urged the African Union Commission are:

- to support adequate awareness creation, build capacity and share best practices on application of the Blue Economy concept;
- to support setting up Blue governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels; and,
- to mobilise resources for the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy.

The above STC-ARDWE recommendations establish a basis for AU-IBAR to develop an implementation plan for the Blue Economy Strategy for the use by AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities. The development of the implementation plan requires engagement of the stakeholders and elaborate consultation of the AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities. This is because Blue Economy entails the sustainable use and conservation of marine, inland aquatic and coastal resources for food security, job creation, and economic growth.

It is important therefore to ensure an overall consistency, coherency and synergy and to develop bridges and leverage resources between the various implementation plans for strategies including Blue Economy strategies developed by some Regional Economic Communities such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) or by some Regional Commission such as the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

In that regard, the current Implementation plan will serve the ABE strategy as the forefront strategy of the continent for initiating actions to harness the potential for sustainable and inclusive development in Africa and to maximize opportunities for a more evolved and effective blue economy in Africa.

Objectives and Contents

The Africa Blue Economy Implementation Plan proposes a way forward to overcome the challenges hindering the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy. Developed on a five-year basis, it integrally captures the relevant Africa blue economy components that include activities, implementation timelines, intended outputs, mean of verification and actors. The plan also specifies coordination mechanisms/modalities and architectures at continental, regional and national levels. The Implementation Plan will therefore contribute to the achievement of the African Union's Agenda 2063; the 2014 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS); the 2014 Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS); the 2015 UN Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs); and the 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter).

The Implementation Plan is structured around the 5 Thematic Areas mentioned above, namely:

1. Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems
2. Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement
3. Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure
4. Sustainable energy and mineral resources, and innovative industries
5. Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation, poverty eradication, and innovative financing

For each of them, an overall presentation of the context precedes the institutional arrangements required at various scales and between key stakeholders, and a synthesis table presenting goals, key objectives and actions. A set of detailed tables identifying key actions, intended results, timelines,

stakeholders and mean of verification is presented in the last section of the document. For each objective, specific indicators of progress are provided in the Annex I.

The elaboration of the tables has been initiated during the stakeholder workshop, organized by AU-IBAR in August 2019 in Nairobi where 125 delegates divided into 5 working groups (one for each theme) contributed to the identification of the key activities to be performed. The Draft Implementation Plan was completed in November 2020 following stakeholders' online consultations. The Plan was presented to stakeholders during the virtual Blue Economy Continental workshop, mainly involving AUC Departments, RECs, Partners, specialized regional institutions, NSAs, on the 15th of October 2020; the regional consultative workshops, involving representatives from AU member states, REC, specialized regional institutions, NSAs, private sector etc, from the five regions of the Africa on the 29th October and 19 November 2020.

Overview

This section provides an overview of the context, specific objectives and institutional arrangements to set-up for each of the 5 Thematic areas.

The Thematic Area 5 (Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing) is a cross-cutting area. The governance dimension, called Blue Governance, constitutes furthermore an overarching Thematic Area.

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

Context and Specific Objectives

Fisheries and aquaculture contribute immensely to the socio-economic development of Africa through, among others, poverty alleviation, provision of food and nutritional security. The overall approach of Thematic Area I is that the African Member States (MS) lead grand initiative to unlock the full potential of the fisheries and aquaculture to enhance livelihoods and generate wealth within the blue economy space. This will be done through targeted interventions that increase productivity, profitability and sustainability, and supported by multiple partners within the public and private sectors, NGOs, CSO, academics and development partners, and with full support by the AU during implementation.

Thematic Area I has three strategic goals in response to the African Member States' concerns regarding sustainable use of the fishery resources and the development of the aquaculture sector. These are presented in the table below.

- Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes;
- Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth;
- Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes, and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

In many Member States, the current institutional arrangements are not appropriately designed and are inadequately resourced to address the unique challenges facing the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Some of the institutional problems centred around governance include:

- The absence of up-to-date policies, laws and regulatory standards at the national level; the non-harmonization of policies, laws, regulatory standards at the regional level; low compliance and inadequate enforcement and limited effective involvement of stakeholders in the fisheries management process. Where the legislation and policies are in place, the implementation plans are either absent or the compliance mechanisms are not working.
- The coordination mechanisms and governance tools between the regional, national and community levels are generally lacking. Conservation and management measures adopted by the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) including: LVFO, LTA, CIFAA, SWIOFC, COMHAFAT, COREP, FCWC, CECAF, BCC, GFCM and Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) have not always been enforced, resulting in the unsustainability of the capture fisheries across the continent.
- The provisions under international conventions, including adherence to the adopted conservation and management measures, are not consistently implemented by the MSs.
- The LME and Inland Water Commissions, RFMOs, RFB and regional seas programs are uniquely and strategically positioned to take a leading role for the sustainability of the transboundary / shared fish stocks. However, there are neither agreed regional ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) management plans or co-management agreements in place, resulting in unsustainable management of shared and straddling fish stocks.

The institutional arrangements required to make this five-year (2021-2025) implementation plan effective and efficient for the sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector could include the following non-prescriptive actions/elements:

- The ministry, department or agency (hereunder refers to as the Authority) in-charge of the fisheries and aquaculture serves as an engine that drives growth and provides a new impetus to unlock the full potential of the sector. It has oversight responsibility for setting-up effective coordination mechanisms through broad consultative processes with other stakeholders;
- A Directorate or Unit be established, if not already exist, to oversee the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluations;
- Under the Directorate/Unit, set up an all-inclusive Steering Committee composed of members from, among others, ministries/departments/agency that have a stake in the sector (multi-sectorial approach/spatial planning, including environment, shipping, tourism, energy, agriculture, trade), representatives from the commercial fishing industry, small scale fishing representatives, fishing cooperatives/associations, academics and NGOs. The Steering Committee may establish tasks teams or/and co-opt additional members of experts, as the need arises from time-to-time. The primary responsibility of the Steering Committee is to domesticate the plan and steer its implementation;
- The Authority appoints/delegates a senior official to provide strategic leadership to the Steering Committee and serve as a primary liaison/link with the national Blue Economy Coordination Unit and as a contact point with the DREA-AU-IBAR, RECS, LMEs, AUDA-NEPAD, RFMOs, RFB, Inland Water Commissions and regional seas programs;
- The Authority mainstreams the plan into general government development policies to ensure coherence in policy and unlock national public resources to help jumpstart implementation;
- The Authority carries out its sectoral national, regional and international obligations, including the implementation of this plan, supported by DREA-AU-IBAR and partners;
- The Authority and DREA-AU-IBAR conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The table below presents the goals of Thematic Area I. The set of detailed tables I-15, in the last section, present for each Goal, Objective and Target, the planned Actions, the expected Results, Mean of verification, the Time frame and the Coordination & Partnership.

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

Goals	Goal 1 Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes	Goal 2 Achieving full wealth-generating potential for fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth	Goal 3 Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment
Objectives	1.1. Establishing institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonize fisheries and aquaculture activities with other blue economy themes	2.1. Develop small-scale fisheries whilst minimising the negative impacts of other blue investments	3.1. Develop communication strategies about blue growth as well as create awareness and develop human capacity
	1.2. Promote conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources	2.2. Promote inclusive blue value chain incorporating fisheries sustainable aquaculture, ornamental fisheries and the tourism sector	3.2. Ensure security of investment in fisheries and aquaculture
	1.3. Establish regional and sub-regional cooperation in the blue economy themes	2.3. Achieve a responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing including inclusive inter-regional and cross border fish trade	3.3. Create safe working conditions and security
		2.4. Attract and promote private-public-partnership (PPP) sectors investments and financing for fisheries and aquaculture in order to realise the full potential of the blue growth	3.4. Strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change
		2.5. Accelerate the development of fisheries and aqua fish processing and storage capacities within BE-related industries	3.5. Empower women and youth in fisheries and aquaculture in order to take full advantage for blue growth
		2.6. Maximise benefits from high seas fisheries	3.6. Rehabilitate and or secure threatened fishing grounds/zones, prevent land-based pollution and degradation of aquatic environments

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

Context and Specific Objectives

Since the liberalization of shipping in 1995, most shipping companies, particularly those in West and Central Africa, have disappeared. Shippers therefore have serious difficulties in transporting their cargoes at reasonable costs, with foreign shipping companies operating at very high freight rates. Moreover, in most African countries, port infrastructures are obsolete and transport corridors are in poor condition.

Maritime trade is currently dominated by conglomerates which unilaterally set freight rates and thus organize the shipping market in their way. This situation was favoured by a series of measures

aimed at deregulation of the sector, with the main consequence being the disappearance of the liner conferences and the abandonment of the code of conduct for liner conferences, which established, inter alia, a key for allocating freight and an obligation of consultation between the different stakeholders, shipping companies and shippers.

However, there have been positive developments as, since 2017, the global economy and maritime trade rebounded from the historical lows of 2016, nearly a decade after the 2008-2009 economic and financial crisis. The main indicators of the economy and shipping have improved, reflecting growth in African investment, manufacturing and trade in goods. As International and continental legal instruments exist (the UNCTAD Code of Conduct for Maritime Conferences of 1974, AIMS 2050, the Agenda 2063, the revised African Charter for Maritime Transport, the Lomé 2016 Charter on Security and Safety), the approach consists of building on the current dynamic, both at a regional level, in close collaboration with AU member States, and at an international level to create synergy and build capacities through cooperation with various institutions and development partners.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

The current institutional situation which constitutes a handicap for maritime transport and the development of inter-state trade lies mainly in the lack of interest of the State authorities which attach more importance to other sectors, hence the following consequences:

- International conventions and related agreements, even if they are ratified, are not implemented,
- Sub-regional organizations responsible for coordinating maritime activities do not have the support that States should grant them,
- States do not pay much attention to the management of maritime traffic rights recognized by UNCTAD, which prevents African shipping companies from being competitive with those of others continents

This situation is aggravated by a lack of synergy between the national administrations responsible for the management of the different modes of transport. In that regard, for the governance of the sector and coordination of the activities, it is necessary to:

- strengthen the coordination bodies of the blue economy in each state and to create them in states that do not yet have them. It is also necessary to strengthen the institutional support of the States to the organizations of the maritime sector (Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa “MOWCA”, the management organization of the ports of West and Center of Africa “AGPAOC”, East Africa “PMAESA” and North Africa “UAPNA”). With this synergy, it will be possible to implement the various conventions on safety and security, including Lomé

charter 2016 and facilitate the fight against piracy. This synergy will also make it possible to manage the maritime traffic rights for the benefit of African shipping companies.

- Implement international conventions and various regional and sub-regional agreements on transport and international trade, particularly those on the free movement of persons and goods. It is also necessary to establish good governance including at the level of ports. A set of international conventions adopted by UNCTAD, IMO, GATT / WTO, ITC and ISO aim to optimize commercial activities and international transport with a view to stimulating economic development. The proper application of these international conventions should:
 - promote and ensure the orderly expansion of trade and transport; harmonize standards and technical means of moving goods;
 - facilitate the formalities and procedures of trade and transport; harmonize, simplify, unify trade and transport documents;
 - accelerate the physical operations of transport; optimize costs and deadlines; provide port and transit maritime facilities for landlocked countries;
 - develop sub-regional cabotage transport, which could help promote interstate trade, especially since waterborne transport can carry large volumes and grant preferential treatment to certain categories of goods;
 - facilitate integrated transportation; set up databases on the entire trade and transport chain.
- Organize more synergy and consultation between the national structures responsible for managing maritime transport for more consistency and efficiency in actions. This synergy will make it possible to modernize African ports and create new ports capable of receiving the latest generation ships, strengthen and modernize universities, schools, institutes and specialized academies for the training of actors, and control sea freight.

The table below presents the goals of Thematic Area 2. The set of detailed tables 16-21, in the last section, present for each Goal, Objective and Target, the planned Actions, the expected Results, Mean of verification, the Time frame and the Coordination & Partnership.

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

Goals	Goal 1 Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates	Goal 2 Develop interstate trade
Objectives	1.1 Control sea freight rates and other transport costs	1.1 Create and develop transport corridors
	1.2 Promote good governance of the sector	2.2 Develop sub-regional cabotage transport
	1.3 Promote the training of actors	2.3 Application of conventions and agreements on free movement of persons and goods and standards
	1.4 Ensure security and safety in the African maritime area	

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

Context and Specific Objectives

The blue economy is emerging as a potential source of revenue for African countries, but, while there currently exists a number of models describing the tourism, climate, environment and infrastructure of green and/or blue economies, the critical gap in these concepts, particularly in the context of African countries, is a mechanism for their efficient and effective implementation.

There is continuous inadequate practical information available to African countries willing to implement the blue economy concepts at the national and or regional levels. There is, therefore, a need to move beyond the current political dialogue or advocacy debate on the subject of achieving sustainable development through the blue economy. It is necessary to rather develop and strengthen technical capability and institutional abilities required to deliver practical solutions to African countries that are pragmatic, realistic and achievable, while at the same time delivering tangible benefits to African countries in terms of economic diversification, better climate resilience, clean environment and resilient infrastructure.

The approach to be undertaken for this Thematic Area is based on integration and prospective of marine and freshwater ecosystems with economic pillars inclusive of growth and sustainable development. The table below describes four key goals requiring institutional support for efficient and effective implementation through strategic interventions.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

The current institutional landscapes in Coastal & Marine Tourism, Climate Resilience, Environment and Infrastructure in the context of Africa Blue economy, exists in piecemeal and is complex. Each

individual sector has a separate institutional arrangement. Key issues arise from:

- The inconsistency in review of the implementation level of the AU Policy Framework and Reform strategy for tourism, the 2050 AIM Strategy and the recent Lome Charter to provide recommendations on how they need to be supported in the AU Tourism for economic impact measurement;
- The inadequacy in assessment of the financial current and near-future possibilities for the AU to draft a realistic outline for promoting African tourism;
- The lack of insurance of having a very large consensus on the content and its implementation plan by engaging a large consultation with Member States and RECs stakeholders; and,
- The lack of institutional coordination of the continental mechanism for Member States to measure the economic impact of tourism in Africa.
- The Africa Blue Economy Strategy is continental and no single institution can unilaterally implement it. However, the institutional set up to enable an efficient and effective implementation plan necessary for the specific intervention will be consensual, pragmatic and sustainable. The aspect of consensual will support institutional set-up emanating from stakeholders and the consultation process; pragmatic containing economic impact, diversification, innovation, investment in human capital and regional integration; and, sustainable in relation to inclusivity, strengthening governance, enhancing quality and improving climate, environment and resilient infrastructure with safeguards against pollution and overexploitation.

The institutional set-up arrangements to make the implementation plan efficient and effective for the Thematic Area requires the following:

- Enhance or set-up a proper Tourism coordination mechanism drawing from the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) - a statistical framework for an economic measurement tool of tourism - and System of Economic and Environmental Accounting (SEEA) framework that integrates environmental and economic data;
- MS develop their Tourism sectors based on System of National Accounting (SNA) structures of supply and demand of goods and services, adapted to countries development priorities and policy needs;
- Ensure links between SNA to overall integration of both TSA and SEEA as required to generate information that will be used by Member States and RECs in decision making, policy review and formulation, analysis and research in tourism;
- Fix current institutional inefficiencies, data gaps and information problems originating from inbound domestic tourism and outbound tourism expenditure; internal tourism expenditure; production accounts of tourism industries; The Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross Domestic

- Product (GDP) attributable to tourism; employment, investment and non-monetary indicators;
- Ensure coherence and synergies between AU Tourism institutional coordination based on TSA and SEEA with Member States SNA; and,
- Develop institutional mechanisms to promote Africa’s tourism with potential to increase GVA and GDP

The table below presents the goals of Thematic Area 3. The set of detailed tables 22-37, in the last section, present for each Goal, Objective and Target, the planned Actions, the expected Results, Mean of verification, the Time frame and the Coordination & Partnership.

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

Goal	Goal 1 Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and empowered communities	Goal 2 Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism	Goal 3 Sustainable Tourism	Goal 4 Resilient Infrastructure, Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services
Objectives	1.1 develop integrated strategies for sustainable environmental management	2.1 develop integrated strategies for regional cooperation	3.1 develop integrated strategies for sustainable tourism	4.1 develop strategies for resilient infrastructure
	1.2 develop capacity for climate resilient economies and communities	2.2 develop capacity to strengthen regional institutions	3.2 develop integrated tourism infrastructure strategies	4.2 establish strategic linkages including infrastructure
	1.3 marine ecosystem balanced	2.3 harmonize collaboration on transboundary matters		
	1.4 enhance local communities’ livelihoods	2.4 enhance partnership between public and private sector		
	1.5 develop a risk management framework	2.5 promote R&D and technology transfer		
2.6 support integrated planning mechanism				
	2.7 enhance inter and intra coordinated mechanism			

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

Context and Specific Objectives

This Thematic Area focuses on three sectors of the blue economy, namely sustainable blue energy, mineral resources and innovative industries. The sustainable blue energy includes renewable and non-renewable energy sources including wave, tidal, river, lakes, thermal, salinity, algae-based energy, oil and gas. Land based water bodies can also provide small and pico-hydropower, and an emerging energy technology such as floating solar photovoltaics (FPV). Ocean mining such as deep-seabed and seawater mining of several minerals is another form of blue economy which can substantially contribute to the economy of many African countries. In tapping the potential of sustainable blue energy, mining resources, and other blue energy sectors, the development, application and transfer of innovative technologies is critical, which could accelerate their benefits.

In order to unlock the potential of sustainable blue energy, mineral resources and innovative industries, a number of interventions need to be implemented. The table below describes four key goals requiring technical, institutional, regulatory and human development for effective implementation through strategic interventions. The implementation of the strategic goals is expected to help increase access to electricity to meet the increasing demand, meet global demand for minerals for economic development, and optimizing the blue economy benefits.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

Though the institutional landscape of oil and gas, and land-based mining are well developed, sustainable blue energy and ocean mining resources are not yet integrated and institutionalized. Some States have started implementing some blue energy and ocean mining projects and integrated in their national strategies. However, the challenges of institutional requirements for implementation and fully unlocking these potentials remain at large. Some of the key issues that have national and regional perspectives include:

- A regulatory framework is important to implement projects and attract investment especially in the energy and ocean mining sectors. However, most States don't have adequate regulatory frameworks to implement especially blue energy and ocean mining projects.
- Lack of awareness of the potential of sustainable blue energy and seabed mining is another challenge that undermines the contribution of these sectors. Moreover, landlocked States with water bodies have huge FPV potential in which most of them are not yet aware of the contribution of such technology.

- Limited technical capacity and knowledge especially with regard to the technological advancement and application of blue energy technologies, sea-bed mining and innovative technologies;
- Inadequate power grid infrastructure also hinders collaborations with neighbouring States in implementing mega projects that benefits regional States.

The institutional set-up arrangements required to make the implementation plan efficient and effective for sustainable blue energy, mineral resources and innovative industries could include:

- Integrating sustainable blue energy, mineral resources and innovative industries in the national and regional initiatives and policies;
- Enhancing collaboration with international, regional, national and private sectors, for example, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and Power Africa;
- Strengthening regional collaborations such as Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), the Eastern African Power Pool (EAPP), and the Maghreb Electricity Committee (COMELEC) to make use of the off-shore wind energy potential;
- Developing regulatory frameworks to attract private sector investments in the blue energy and deep-sea mining in a manner that benefits the community;
- Developing a national, regional and continental database to monitor activities and share experience;
- Strengthen research and development (R&D) of the AU research and development bodies such as the African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD); and
- Enhance collaborations among African research and development institutions specialized in these sectors.

The table below presents the goals of Thematic Area 4. The set of detailed tables 39-52, in the last section, present for each Goal, Objective and Target, the planned Actions, the expected Results, Mean of verification, the Time frame and the Coordination & Partnership.

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

Goal	Goal 1 Unlock sustainable blue energy potential	Goal 2 Create a conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy	Goal 3 Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity	Goal 4 Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through R&D
Objectives	1.1. Increase blue energy penetration in the energy mix	2.1. Reform unsustainable financial structures and create conducive energy finance instruments	3.1. Increase deep-seabed and seawater mining production for meeting demand and economic prosperity	4.1. Develop a policy framework to accelerate the transfer and application of blue economy technologies
	1.2. Contribute increasing reliable, affordable and modern energy	2.2. Develop sustainable blue energy master plan and policy derivatives	3.2. Create conducive regulatory frameworks for exploration of deep seawater	4.2. Strengthen institutional, infrastructural and human capacity
	1.3. Assess the availability of sufficient infrastructure at (a) national (b) regional, (c) and continental level	2.3. Develop environmental impact assessment guidelines	3.3. Promote sustainable and environmentally friendly deep-seawater exploration	4.3. Promote the application of innovative industries
	1.4 Power the blue economy		3.4 Capacity building and technology transfer	4.4. Create innovative industry database and support tools

Thematic Area 5: Polices, Institutional and Governance, Employment, Job creation and Poverty Eradication, Innovative Financing

Context and Specific Objectives

The Blue Economy (BE) is considered as the “New Frontier of Africa’s Renaissance”. It can be one of the key drivers for Africa’s welfare and prosperity particularly in the context of the population dynamics, the requirements for employment, food security, transport and infrastructure. Thus, BE offers an opportunity to re-invest in human capital, to increase the benefits obtained from marine resources and sea uses as well as the equity of their sharing. It consequently contributes to prevent the vulnerable, often marginalised populations, from missing-out on socio-economic opportunities in the maritime sector.

It offers also a great opportunity to promote innovation, to get access to new financial instruments, which can enhance investment diversification and hence strengthen the shift toward more sustainable development pathways, in line with existing global and continental policy frameworks and strategies, such as the Agenda 2063, SDGs and more recently the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). It is considered that the operational phase of the CFTA provides an opportunity to create a huge market for the development of the Blue Economy in Africa. It is therefore suggested to

have an integrated and prospective approach to transformed and resilient economies in order to achieve a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth, sustainable development, innovation and local capacities. The table below presents the main goals and the key actions of this Thematic Area.

Institutional arrangements to set-up

Notwithstanding the progress made to date on many fronts, significant institutional and governance challenges remain, constraining the ability of Member States to effectively formulate and implement policies relating to growth and development of the blue economy in Africa. This would require strengthening of the institutional capacities of key national and regional agencies and organizations for the effective implementation of blue economy related functions. It would also entail capacity enhancement and incentivization of those entities and structures that are related to the key sectoral aspects of the blue economy; among others.

From a governance perspective, there is a need for:

- Ensuring the consistency of all regional and national BE initiatives, policies and strategies with the continental one;
- Developing a Blue Governance framework for ensuring the coordination of activities following the subsidiarity principle;
- Developing proper tools for the Blue Governance such as Blue Economy Accounting, Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy Standards

To ensure a transformative change of the African Economy that promotes employment and well-being for all, institutional changes should be promoted in the following ways:

- Embedding the transformative process within the climate change overarching policies in order to change the constraints into opportunities through the enhancement of the health of the marine and coastal ecosystem services to go beyond the adaptation and mitigation objectives, and allowing the ecosystems to become sustainable sources of wealth
- Developing integrated strategies for ensuring sustainable and inclusive blue growth and AFCFTA.
- Ensure the running of continental and sub-regional capacity building mechanisms, innovation centres and networks of excellence for the circular economy, the clean industry and innovative financing mechanisms.

The table below presents the goals of Thematic Area 5. The set of detailed tables 53-61, in the last section, present for each Goal, Objective and Target, the planned Actions, the expected Results, Mean of verification, the Time frame and the Coordination & Partnership.

Thematic Area 5: Polices, Institutional and Governance, Employment, Job creation and Poverty Eradication, Innovative Financing in the Context of the Africa Blue Economy

Goals	Goal 1: Strength Institutions for Policy Environment and Governance to coordinate African BE	Goal 2: To have the African BE accelerate the Economic Transformation	Goal 3: Africa to assume leadership for financing BE development
Objectives	1.1. Foster coherence in policy practice and enable the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks within and across sectors and levels	2.1. To assist MS and RECs to develop mainstream integrated strategies for sustainable and inclusive BE with focus on value chain enhancement	3.1. Develop innovative financing tools and enablers to implement BE strategies at national, regional and continental levels
	1.2. Capable Institutions to foster inter-sectoral collaboration, implementation and accountability in delivering on Africa's blue economy goals	2.2 Develop a mainstream relevant mechanism and framework to operationalise ACFTA and continental frameworks	3.2. Initiate fiscal reform and other incentives to improve financial systems and improve PPP and financing (State and non-State).
	1.3. Develop an enhanced analytical and information support system at all levels for informed decision making and reporting	2.3. Reinforce BE capacities and accelerate STI	3.3. Promote the creation of an African blue business alliance for the health and sustainable use of African aquatic ecosystems

Thematic areas in detail

For each Thematic Area, strategic goals are divided into specific objectives, which are themselves characterized by several targets. Detailed breakdowns of the targets, actions, expected results and mean of verification for each objective are contained in the Tables below. These targets are not static and can be re-assessed during the mid-term review of the Implementation Plan.

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

Table I. Thematic Area I, Objective I of Goal I

Goal I – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Objective I.1 – Establishing institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonise fisheries and aquaculture activities with other blue economy themes					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator (C) and Partnership (P)
Establish institutional multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national level	Set up a national working group that will have oversight responsibilities for the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluations of the prioritised targets under Thematic Area I.	Working Group in place	Meeting minutes	2021-2025	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Sector Ministry
	Delegate a senior official, at the level of a director or higher, to provide strategic leadership to the working group.	Official appointed	Minutes of Sector Ministry	2021	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Sector Ministry P: Nat. stakeholders
	Conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation of the progress made, diagnose the problems and propose satisfactory solutions. A mid-term evaluation after two-and-half years and a terminal evaluation on the fifth year are recommended.	Evaluations conducted	Mid-term report Terminal report	2023 2026	C: Sector Ministry P: BE Coordinating Unit; DEVP, AU-IBAR
	Conduct situational assessment	Situational assessment conducted	Situational Analysis Report	2021-2022	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Ministries responsible for fisheries P: All stakeholders P: DEVP
	Integrate key stakeholders in planning and implementation at all levels	Key stakeholders integrated at all levels completed	Minutes of sector ministries and departments	2022-2025	
	Develop an integrated budgeted action plan to implement situational assessment and key stakeholders' integration	Action Plan developed and approved	Approved Action Plan available	2021-2022	
	Develop a Multi-sectoral National Spatial Management Plan for blue economy themes	National Spatial Management Plan developed and approved	National Plan available	2021-2023	
	Establish a mechanism at the national level to coordinate blue economy themes	A coordination mechanism established	Cabinet communique;	2021-2022	
Adopt a multi-level approach for harmonized fisheries and aquaculture policy at international, regional, sub-regional and national level	Conduct a multi-sectoral study (s) to identify incoherent policies in blue economy themes for harmonization	A study identifying incoherence in policies conducted	Study Report available	2023	
	Ratify and/or align relevant international/ regional instruments related to blue economy themes	Relevant instruments ratified/acceded or aligned	Record of instruments of ratification/ accession	2021-2025	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Ministries responsible for fisheries

Goal 1 – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Objective 1.1 – Establishing institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonise fisheries and aquaculture activities with other blue economy themes					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator (C) and Partnership (P)
Develop a sector strategy that is built around the generation and sustainability of societal benefits	Find ways to mainstream fisheries and aquaculture strategies and plans into national development plans	Fisheries and aquaculture strategies mainstreamed into national developmental plans	National Development Plan; Ministerial Strategic Action Plan	2021-2025	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Ministries responsible for fisheries and for national planning
	Implement globally accepted best practices and policies and pursue excellence in fisheries science and integrated evaluations	Best practices implemented	Ministerial annual reports	2021-2025	C: Ministry responsible for fisheries P: private sector, CBOs, NGOs, fishing communities P: DEVP
	Setup management frameworks for each fishery and for unexploited or under-exploited resources	Management frameworks developed and approved	Ministerial reports	2021-2025	
	Introduce co-management and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management	Co-management approved and EAF management institutionalised	Ministerial reports	2021-2022	

Table 2. Thematic Area 1, Objective 2 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Objective 1.2 – Promote conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Establish user rights-based tools and their regulatory and institutional frameworks	Assess various suites of user rights-based fisheries management and implement the most appropriate/secure; develop regulatory frameworks	Assessments conducted; and appropriate tools implemented and regulatory frameworks developed	Assessment and implementation reports	2022-2024	C: Ministry responsible for fisheries
Assess existing input and output control and select the most optimal	Assess various input and output controls and introduce the best controls that ensure sustainable fishing operations are maintained	Assessment conducted and best controls maintained or / introduced	Assessment reports available Ministerial reports available	2021-2023 2021-2023	C: Ministry responsible for fisheries
Develop enforceable fisheries regulatory frameworks and effective and sustainable regional MCS systems	Evaluate national and regional needs for Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)	Needs assessments for MCS conducted	Report available	2022-2023	C: Ministry responsible for fisheries P: RECs, RFMOs, RFB, RFOs, AU-IBAR, DEVP
	Develop an institutional framework for MCS (marine & inland) fisheries for combating IUU fishing	Framework developed, approved and implemented	A framework available	2021-2025	
	Set up cost-effective and sustainable financial arrangements for efficient and effective regional cooperation in MCS and enforcement	Regional MCS in place	Reports of RFBs and national reports available	2021-2025	
	Ensure regional MCS systems are adequately staffed and financed	Regional MCS adequately resourced	Functional regional MCS centres in place	2022-2025	
	Compile and share a register of authorised fishing and of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels	Vessel registers for authorised and for IUU fishing compiled and shared	Registers available online; National reports; RFBs reports	2021-2025	

Goal 1 – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Objective 1.2 – Promote conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Manage access agreements	Determine and agree on minimum terms and conditions of fisheries access of foreign vessels and adopt a common harmonized and coordinated approach with regards to granting access to a third-party fleet	Minimum terms and conditions determined and agreed	Minimum terms document available	2022-2025	C: RFBs P: AU-IBAR, DEVP
Ensure that the management decisions are based on best scientific data	Undertake data collection and analyses on the status of the resources, socio-economic studies and trade to inform management and ensure timely dissemination of information	Compilation and analyses of socio-economic data undertaken	Reports available	2021-2025	
	Fulfil obligations as a party to international fisheries instruments	International instruments are complied with	National reports and Reports of RFMOs, RFBs	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry; Min. of International Relations
Design and apply risk management framework	Use a risk assessment and other tools to determine the management and conservation measures	Risk assessments tools applied	Risk assessment reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry
	Determine reference points that are linked to key fish stocks and ecosystem Mean of verification	Reference points determined and used	Annual or periodic assessment reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry
	Introduce bio-security measures or principles in aquaculture	Bio-security measures developed and approved	Documents available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry/RFBs
	Implement precautionary approach principle	Precautionary approach approved and implemented	Annual national sectoral reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry/RFBs

Table 3. Thematic Area 1, Objective 3 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Objective 1.3 – Establish national, regional and sub-regional cooperation in the blue economy themes					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Develop strategic cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture	Participate in, and provide support to the RFMOs, RECS, RFB	MS participated in RFMOs, RECS and RFBs	Meeting reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: RFMOs, RECs, RFBs
Assess coherence of fisheries management at regional levels and harmonize where feasible	Conduct a study to determine if fisheries management approaches are coherent at the regional level, and harmonise decision-making processes	A study conducted Decision-making process harmonised	Reports and minutes available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry, P: RECs, RFMOs, RFB, RFOs,
Define the approaches to the management of shared fisheries and ecosystems	Develop joint management plans and protocols for shared stocks and implement joint assessments for shared stocks	Joint management plans and protocols developed, approved and implemented	Minutes and reports of RFBs, IGOs	2021-2025	C: RECs, RFMOs, RFBs, RFOs, P: AU-AIBAR, DEVP
Establish aquaculture zones and conserve critical biota	Introduce zones for aquaculture development	Zones gazetted	Government gazette	2021-2025	C : Sector Ministry
	Identify and protect critical habitat and migratory routes	Habitats identified and conservation plans adopted	National reports; RFBs reports	2021-2022	C : Sector Ministry and : RFMOs, RFB, RFOs
Set up conflict resolution mechanisms	Institutionalise Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)	MSP institutionalised	National reports	2021-2025	C: BE Coordinating Unit P : all stakeholders

Goal 1 – Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes					
Objective 1.3 – Establish national, regional and sub-regional cooperation in the blue economy themes					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Support RECs and RFBs in regional economic integration	Establish greater collaboration among LMEs projects / commissions; Establish and promote linkages between RECs, RFB and NGOs	Greater collaboration established; Linkages established	Minutes of LMEs and commissions; Minutes obtainable	2021-2025 2021-2025	C: LMEs projects and Commissions P: MS, AU-IBAR DEV P
	Set up effective implementation of management plans for shared stocks and create mechanisms for the monitoring of such plans	Management plans developed and implemented; Mechanisms for monitoring plans created	Reports/minutes of RFMOs, RFBs and national reports available	2021-2025	C: RECs, RFMOs, RFBs, RFOs P: MS, RECs, RFBs, AU-AIBAR

Table 4. Thematic Area 1, Objective 1 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.1 – Develop small-scale fisheries whilst minimising the negative impacts of other blue investments					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Catalogue stakeholders for training and capacity development	Develop and build capacity to empower communities in sustainable fisheries management	Capacity developed and built	Training and capacity development interventions reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS, AU-AIBAR, CBOs, NGOs, communities, academia, Fishing Associations DEV P
Analyse overall contribution of small-scale fisheries	Evaluate social benefits of small-scale fisheries including contribution to GDP, employment and other socio-economic importance	Assessment and evaluation conducted	Assessment report available	2021-2025	
Assess the utility of ecolabelling and certification schemes	Review eco-labelling and certification schemes that commensurate with the needs of the small-scale fisheries sector that would enhance prospects of income generation	Reviews conducted	Review reports available	2021-2025	
Assess policies coherence in respect of small-scale fisheries to reduce poverty	Identify policy coherence and enhanced linkages between small-scale fisheries, overarching fisheries sectoral policies and strategies and national planning processes for poverty reduction and development	Policy coherence and the enhancement of linkages identified	Reports available	2021-2025	
Set up an all-inclusive management system	Introduce participatory and consultative approaches in all aspects of the fisheries that include small-scale fisherfolks	Participatory and consultative approaches introduced	Meetings reports	2020-2025	
	Implement co-management with clear roles and responsibilities agreed upon through participatory processes	Co-management approved and implemented	National reports available	2021-2025	
Define measures for data collection, analysis and the rights of access to information for the small-scale fisheries	Build and develop the capacity for data collection and analysis on small scale fisheries.	Capacity built and developed	Training reports available	2021-2025	
	Guarantee the rights of access to information by small-scale fisheries	The right to access guaranteed	Cabinet / ministerial decisions available	2021-2025	
Define rules for the management of inshore zones to protect the rights of small-scale fisheries , ensuring blue justice	Institute mechanisms and strengthen the capacity for enforcement of regulations of inshore exclusive normally reserved for the protection of small-scale fishing operations and for purposes of conservation.	Enforcement of regulations implemented	Cabinet / ministerial decisions available	2021-2025	

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.1 – Develop small-scale fisheries whilst minimising the negative impacts of other blue investments					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Select fishing zones for the small-scale fisheries	Establish and enforce exclusive zones for small-scale fishers	Exclusive zones for small-scale fishers established and enforced	Ministerial reports/ documents	2021-2025	
	Introduce selective and location-specific fishing gear	Selective and location-specific fishing gear introduced	Ministerial statements / decisions	2021-2025	
Catalogue migration of fishermen	Identify, describe and quantify migratory movements of fishermen outside their EEZ	Migratory fishery identified described and quantified	Reports available	2021-2025	
Define decent working conditions	Undertake studies on working conditions	Study on working conditions conducted	Reports available	2021-2025	
Set up professional organizations	Establish and recognise fishing associations	Associations established	Associations press releases	2021-2025	
Apply FAO-International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries	Implement the guidelines	Guidelines domesticated, approved and implemented	Guidelines available	2021-2025	

Table 5. Thematic Area 1, Objective 2 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.2 – Promote inclusive blue value chain incorporating fisheries sustainable aquaculture, ornamental fisheries and tourism sector					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Define all possibilities for market-led aquaculture investments	Assess the possibilities for market-led aquaculture investment and make recommendations	Assessments and recommendations conducted	Assessment reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P : Private Sector, DEVP
Set up systems to improve the enabling environment for investment in Member State	Introduce a value-chain approach to aquaculture development	Value-chain introduced	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P : Private Sector, DEVP
	Develop a database for the sector	A database for the sector developed	Database available online	2021-2025	
	Empower small-scale farmers by implementing better management practices (BMPs) and the adoption thereof	Small-scale farmers empowered	Evidence of empowerment available	2021-2025	
	Implement Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) management	EAA management in place	Annual reports on EAA	2021-2025	
Domesticate aquaculture strategies and plans into national development plans especially the CAADP	Increase the allocation of national budgets to aquaculture	National allocation to aquaculture increased	Annual national budget available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P : Private Sector, DEVP
	Put in place standards and norms on aquatic animal health: fish disease, safety, quality and traceability	Standards and norms on aquatic health negotiated	Standards and norms documents accessible	2021-2025	
	Implement quarantine measures for the introduction of exotic and genetically modified genomes	Quarantine measures introduced	Quarantine measures in place and reported in the national report	2021-2025	
Set up new production techniques	Implement new and proven production techniques	New proven production techniques done	Production reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P : Private Sector, DEVP
Identify skills gaps in private and public sectors and develop strategic plans and their implementation	Carry out training and capacity development interventions to strengthen the capacity of the private and public sector in developing realistic plans and in implementing them	Training completed	Training reports; annual reports of private and public sectors	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS, academia, DEVP

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.2 – Promote inclusive blue value chain incorporating fisheries sustainable aquaculture, ornamental fisheries and tourism sector					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Establish harmonized and coherent policies, institutional and legal frameworks for aquaculture in shared ecosystems	Put in place harmonised and coherent policies, institutional and legal frameworks	Policies, institutional and legal frameworks accomplished	Documents available	2021-2025	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P: Fisheries Ministry, DEVP
Establish a viable fishery and aquaculture SMEs	Conduct a study on the viability of SMEs in fisheries and aquaculture	A study of the viability of SMEs undertaken	Studies reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Private Sector, SMEs, DEVP

Table 6. Thematic Area 1, Objective 3 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.3 - Achieve a responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing including inclusive inter-regional and cross border fish trade					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Identify the factors deterring regional trade	Determine underlying factors deterring regional trade	Underlying factor identified	Reports available	2021-2025	C: RECs P: MS, AU-IBAR, DEVP
	Monitor production and trade in line with national priorities and international obligations	Production and trade monitored	National annual reports available	2021-2025	C: BE Coordinating Unit P: Fisheries Ministry, AU-AIBAR, DEVP
Develop and market high value-added products	Establish the inventory and estimate the types of products that can be processed and packaged on-site	Products produced and marketed	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Private Sector,
	Implement secure access rights and improved access to the markets to enhance productivity nutritional and food security contribution of small-scale fisheries	Secure access rights in place	National reports available	2021-2025	
Adopt internationally accepted food safety standards	Carry out a review of safety and quality policies to assess their compliance with OIE WTO and FAO Codex	Review of safety and quality policies in compliance to OIEWTO undertaken	AU/RECs and national reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Private Sector, RECs, AU-IBAR
	Establish regional accredited food testing laboratories	Accredited food testing laboratories completed	RECs and national annual reports available	2021-2025	
Domesticate Intra Africa Trade Agreement	Assess and make recommendations of the elimination of procedural barriers, tariffs and non-tariffs to free intra-regional trade	Assessments and recommendations conducted	Reports available	2021-2025	
Enhance capacity for traders in aquaculture	Undertake training and capacity development in fish handling, business, management, processing and book keeping	Periodic training conducted	Post training reports available	2021-2025	

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.3 - Achieve a responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing including inclusive inter-regional and cross border fish trade					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Improve the capacity of MS to implement traceability mechanisms, and market-led measures are evaluated and adopted	Introduce eco-labelling	Eco-labelling in place	National reports and reports of eco-labelling and certification agency	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Private Sector, RECs, AU-IBAR
	Implement catch certification schemes to help curb IUU fishing	Catch certification schemes in place	National reports and annual reports of RFBs and RFMOs	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Fishing industry, FBSs, RFMOs
	Monitor the EU fish import regulations and create awareness	Awareness done regularly	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: EU, DEVP
	Participate in WTO and Codex meetings	WTO and codex meetings attended	Meetings reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry
	Invest in the strengthening of focal points for sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS)	Standards strengthened	National reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Finance Ministry, DEVP
Develop a common fisheries trade framework	United under a single African Voice at international fora.	A single African Voice implemented	Minutes of the meetings	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS
	Agree on a common position on trade matters	Common position on trade matters agreed	Minutes of the meetings	2021-2025	C: Trade Ministry P: Fisheries Ministry

Table 7. Thematic Area 1, Objective 4 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.4 – Attract and promote PPP sectors investments and financing for fisheries and aquaculture in order to realise the full potential of the blue growth.					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Strategies are developed to improve the financial services for the SMEs	Develop strategies to improve the financial services that are offered to SMEs in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains	Strategies developed and approved	Strategies documents available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: SMEs, Private Sector, DEVP
	Include the developed strategies contained in CAADP Country Compact Investment Plans	CAADP Country Compact Investment Plans updated	Updated CAADP Country Compact Investment Plans available	2023	
Establish an investment fund for SMEs in fisheries and aquaculture.	Establish SME investment fund at national or/and regional levels	SME Investment Fund established	Established of the Fund is documented	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: SMEs, Private Sector, DEVP
	Conduct training and capacity development to help SMEs profitably undertake their business	Training and capacity development conducted	Training reports	2021-2025	
Strengthen Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) in aquaculture development in many countries	Develop attractive regulatory frameworks for PPP in aquaculture	Framework produced and approved	Documented available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: AU-IBAR, DEVP
	Establish PPPs in aquaculture research	PPP projects and initiatives undertaken	Reports and Agreements available	2021-2025	
Identify funding opportunities	Conduct regular resources mobilisation including donor conferences	Resources mobilisation initiatives conducted	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: AU-IBAR, DEVP

Table 8. Thematic Area 1, Objective 5 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.5 – Accelerate the development of fisheries and aquaculture fish processing and storage capacities within blue economy-related industries					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Identify technologies for small-scale fisheries in a broad range of areas	Develop capacity in areas such as appropriate fishing technology, fish handling and processing methods, fishing gear (net) technology, business entrepreneurship, boat-building, engineering, planning and implementation of alternative livelihoods programs to support the fishing capacity reduction	Training and capacity development interventions done	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Academia, SMEs, industry, DEVP
Identify the process to produce quality products	Assess and promote investment opportunities in appropriate technology and infrastructures and capacity development programs that enable small-scale post-capture sector, with specific emphasis on women, to produce quality products, both for local markets and exports	Investment opportunities assessed and promoted	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Private sector, DEVP

Table 9. Thematic Area 1, Objective 6 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Achieving full wealth-generating potential for the fisheries and aquaculture sector to optimally contribute to the blue growth					
Objective 2.6 – Maximise benefits from high seas fisheries					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Greater African Voice in high seas fisheries	Assess and make recommendations to the AU MS to be a party to an appropriate RFMO	Assessments and recommendations done	National annual reports and annual reports of RFMOs	2021-2025	C: C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS
	Conduct a study to determine the status of AU-MS in relation to relevant instruments	Status report produced	Reports available	2021-2025	C: RECS P: Fisheries Ministry, AU-IBAR, DEVP
	Urge MS to accede to relevant and appropriate instruments	MS urged to accede to relevant instruments	Correspondence to MS available	2021-2025	C: RECs/AU-AIBAR
	Formulate a strategy for consultations prior to the meetings of the RFMOs to harmonize positions on key issues	Strategy produced and approved	Strategy document available	2021	C: AU_IBAR P: MS
	Develop a strategy for MS to actively participate in ABNJ programmes	Strategy produced and approved	Strategy document available	2021	C: AU-AIBAR P: MS, DEVP
	Develop a strategy for MS to participate in Global Partnership for Oceans	Strategy produced and approved	Strategy document available	2021	C: AU-AIBAR P: MS, DEVP
	Speak with one voice – the African Voice, at high seas fora	Common African position maintained at high seas fora	Reports of high seas entities	2021-2025	C: AU-AIBAR P: MS

Table 10. Thematic Area 1, Objective 1 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment					
Objective 3.1 – Develop communication strategies about blue growth as well as create awareness and develop human capacity					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Evaluate economic, social and cultural contributions of the fisheries	Conduct a study to evaluate economic, social and cultural contributions of the fisheries	A study concluded	Reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: AU-IBAR, DEVP
Strengthen the scientific and socio-economic basis for fisheries management and aquaculture development	Build and develop the capacity for fisheries and aquaculture research, including data collection and analysis	Capacity developed and built	Training reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Academia, DEVP
Increase awareness of opportunities for capacity development to deliver on sustainable and inclusive blue growth	Develop a communication strategy	Communication strategy developed	Communication strategy document available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS, DEVP, AU-AIBAR
	Develop awareness materials and tools	Awareness materials and tools developed	Awareness materials and tools available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: AU-AIBAR P: MS, DEVP
	Implement the communication strategy and awareness-raising activities	Communication strategy and awareness-raising developed	Awareness workshops reports	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: DEVP
	Support/Strengthen regional, national and community networks	Support provided	Minutes available	2021- 2025	
	Conduct a skills gap assessment across the entire fisheries/ aquaculture value chain	Assessments conducted	Reports available	2021-2025	
	Document and share best practices on local and traditional knowledge in fisheries management and aquaculture development	Best practices documented and shared	National reports available	2021-2025	C: AU-AIBAR P: MS, DEVP
	Integrate local and traditional knowledge in fisheries management and aquaculture development	Local and traditional knowledge integrated and mainstreamed	National reports available	2021-2025	
Develop mechanisms for dissemination and sharing of best management practices	Develop communication strategy and guidelines for managing aquatic ecosystems	Communication strategy and guidelines for managing aquatic ecosystems developed	Communication strategy document available	2021-2025	C: AU-AIBAR P: MS, DEVP
Create an African Centre of Excellency for Aquaculture (ACEA) to serve as a knowledge repository and contribute to sharing knowledge through training and certifications and capacity building	Conduct a feasibility study for ACEA. ACEA to strengthen aquaculture research and technology development and policy networks, through AfriFishNet and Aquaculture Network of Africa (ANAF) respectively	Feasibility conducted Research and technology development strengthened	ACEA established Training reports of CEA	2021-2025	C: AU_IBAR

Table 11. Thematic Area 1, Objective 2 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment					
Objective 3.2 – Ensure security of investment of fisheries and aquaculture					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Identify investment options in small-scale fisheries to address poverty and contribute to nutritional and food security	Assess investments that favour economic growth for actors in the small-scale sector by focusing on the sustainability of the resources in order to address poverty and contribute to nutritional and food security	Assessments conducted	Assessment reports	2022-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS, RECs, AU-AIBAR, DEVP
Set up policies, procedures and mechanisms to ensure security of investment in the sector	Implement legal frameworks that, among other things, protect rights to the property and proceeds	Legal frameworks that protect rights to the property and proceeds are implemented	Legal framework documents available	2021-2025	C: AU-AIBAR P: MS, RECs, DEVP
	Put in place policies that facilitate access to capital and other productive resources including secured land and tenure systems	Policies produced and in force	Policies documents available	2021-2025	
	Develop and apply strategies to encourage financial incentives and investments including tax exemptions	Strategy produced and approved	Strategy document obtainable	2021-2025	
	Put in place mechanisms for improved marketing systems and quality control including certification schemes	A new scheme in place	Marketing and quality control reports available	2021-2025	
	Establish sustained funding sources for research, innovation and extension services	Sustainable funding strategy produced and approved	Strategy document available	2021-2025	

Table 12. Thematic Area 1, Objective 3 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment					
Objective 3.3 – Create safe working conditions and security					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Assess the safety of small-scale fishers at sea	Carry out the implementation of strategies for safety-at-sea operations and develop conflict resolution mechanisms to facilitate the resolution of issues at water basin or local levels	Safety-at-sea strategies developed and implemented	Document available	2021-2024	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Private Sector, DEVP
		Conflict resolution mechanisms developed, approved and implemented	Documents available	2022-2025	
	Develop national and regional strategies and intervention plans to combat piracy at a sea	Strategies produced and approved	Documents / plans available	2021-2025 2021-2025	
Eradicate acts of piracy	Define a joint intervention plan between MS concerned and entities capable of providing logistical, military and technical support	Plan produced and approved	Plan available	2022-2025	C: MS/RECs P: AU-AIBAR, DEVP

Table 13. Thematic Area 1, Objective 4 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment					
Objective 3.4 – Strengthen resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Enhance knowledge and communication systems	Prepare and regularly disseminate relevant knowledge to the fishing communities on the impacts of climate change and variability and on adaption and mitigation strategies	Timely updates on climate change	Dissemination system available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Ministry responsible for the environment
Build adaptive capacity at the local level	Assess the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems, including communities to climate change/ variability	Assessment reports produced		2021-2025	C: Ministry responsible for the environment P: Fisheries Ministry, DEVP
	Develop early-warning systems (EWS) for extreme events	EWS developed and functional	Reports available EWSs ready	2021-2025	
	Prepare climate adaptation plans for coastal infrastructure developments, and carryout mitigation and adaptation projects	Mitigation and adaptation projects formulated	Adaptation Plans available Projects' Documents available	2025	
Implement NAPA	Implement NAPA	NAPA implemented	NAPA annual reports available	2022-2025	
	Document the likely regional impacts of climate change and variability in order to predict and enable management to adapt accordingly	Impact of climate change and variability documented and prediction used in the management	Scenario reports available	2022-2025	
Establish adaptation measures	Develop better-adapted seed stocks	Adaptation seed stocks developed	Research reports	2020-2025	C: Dpt of fisheries P: DEVP
Record all ecosystem services and the uses of the marine environment, estimate their value and assess the present and future challenges	Estimate a list of ecosystem services based on the MEA nomenclature	A list of ecosystem services based on the MEA nomenclature estimated	Inventory available	2022-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: DEVP
	Assess the value of ecosystem services and the uses of the marine and coastal environment	Estimate of marine ecosystem valuation produced	Valuation reports available	2021-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: MS, RFOs, LME projects/ commissions, DEVP
	Identify present and future challenges and intervention priorities based on the value and stakes involved	Present and future challenges and intervention priorities identified and presented	Reports available	2022-2025	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Ministries responsible for environment, Academia, DEVP

Table 14. Thematic Area 1, Objective 5 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment					
Objective 5.5 – Empower women and youth in fisheries and aquaculture in order to take full advantage for blue growth					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Inclusion of women and youth in relevant fisheries policies and laws	Review and develop gender-sensitive and inclusive policies and legislation	Policies reviewed and developed	Number of policies reviewed and adopted	2021-2024	C: Ministry responsible for gender/women affairs P: CSOs, NGOs, women organisations, DEVP
Define empowerment criteria	Establish criteria for preferential treatment of women and youths in providing services.	Criteria established and approved	Reports and documents	2022-2025	
Assess progress towards gender parity	Develop harmonised procedures and collect gender-disaggregated sector data, by age and occupational categories and use it to inform policy and programmes	Procedures for the collection of gender-disaggregated data completed	Gender-disaggregated data collection tools available	2021-2025	
	Prioritize and develop financing and credit products/ services that target women and youth.	Financing and credit products/services developed	Number of financing and credit facilities developed	2021-2025	
	Develop new financial instruments to overcome hurdles of security guarantee requirements by the financial institutions	New financial instruments completed	Financial instruments documents	2021 onwards	

Table 15. Thematic Area 1, Objective 6 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment					
Objective 3.6 – Rehabilitate and or secure threaten fishing grounds/zones, prevent land-based pollution and degradation of aquatic environments					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Rehabilitate degraded fishing grounds/zones	Assess degraded fishing grounds/zones and implement rehabilitation measures	Assessments undertaken	Assessments reports	2021-2024	C: Fisheries Ministry P: Ministry responsible for environment, DEVP
	Assess the introduction of marine protected areas (MPAs)	Assessments conducted	Assessment reports	2021-2024	
Evaluate socio-economic impacts of by-catches	Implement EAF management that accounts for ecological interactions including by-catches	EAF management implemented	EAF management regime in place	2021-2023	C: Fisheries Ministry P: DEVP
Monitor and manage water quality around pollution 'hotspot' locations.	Identify pollution 'hotspots' and implement pollution monitoring programmes	Pollution 'hot spots' identified Monitoring programmes in place	Reports available	2021-2024	C: Ministry responsible for the pollution
	Put mitigation measures in place to prevent and abate pollution	Pollution mitigation measures in place	Measures in place	2021-2024	
Accede and implement pollution-related instruments	Be part to pollution instruments and implement them	Instruments ratified and implemented	National reports available	2021-2025	
Assess the environmental impact of fisheries and aquaculture against socio-economic gains	Prepare a cost-benefit analysis of the fisheries and aquaculture to assess its environmental impact against socio-economic benefits	Cost-benefit analysis performed and approved	Cost-benefit reports	2021-2024	C: Ministry responsible for fisheries P: DEVP

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

Table 16. Thematic Area 2, Objective 1 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates					
Objective 1.1 – Control sea freight rates and other transport costs					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator (C) and Partnership (P)
Establish institutional multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national level	Set up a national working group that will have oversight responsibilities for the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluations of the prioritized targets under Thematic Area 1.	Working Group in place	Meeting minutes	2021-2025	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P: Sector Ministry
	Delegate a senior official, at the level of a director or higher, to provide strategic leadership to the working group.	Official appointed	Minutes of Sector Ministry	2021	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P: Sector Ministry P: Nat. stakeholders
	Conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation of the progress made, diagnose the problems and propose satisfactory solutions. A mid-term evaluation after two-and-half years and a terminal evaluation on the fifth year are recommended.	Evaluations conducted	Mid-term report Terminal report	2023 2026	C: Sector Ministry P: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit; DEV, AU-IBAR
	Conduct situational assessment	Situational assessment conducted	Situational Analysis Report	2021-2022	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P: Ministries responsible for maritime transport P: All stakeholders P: DEV
	Integrate key stakeholders in planning and implementation at all levels	Key stakeholders integrated at all levels completed	Minutes of sector ministries and departments	2022-2025	
	Develop an integrated budgeted action plan to implement situational assessment and key stakeholders' integration	Action Plan developed and approved	Approved Action Plan available	2021-2022	
	Develop a Multi-sectoral National Spatial Management Plan for blue economy themes	National Spatial Management Plan developed and approved	National Plan available	2021-2023	
Establish a mechanism at the national level to coordinate blue economy themes	A coordination mechanism established	Cabinet communique; national news broadcast	2021-2022		
Adopt a multi-level approach for harmonized shipping, transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement policy with international, regional, sub-regional and national level	Conduct a multi-sectoral study (s) to identify incoherent policies in blue economy themes for harmonization	A study identifying incoherence in policies conducted	Study Report available	2023	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P: Ministries responsible for maritime transport; land transport (road, rail and river), security, Justice and for International Relations
	Ratify and/or align relevant international/regional instruments related to blue economy themes	Relevant instruments ratified/acceded or aligned	Record of instruments of ratification/ accession	2021-2025	

Goal I – Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates					
Objective 1.1 – Control sea freight rates and other transport costs					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator (C) and Partnership (P)
Develop a sector strategy that built around the generation and sustainability of societal benefits	Find ways to mainstream shipping, transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement strategies and plans into national development plans	Fisheries and aquaculture strategies mainstreamed into national developmental plans	National Development Plan; Ministerial Strategic Action Plan	2021-2025	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P : Ministries responsible for fisheries; and for national planning
	Implement globally accepted best practices and policies and pursuing excellence in shipping sciences and integrated evaluations	Best practices in shipping sciences, integrated evaluations and policies implemented	Ministerial annual reports	2021-2025	C: Ministry responsible for maritime transport P: private sector; UNCTAD, African maritime transport organisation
	Setup management frameworks for each mode of transport	Management frameworks for each mode of transport	Ministerial reports	2021-2025	P: DEVP

Table 17. Thematic Area 2, Objective 2 of Goal I

Goal I – Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates					
Objective 1.2 – Promote good governance of the sector and coordination of sector activities					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Establish user rights-based tools	Assess various suites of user rights-based maritime transport management and implement the most appropriate	Assessment of suites of user rights-based management conducted. Appropriate user rights-based management implemented	Assessment reports	2022-2024	C: Ministry responsible for transport P: Private sector, P: MS, DEVP
Assess existing input and output control and select the most optimal	Ensure the management of maritime traffic rights, which will allow African shipping companies to transport the 40% of the traffic recognized by the code of conduct for UNCTAD maritime conferences	Assessment of input and output controls conducted. Best controls maintained or / introduced	Assessment reports available Ministerial reports available	2021-2023 2021-2023	
Establish a regulatory framework and institutional support for user rights-based tools	Set up necessary regulatory frameworks and institutional support for user rights-based tools	Regulatory frameworks and institutional support for user rights-based tool developed and approved	Reports available	2022-2025	
Assess the cost-benefit of user rights-based on management approach	Introduce secure user rights-based tools for effective maritime transport management	Secure user rights-based tools developed, approved and implemented	Reports available	2021-2025	
Develop enforceable maritime transport frameworks	Evaluate national and regional needs for Monitoring	Needs assessments for MCS conducted	Report available	2022-2023	C: Ministry responsible for maritime transport P: AU-IBAR, DEVP
	Set up frameworks in countries where there is no administration responsible for managing maritime transport such as the direction of the merchant marine	Institutional framework developed, approved and implemented	A framework available	2021-2025	
	Set up cost-effective and sustainable financial arrangements for efficient and effective regional cooperation in MCS and enforcement	Sustainable financial management implemented.	Reports of RFBs and national reports available	2021-2025	

Table 18. Thematic Area 2, Objective 3 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates					
Objective 1.3 – Promote good governance of the sector and coordination of sector activities					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Develop strategies to develop and modernize maritime transport in Africa	Create sub-regional community navigation companies	Evaluate the shipping companies that have disappeared and seek funding for new companies and Sustainable financial management implemented	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Maritime transport Ministry CNUCED, IMO, MOWCA, private sector
	Modernize existing ports and build new ports	The ports are able to accommodate the latest generation ships	Reports available	2021-2025	C: Maritime transport Ministry CNUCED, IMO, MOWCA, private sector

Table 19. Thematic Area 2, Objective 1 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Develop interstate trade					
Objective 2.1 – Creation and development of transport corridors					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Evaluate each transport corridor, advantages, disadvantages	Set up one-stop-shops at ports and border posts, ensure the facilitation and smooth flow of interstate traffic, develop, strengthen road and rail corridors and contribute to the renewal of the truck fleet	Capacity needs assessment conducted and approved	National and regional strategies documents available Intervention plan available	2021-2025	C: Blue Economy Coordinating Unit P: Ministries responsible for maritime transport P: All stakeholders
	Simplify procedures and formalities for transit and trans-shipment in ports and fight against abnormal practices on corridors	Transport corridors are modernized and traffic has become more fluid	Minutes of the sector and stakeholders	2021-2025	
	Professionalize the players in the road transport sector and increase awareness and implementation of the ZELECAF,	Transport players trained for more professionalism	Minutes of sector ministries	2021-2025	

Table 20. Thematic Area 2, Objective 2 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Develop interstate trade					
Objective 2.2 – Develop sub-regional cabotage transport					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Set up new strategies and initiatives for the creation of cabotage companies	Carry out a study to find out the reasons for the failure of several projects, in particular the “Société Africaine de Transport et d’Opérations Maritimes” and “Ecomarine International” and provide recommendations for the implementation of any regional cabotage company	A clear understanding of the failure reasons and sound recommendations for the set-up of any regional cabotage company	Study Report available	2022	C: Ministries responsible for Maritime transport P : MOWCA, All stakeholders, UNCTAD,
	Carry out a study to assess if the level of traffic between African states justifies the creation of regional cabotage companies	Traffic level assess at regional and continental level	Study Report available	2022	C: Ministries for maritime Transport P : Private sector
	Seek funding for the creation of regional cabotage companies if the traffic study is conclusive	Funding for Regional cabotage companies is obtained	Funding available	2023	C: Ministry for maritime transport P: All stakeholders World Bank, African Development Bank

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

Table 21. Thematic Area 3, Objective 1 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities					
Objective 1.1 - Develop integrated strategies for sustainable environmental management					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Integrated Strategic Framework	Develop a checklist on existing frameworks to identify gaps and develop new frameworks	Existing gaps will be identified	Developed Strategic Framework	2021	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF,WBG AU-Member States, RECs
Design a national and regional action plan to ensure environmentally sustainable, climate resilient economies and communities by 2065	Design a national and regional action plan to ensure environmentally sustainable, climate resilient economies and communities by 2065	Action plan will be developed	Developed Framework	2021	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF,WBG AU-Member States, RECs
Align blue economy interventions to environmental agreements and other international agreements, and Set up national and regional action plans	Develop a checklist on existing frameworks to identify gaps and develop new frameworks and conduct a review (within 5-10year time-frames until 2065) to determine strategic interventions of AUDA-NEPAD and the potential for implementation	A review will be undertaken to determine strategic interventions	Developed Review Checklist	2021	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF,WBG AU-Member States, RECs

Table 22. Thematic Area 3, Objective 2 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities					
Objective 1.2 – Develop capacity for climate resilient economies and communities					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Instruments for capacity building for climate resilient economies and communities	Conduct a review (within 10-year time-frames until 2063) to determine strategic interventions of AUDA-NEPAD and the potential for development cooperation	A review of strategic interventions will be done with a ten year time frame	Developed instruments	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; RECs, EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
Develop a national and regional policy framework and action plan to integrate climate resilient economies and communities by 2063	Determine, at the national and regional levels, the means by which an integrated policy framework and action plan can be implemented	Integrated Regional Policy and Action Plan will be implemented	Regional Policy	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; RECs, EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
Assess the impact of climate change agreements on Africa's BE	Assess the contribution of climate change agreements in enhancing climate resilient economies and communities.	Contribution of climate change agreement will be assessed	Assessment Report	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
Set up national and regional action plans	Implement national and regional action plans	National and Regional Action Plans will be implemented	Regional Action Plans	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF,WBG AU-Member States, RECs

Table 23. Thematic Area 3, Objective 3 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities					
Objective 1.3 – Enhance local communities' livelihoods					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Develop social community guidelines and community safe guard measures	Formulate social policies that will enable local communities' participation and access insurance and credit schemes (health and social security)	Social Policy will be formulated	Social Community Guidelines and Safeguards	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Review of instruments to enhance safe guard standards in local community areas	Instruments for safeguard standards will be reviewed	Community Safeguards	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 24. Thematic Area 3, Objective 4 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities					
Objective 1.4 – Balanced marine ecosystem					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Develop a national and regional policy framework and action plan to balance the use of ecosystems	Conduct a review of policies at national and regional levels	Policies to promote effective use of ecosystems will be promoted	Policy Frameworks	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
Assess instruments for balancing marine ecosystems	Undertake assessment at national and regional levels	A balanced ecosystem will be implemented at the national and	Regional Policy	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 25. Thematic Area 3, Objective 5 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities					
Objective 1.5 – Develop a risk management framework					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Risk Management Framework	Establish a risk management framework for the implementation of the Blue Economy strategy	Risk Management Frameworks developed	Risk Management Framework Criteria	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG

Table 27. Thematic Area 3, Objective 1 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.1 – Develop integrated strategies for regional cooperation					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Assess and analyse interventions for an integrated strategic framework for regional cooperation	Conduct a review (within 5-10 year time-frames until 2065) to determine strategic interventions of AUDA-NEPAD and the potential for implementation	A review of strategic interventions will be undertaken	Integrated Strategic Framework	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
Design a regional action plan to ensure an integrated regional cooperation by 2065	Determine, at the regional level, the means by which an integrated strategy can be implemented	Mechanisms for implementation of integrated regional strategy will be determined	Regional Action Plan	2021- 2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
Assess the impact of regional agreements on Africa's Blue Economy	Assess the contribution of regional agreements in achieving a united Africa.	Contribution of regional agreements will be assessed	Regional Agreements on BE	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN-ECA, AfDB,

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.1 – Develop integrated strategies for regional cooperation					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Set up regional action plans	Implement regional action plans	Regional Action Plans will be implemented	Regional Action Plan	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: MS; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 28. Thematic Area 3, Objective 2 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.2 – Develop capacity to strengthen regional institutions					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Assess instruments for capacity building for regional integration and cooperation	Conduct a review (within 10 year time-frames until 2065) to determine strategic interventions of AUDA-NEPAD and the potential for development cooperation	A review of strategic interventions will be undertaken	Assessment Report	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
Develop a regional policy framework and action plan to integrate cooperation by 2065	Determine, at the regional level, the means by which an integrated policy framework and action plan can be implemented	Mechanisms for implementation integrated policy framework will be determined at the national and regional level	Regional Policy	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
Assess the impact of regional agreements on Africa's Blue	Assess the contribution of regional agreements in enhancing cooperation.	Contribution of regional agreements will be assessed	Assessment Report	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,
Set up regional action plans	Implement regional action plans	Regional Action Plans will be implemented	Regional Action Plan	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 29. Thematic Area 3, Objective 3 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.3 – Harmonized collaboration on transboundary matters					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Joint Action Plan	Review and realign existing regional frameworks and policies	Regional Frameworks will be reviewed and realigned to BE	Action Plan	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Establish joint implementation mechanism	Joint Implementation Mechanism will be established	Implementation Mechanism	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
	Promote participatory mechanism on transboundary stakeholders	Participatory of Transboundary Stakeholders will be promoted	Participatory mechanism	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,

Table 30. Thematic Area 3, Objective 4 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.4 – Enhance partnership between public and private sector					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Public Partnership engagement	Enhance awareness on public private sector participation and engagement	Awareness for PPP participation and engagement will be enhanced	PPP Engagement	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Develop an enabling policy environment	Enabling Policy will be developed	Enabling Policy	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
	Strengthen communication channels between public and private sectors	Community channels between public and private will be enhanced	Established channels	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,

Table 31. Thematic Area 3, Objective 5 of Goal 2

Goal 1 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.5 – Promote R&D and technology transfer					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
BE driven by R&D and Technology Transfer	Create enabling institutional environment for R&D, TT to drive the BE	Institutional environment will be created for R&D, TT to drive BE	R & D for Technology Transfer	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, ~GEF, GCF, WBG
	Build capacity to support R&D and TT to drive BE	Capacity will be built to support R&D, TT to drive BE	Developed Capacity	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 32. Thematic Area 3, Objective 6 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.6 – Support integrated planning mechanism					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Integrated Spatial Planning	Review existing plans, identify gaps and share best practices	Gaps and Best Practices will be identified and shared	Integrated Spatial Plan	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG, UNDP
	Integrate green economy and blue economy planning	Green Economy will be integrated into Blue Economy	Integrated BE	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 33. Thematic Area 3, Objective 7 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism					
Objective 2.7 – Enhance inter and intra coordinated mechanism					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Coordinated Mechanism	Review coordination mechanisms in place and strengthen their abilities	Coordination mechanisms will be reviewed and applied	Coordination Mechanism	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Realignment of coordination mechanism	Coordination mechanisms will be realigned	Aligned coordination Mechanism	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
	Engagement of stakeholders in coordination	Stakeholders will be engaged	Engaged Stakeholders	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,

Table 34. Thematic Area 3, Objective 1 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Sustainable Tourism					
Objective 3.1 – Develop integrated strategies for sustainable tourism					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Integrated sustainable tourism strategy	Promote mechanisms that ensure Africa as a sustainable tourism destination	Mechanism for sustainable tourism in Africa will be promoted	Integrated Tourism Strategy	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Develop responsible tourism	Responsible tourism will be developed	Developed Responsible Tourism	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
	Review and enhance quality of tourism products and services, one stop-border shop (visa services)	Quality of tourism products will be reviewed and enhanced across borders	Quality Assurance (QA)	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,

Table 35. Thematic Area 3, Objective 2 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Goal 3 Sustainable Tourism					
Objective 3.2 – Develop integrated tourism infrastructure strategies					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Integrated infrastructure support system	Upgrade and standardize infrastructure system	Infrastructure system will be upgraded and standardized	Integrated Infrastructure Strategy	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO, AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Shared infrastructure resources	Infrastructure resources will be shared	Shared Infrastructure Resources	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block

Table 36. Thematic Area 3, Objective 1 of Goal 4

Goal 4 – Resilient Infrastructure, Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services					
Objective 4.1 – Develop strategies for resilient infrastructure and ecosystem services					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Integrated resilient infrastructure	Review international best practices on Disaster Risk Reduction to enhance climate resilience and standards	International best practices on risk reduction will be reviewed and enhance climate resilience	Integrated Resilient Infrastructure Strategy	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO,AfDB, GEF, GCF,WBG
	Conduct regional climate risk assessment	Regional Climate Assessment will be conducted	Conducted Regional Assessment	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
	Internalize international best practices and encourage bilateral, multilateral and regional implementation initiatives	International best practices will be internalized	Best Practice Internalized	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,

Table 37. Thematic Area 3, Objective 2 of Goal 4

Goal 4 – Goal 4 Resilient Infrastructure, Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services					
Objective 4.2 – Establish strategic linkages including infrastructure					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Established infrastructure linkages	Study the best geographical locations for hub development	Geographical Hub Locations will be studied	Established Linkages for infrastructure	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, IMO,AfDB, GEF, GCF, WBG
	Map-out infrastructure corridors to enhance inter linkages	Infrastructure corridors will be mapped out	Mapped out Infrastructure corridors	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries; EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, North Africa block
	Integrate regional infrastructure hub development	Infrastructure for regional development will be integrated	Integrated Regional Infrastructure	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: UN Environment, AfDB,

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

Table 38. Thematic Area 4, Objective 1 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Unlock sustainable blue energy potential					
Objective 1.1 – Increase blue energy penetration in the energy mix					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Assess blue energy potential	Assess and determine the potential of sustainable blue energy mix.	Assessment of priority SBE completed	SBE Assessment Report	2021 - 2022	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, AfDB, WBG
	Assess the possibility of integrating geothermal energy with sustainable energy wherever applicable i.e. if the blue energy is in proximity to geothermal energy potential.	Potential geothermal energy sites that could be integrated with SBE identified	Potential geothermal energy generation sites identified	2022	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, AfDB, WBG
Pilot sustainable blue energy mix for deployment	Conduct feasibility studies of selected potential projects that could be implemented in the short (2024), medium (2035) and long term (2063) of which 2020 could be a baseline.	SBE feasibility studies completed	Feasibility study report	2021 - 2023	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD
	Pilot test the technical and financial viability of a selected sustainable blue energy technologies.	Pilot test at least five SBE projects	Five pilot projects	2022 – 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD

Table 39. Thematic Area 4 objective 2 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Unlock sustainable blue energy potential					
Objective 1.2 – Contribute in increasing reliable, affordable and modern energy					
Targets	Actions/Activities	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Identify mature sustainable blue energy technologies that could be implemented in the near future	Determine potential locations for mature and economically and technologically feasible sustainable blue energy technologies such as the application of floating solar photovoltaic (FPV), where hydropower plants are already in operation.	Potential lakes for FPV installation identified and feasibility study completed	Number of potential lakes and installed capacity	2021 - 2022	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, USAID – Power Africa, SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, and RCREEE, AfDB, WBG, CTCN
	Determine potential locations for all other blue energy locations	Potential SBE potential areas identified ready for implementation as well as for R&D	Potential analysis report	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, WBG, UNECA
Implement sustainable blue energy projects	At least 15% of energy to come from sustainable blue energy such as Offshore Wind Energy (30%); Floating Solar Photovoltaic (20%); Wave Energy Conversion (20%); Marine Algae Biofuels (10%); Oil and Gas (20%)	At least about five types of SBE projects implemented	Five SBE installed	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, USAID – Power Africa, SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, and RCREEE.
Promote the application of offshore wind energy for the production of hydrogen	Pilot test the production of hydrogen from off-wind energy	Pilot project completed	Hydrogen production	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, USAID – Power Africa, SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, and RCREEE

Goal I – Unlock sustainable blue energy potential					
Objective 1.2 – Contribute in increasing reliable, affordable and modern energy					
Targets	Actions/Activities	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Undertake study tour to share experiences in the implementation of sustainable blue energy technologies	Undertake a study tour to share experience in the development and application of some of the promising technologies such as FPV, wave energy conversion, and hydrogen production.	Study tour conducted in selected African and other countries	Number of study tour, participants, and countries participated	2021 - 2030	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD
Identify sustainable blue energy resources that could help the transition of more sustainable and applicable targets of beneficiary communities	Identify beneficiary targets that could benefit from sustainable blue energy.	Beneficiary communities identified	Number of beneficiary communities	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA

Table 40. Thematic Area 4, Objective 3 of Goal I

Goal I – Unlock sustainable blue energy potential					
Objective 1.3 – Assess the availability of sufficient infrastructures at (a) national (b) regional, (c) and continental level					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Conduct national infrastructure reliability and readiness assessment	Undertake energy infrastructure (grid electricity and pipeline) availability and reliability study to accommodate the blue energy development and evacuation	Energy infrastructure assessment completed	Energy infrastructure assessment report	2021 – 2024	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, USAID – Power Africa, AfDB, WBG
	Undertake feasibility studies for grid power integration where sustainable blue energy can benefit from and also benefit land locked countries	Grid infrastructure feasibility studies completed	Grid infrastructure feasibility study report	2021 – 2024	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, WBG
	Identify gaps that require investment and infrastructure development to realize the application of sustainable blue energy	Gaps identified in existing infrastructures	Investment gaps report	2021 – 2022	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, WBG
Determine regional infrastructure needs	Undertake the availability of regional electricity grid infrastructure especially for the three African Power Pool regions of offshore wind energy potentials such as the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), the Eastern African Power Pool (EAPP), and the Maghreb Electricity Committee (COMELEC)	Regional energy infrastructure needs identified and proposal for implementation completed	Potential proposals	2021 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, USAID – Power Africa, SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, and RCREEE.
	Determine gaps in the already ongoing gas pipeline infrastructures and propose needs for implementation	Natural gas pipeline capability gaps identified and proposal for implementation completed	Natural gas pipeline capability gaps report	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AfDB, WBG
	Determine natural gas infrastructure needs in countries where new oil and gas are discovered.	Potential natural gas pipeline needs completed	Natural gas pipeline needs analysis report	2021 – 2022	

Table 41. Thematic Area 4, Objective 4 of Goal 1

Goal 1 – Unlock sustainable blue energy potential					
Objective 1.4 – Power the blue economy					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Identify blue economy energy requirements	Determine blue economy energy requirements for different applications operating in the blue economy including offshore marine aquaculture, marine algae, mining seawater minerals, desalination, coastal community power grids, ocean observation and navigation, and underwater vehicles.	Potential energy demand for blue economy sectors that could be powered by SBE activities determined	Potential SBE applications for blue economy identified and selected – Assessment Report	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, SADC-SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, RCREEE, AfDB, WBG
	Determine blue economy energy requirements operating inland that could benefit from sustainable blue energy such as aquaculture production, communities along rivers and lakes that could benefit from FPV, agriculture i.e. powering irrigation and production.	Potential inland target communities and activities identified and implemented	Number of potential applications and beneficiaries – Assessment Report	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, SADC-SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, RCREEE, AfDB, WBG, UNEP, UNIDO
Identify sustainable blue energy powering devices	Identify applicable blue economy powering technologies that could be applied for various services	List of innovative powering devices in the ocean identified and recommendation provided on annual bases	Innovative powering devices assessment and application report	2021-2022	C:AU-IBAR P:AUDA -NEPAD, UNIDO, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO

Table 42. Thematic Area 4, Objective 1 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Create conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy					
Objective 2.1 – Reform unsustainable financial structure and create conducive energy finance instruments					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Reform energy subsidies and reform tariff restructuring	Transform current electricity tariff subsidy into market driven electricity tariff system	Transformation of electricity tariff completed	Electricity tariff report	2021 – 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, , USAID – Power Africa, SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, and RCREEE
	Introduce innovative financing mechanisms and create a “Blue Energy Fund” mechanism similar to “Green Bond” for renewable energy.	Introduction of innovative financing mechanism completed and “Blue Energy Fund” created	Functional innovative financing mechanism Blue Energy Bond created	2021 – 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, WBG, UNECA
	Update and introduce new energy data management systems to increase efficiency and transparency, and reliability	Utility data management system	Functional utility data management system	2021 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, SADC-SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, RCREEE, AfDB, WBG
Strengthen the financial capacity and creditworthiness of state entities	Transform utility structures in line with the development aspirations in a manner that could encourage investments in sustainable blue energy.	Transformation of utility structures completed	Transformation of utility structure adopted	2021 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, IFC
Develop clear and stable electricity tariff policy frameworks that enable the private sector to invest	Develop and implement tariff policy that encourage investors and users. It should be open and transparent process i.e. procurement etc...	Tariff policy developed and updated	Tariff policy adopted	2021 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, IFC

Table 43. Thematic Area 4, Objective 2 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Create conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy					
Objective 2.2 – Develop sustainable blue energy master plan and policy derivatives					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Assess the state of the renewable energy and sustainable blue energy strategies	Identify the need for independent blue energy national strategy development and undertake actions to develop the strategy	Assessment of renewable energy strategies revised and the need for an independent SBE strategy identified	Renewable energy strategies revised and adopted	2021 - 2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, SADC-SACREEE, ECOWAS-EREP, and RCREEE
Develop and incorporate sustainable blue energy in the national strategy	Develop a sustainable blue energy strategy	Sustainable blue energy strategy developed	Sustainable blue energy strategy adopted	2021 – 2022	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, AfDB, WBG
	Incorporate sustainable blue energy mix in the national renewable energy strategy or road map	Incorporate sustainable blue energy in renewable energy strategy	Incorporation of Sustainable blue energy in renewable energy strategy adopted	2021 – 2023	
	Develop a long-term sustainable blue energy strategy and quantify it's contribution (low carbon scenario analysis).	Low carbon development scenario analysis completed that include SBE.	Low carbon development scenario analysis report	2021 – 2022	
Updating of regulations and policies to meet new development and requirements	Update regulatory frameworks to meet sustainable blue energy requirements	National regulatory frameworks updated	National regulatory frameworks adopted	2021 – 2025	
	Harmonize regional regulations and policies to reduce risk and encourage collaboration	Regional regulations harmonized	Harmonized regional regulations adopted	2021 – 2025	
Investigate how blue energy empowers local productivity to use energy	Assess the contribution of SBE in eradicating poverty and increase income of communities especially in coastal areas.	Disadvantaged communities and SBE projects identified to spur local economy	Assessment report	2021 – 2025	
	Synergy blue economy with economic development so that electricity consumption per capital increases	Contribution SBE to national economic development quantified	Study report	2021 – 2025	

Table 44. Thematic Area 4, Objective 3 of Goal 2

Goal 2 – Create conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy					
Objective 2.3 – Develop environmental and social impact assessment guidelines					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Environmental impact assessment guideline	Develop environmental impact assessment guidelines and/or update the existing ones	Environmental impact assessment guidelines completed	Environmental impact assessment guideline / report	2021 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, UNECA, WBG
	Develop regional strategic EIA for blue energy and harmonize the national strategies to consider the development of blue energy	Strategic environmental impact assessment guideline completed	Strategic environmental impact assessment guideline /report	2021 – 2025	
Develop environmentally sensitive areas	Develop environmentally sensitive areas and pre-determine the environmental sensitive corridors with the aim of expediting the licensing for exploration and minimize impacts.	Environmental sensitive areas identified in the SBE corridors	Environmental sensitive area report	2021 – 2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, WBG
	Develop environmentally sensitive areas spatial mapping	Spatial mapping completed	Online spatial mapping	2021 – 2025	

Table 45. Thematic Area 4, Objective 1 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity					
Objective 3.1 – Increase deep-seabed and seawater mining production for meeting demand and economic prosperity					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Asses and map the potential area for mineral extraction	Determine the types of mineral resources and develop a preliminary assessment report	Potential assessment report completed	Potential assessment report	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AMDC, ISA, AfDB, WBG
Determine economic, financial and technical viability of deep-seawater and seawater mining potentials	Quantify the economic viability of deep-seabed mining and seawater mining potential	Economic and technical viability determined	Economic viability report	2022-2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AMDC, AfDB, WBG
	Undertake risk analysis including financial, environmental, regulatory, and climate risks	Risk assessment report completed	Risk assessment report	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AMDC, AfDB, WBG
Integrating mining industry to the national and local economy	Quantify the national economic contribution of the potential	National economic contribution report completed	National economic contribution report	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AMDC, AfDB, WBG
	Quantify the contribution of the mining activity for local economy through job creation and economic contribution	Job creation and gender equity report completed	Job creation and gender equity report	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AMDC, ACBF, AfDB, WBG

Table 46. Thematic Area 4, Objective 2 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity					
Objective 3.2 – Create conducive regulatory frameworks for exploration of deep seawater					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Develop a regulatory framework	Develop regulatory framework in line with international mining rules and regulations and best practices. The regulatory framework should ensure its application not only for exploration licensing but also its application for negotiation so that it can meet national interest.	Regulatory framework developed	Regulatory framework report	2021 - 2023	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AMDC, ISA
	Develop continental mandatory minimum operating regulatory standards (AU Mining Operating Protocol)	Operation standards completed	Operation standards adopted	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AMDC, ISA
Regulate the application of blue energy for mining activities	Develop a regulatory framework for the application of sustainable blue energy requirements for mining	Regulation for the application of SBE in mining finalized	SBE application for mining regulated	2021 - 2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AMDC, ISA

Table 47. Thematic Area 4, Objective 3 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity					
Objective 3.3 – Promote sustainable and environmentally friendly deep-seawater exploration and mining practices					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Baseline studies	Develop baseline studies which determine detailed environmental conditions in potential locations for mining	Baseline assessment completed	Baseline assessment report	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AMDC, ISA
	Undertake environmental survey and develop spatial mapping, which identifies sensitive environmental areas.	Specific environmental sensitive areas determined	Specific environmental sensitive areas survey report	2021 - 2025	
Develop a regional strategic environmental guideline	Develop an environmental impact assessment guideline specific to deep-seabed mining and seawater mining	Environmental impact assessment guideline for deep-seabed mining and seawater mining completed	Environmental impact assessment guideline for deep-seabed mining and seawater mining enforced	2021 - 2025	

Table 48. Thematic Area 4, Objective 4 of Goal 3

Goal 3 – Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity					
Objective 3.4 – Capacity Building and Technology Transfer					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Capacity building	Develop a deep-seawater and seawater mining skills (technical, policy, financial and negotiation) needs assessment and strategy	Skills needs assessment completed	Skills needs assessment report	2021 - 2022	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, ACBF
	Develop national capacity for deep-seabed mining and seawater mining	National skills capacity strengthened	Number of experts trained	2021 - 2030	
	Undertake continental capacity readiness assessment (institutional, technical and financial)	Continental capacity readiness study completed	Continental capacity readiness report	2021 - 2025	
	Develop gender specific skills assessment and empowering strategy	Gender specific assessment and empowering strategy completed	Gender specific assessment and strategy report	2021 - 2024	
Promote technology transfer	Undertake study tour within Africa as well as internationally to gain more experience for speedy application.	Study tour conducted	Number of experts and study tours conducted	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD
Asses and create a database	Create a database on African institutions and strengthen their capacity to conduct deep-seawater and seawater mining	Capacity strengthened and database created	Skill database available online	2021 - 2025	
Clearinghouse mechanism	Create continental mining professional's database for concerted experience sharing and capacity building	Professional database created and annually updated	Professional database launched	2022 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member Countries, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, UNEP, CTCN
	Develop a clearinghouse for status of six capitals such as financial, human, natural, physical, political, and social capital.	Clearinghouse created and annually updated	Clearinghouse available online	2021 - 2025	

Table 49. Thematic Area 4, Objective 1 of Goal 4

Goal 4 – Optimize the application of innovative industries					
Objective 4.1 - Develop policy framework to accelerate the transfer and application of blue economy technologies					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Regulatory framework for blue economy innovative industries	Develop policy framework, which promotes the institutionalization R&D for innovative industries	Regulatory framework developed and approved	Regulatory framework adopted	2021 - 2023	C:AU-IBAR P:AOSTI,AUDA-NEPAD
	Develop continental and regional regulatory framework that promotes cooperation and sharing of resources	Continental and regional regulatory framework developed	Continental and regional regulatory framework guideline in place	2021 - 2025	
	Develop health and safety standards which are aligned with standards for health and occupational safety specific to all sectors	Health and safety standards finalized	Health and safety standards approved	2023 - 2025	
Institutionalize research and development for innovative industries in the blue economy	Institutionalize research and development for innovative industries	Research and development for innovative industries institutionalized	R&D institutionalized	2020 - 2023	

Table 50. Thematic Area 4, Objective 2 of Goal 4

Goal 4 – Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through research and development					
Objective 4.2 – Strengthen institutional, financial and human capacity					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Strengthen institutions	Identify institutional needs and take action to strengthen national level research and development for innovative industries	Research and development strengthened	Number of national institutions strengthened	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
	Strengthen regional and continental R&D and innovation institutions	Regional research and development strengthened	Number of continental institutions strengthened	2022 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
	Develop an institutional framework that encourages, supports and promotes innovation through enabling mechanisms, for example supporting and creating incubators for innovation, and research and development	Blueprint for encouraging entrepreneurship through incubation implemented	Institutional framework document	2022 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
Human Capacity	Determine human capacity needs for blue economy research and development	Human capacity needs assessment completed	Human capacity needs assessment report	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
	Develop a national, regional and continental capacity building strategy	Regional capacity building strategy completed	Regional capacity building strategy report	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
	Develop gender specific capacity building to ensure gender equity is applied.	Gender specific capacity development strategy completed	Gender specific capacity development strategy report	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
Financial support	Determine financial requirements for institutional and human capacity building	Financial needs estimated	Financial needs assessment report	2021-2024	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF
	Secure sustainable financial support	Finance secured	Finance available	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P:ACBF

Table 51. Thematic Area 4, Objective 3 of Goal 4

Goal 4 – Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through research and development					
Objective 4.3 – Promote the application of innovative industries					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Sea level rise adaptation and wave energy generation	Integrate wave energy conversion (WEC) technology with sea level rise adaptation projects (Coastal Adaptation – Wave Energy Conversion Nexus) and implement at least three projects	At least three wave energy conversion technology integrated with coastal adaptation	Three energy-adaptation projects implemented	2021 – 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD
Desalination using sustainable blue energy	Implement at least three small to medium scale marine energy technology powered desalination projects (Marine Energy – Desalination Nexus)	At least three SBE powered desalination systems implemented	Three desalination plants	2022- 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO
Produce hydrogen using sustainable blue energy	Implement at least three off-shore wind powered hydrogen production facilities (Off-shore Wind and Hydrogen Production Nexus)	At least three offshore powered hydrogen powered systems implemented	Three hydrogen projects	2022-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO
Powering blue economy activities	Assess the application of marine energy for powering blue economy especially powering unmanned vehicles in deep-seabed mining	Sustainable blue energy powered mining systems introduced and implemented	Number and Installed capacity	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO
	Determine and implement the application of sustainable blue energy for different blue energy sectors including: aquaculture, ice-making, and maritime activities.	Feasibility of projects completed, and projects implemented	Number of pilot projects	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO
Application of innovative industries across all sectors	Develop sectoral innovative industry application potentials and select feasible projects in the blue economy sectors	Blue economy energy needs determined, and projects implemented	Blue economy energy needs report and number of pilot projects	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO
	Promote the application of market and production scale economies in the blue economy	Undertake awareness activities	Number of awareness activities and promotion reports	2021-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO

Table 52. Thematic Area 4, Objective 4 of Goal 4

Goal 4 – Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through research and development					
Objective 4.4 – Create innovative industry databases and support tools, and promote collaboration					
Targets	Actions	Expected Results	Mean of verification	Timeframe	Coordinator and Partnership
Improve knowledge in innovative industries	Study tour in countries already applying innovative industries.	Study tour conducted as needed	Number of study tours	2021 - 2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member countries, AUDA-NEPAD, AOSTI, CTCN, UNEP, UNIDO
Compile innovative technology data base	Undertake innovative industry assessment and create a database to promote evidence-based decision-making and evaluate their scalability and adaptability.	Innovative industries database of blue economy completed and periodically updated	Database available	2021 - 2025	
Improve current climate decision-making supporting tools	Strengthen hydro metrological database and identify locations where innovative industries could be applied.	Climate database and tool completed to help integrate blue economy in general and suitable blue energy in particular	Climate database available	2021 - 2025	

	Develop spatial mapping tools	Decision-making support tools developed for blue economy	Decision-making support tools available	2021 - 2025	
Promote international knowledge transfer mechanism	Develop a mechanism for international knowledge transfer and capacity building	Mechanism for knowledge transfer completed and operationalized	Number of knowledge transfer activities and initiatives	2021 - 2025	

Thematic Area 5: Polices, Institutional and Governance, Employment, Job creation and Poverty Eradication, Innovative Financing

Table 53. Thematic Area 5, Objective 1 of Goal 1

Goal 1 - To strength institutions for policy environment and governance to coordinate African BE					
Objective 1.1 – Fostering coherence in policy practice and the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks within and across sectors and levels					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Incorporate existing regional and continental policy frameworks into national systems	Conduct a mapping exercise of policies and regulatory frameworks	Policies and Regulatory frameworks fully mapped	Report available	2021	C:AU-IBAR P: RECs, AU, UN, IMO, MS and the World Bank
	Develop a formal mechanism for stakeholder consultation (including who is/should be consulted; record of the consultations/outcomes);	Stakeholder mechanism fully developed	Stakeholder mechanism effective	2021	
	Conduct a consultative engagement with national and regional players and stakeholders (validation and buy-in)	Consultation workshops done and network of stakeholders in place	Workshops reports available	2021-2022	
	Review and align policies to the AIMS	Review and alignment exercise done	Report of the alignment available	2021-2022	
Monitoring and reporting framework operationalised	Develop a mechanism to guide policy coherence and align establishment and operationalisation (Policy Handbook; etc....)	Mechanisms develop to ensure policy coherence	Policy handbooks available	2022	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AU, UNECA, AFDB and RECs
	Organize the First regional and continental reporting (sharing and learning) platform by 2023	Reporting platform	Reporting platform in operation	2022-2023	

Table 54. Thematic Area 5, Objective 2 of Goal 1

Goal 1 - To strength institutions for policy environment and governance to coordinate African BE					
Objective 1.2 – Capable institutions to foster inter-sectoral collaboration, implementation and accountability in delivering on Africa's blue economy goals					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Capacity in national and regional structures strengthened to develop and coordinate policy and regulatory framework	Conduct an assessment on human and institutional resource needs at all levels	Fully comprehensive assessment done	Assessment report available	2021	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AU, UNECA, AFDB and RECs
	Organise responsive human and institutional capacity development programs	Human and institutional capacities reinforced	Reports of Program achievement available	2022-2024	
	Legislative drafting for the appropriate regulatory bodies	Legislation updated	Legislative documents available	2022-2024	
Institutional mechanisms for cross-sector collaboration formalised	AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to define and lead process to formalise agreed institutional mechanism	BE development Process in place	Report on the development process available	2021	C:AU-IBAR P:AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, UNESCO, IOC-UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, IUCN, MS

	Technical Consultations across the lead AU institutions (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECs) and other players including UNESCO, IOC-UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, IUCN. Develop a mechanism for cross-sector review and harmonisation	Fruitful cross-sectorial consultation	Reports on consultation available	2022	
	Setting up of a coordination system at member states level for improved inter-sectoral collaboration	BE coordination unit set-up at national level	National BE coordination unit reports available	2022-2023	
Strengthen the coordination between African states for common position and voice in international platforms and frameworks	Provide a mechanism and process to enable Africa to engage with one voice in global and international platforms and frameworks	Unified approach implemented	AUC one voice statement on BE development regarding partners		C:AU-IBAR P: Member States, NEPAD,AUC and RECs

Table 55. Thematic Area 5, Objective 3 of Goal 1

Goal 1 - To strength institutions for policy environment and governance to coordinate African BE					
Objective 1.3 – Enhanced analytical and information support system at all levels for informed decision making and reporting					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Establish and operationalise continental BE information and knowledge support database	Identify BE implementation data and information needs and build standard templates for collection (all sectors and components)	BE data recorded following a standardised procedure	Database in operation	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AU, NEPAD, UNECA and RECs
Strengthen BE research and innovations capacity in Africa's institutions	Conduct gap-analysis, review and adapt curriculum in learning institutions to cater for BE	Review of the continental capacities for delivering BE trainings	Report on the review available	2021	C:AU-IBAR P:AUC, NEPAD, RECs, UNEP, Research institutes
	Re-enforce capacity in scientific, technical, academic and policy institutions for BE implementation	Improvement of scientific, technical and administrative competences	Reports on capacity building available	2022-2025	

Table 56. Thematic Area 5, Objective 1 of Goal 2

Goal 2 - To have the African BE accelerates the Economics Transformation					
Objective 2.1 –To assist Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to mainstream integrated strategies for sustainable and inclusive BE with focus on value chain enhancement					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Review existing frameworks for an integrated BE strategy	Undertake a diagnosis analysis of existing framework	A comprehensive framework diagnostic has provided key elements for the BE implementation	Diagnostic Report available	2021	C:AU-IBAR P: UNECA, AfDB, WBG and RECs
	Identify needs and gaps and to propose intervention areas				
Design a framework to guide national and regional action plans in the context of the Agenda 2063	Develop continental and sub-regional frameworks for an integrated strategy within the Blue Governance framework developed in 2020	Continental and sub-regional framework are developed in an integrated way for a better implementation of BE	Framework in place	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AU, UNECA, AFDB and RECs
Facilitate roll-out of regional and sub-regional action plans	Mobilise technical, human and financial resources for the implementation of national and regional action plans	The mobilisation contributes to the implementation of BE plans	Effective mobilisation	2021-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AU, UNECA, AFDB and RECs
Enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships	Assist in the operationalization of multi-stakeholder's platforms.	A multi-stakeholder platform is in place within the AU frame.	The mutli-stakeholder platform is operational	2022-2023	C:AU-IBAR P:AU, NEPAD, UNECA, AfDB, RECs & Member States

Table 57. Thematic Area 5, Objective 2 of Goal 2

Goal 2 - To have the African BE accelerates the Economics Transformation					
Objective 2.2 – Mainstream relevant mechanism and framework to operationalise ACFTA and Continental Frameworks					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Instruments and capacities for ensuring accelerated sustainable and an inclusive BE trade are actualised	To review/update trade policy development and assess institutional, technical and human capacity needs and gaps for BE trade policy enhancement	Institutional and human capacity assessed	Assessment report available	2022	C : AU-IBAR P : UNECA, AFDB, RECs
Regional policy framework and action plan for BE trade enhanced	To facilitate the formulation of regional and sub-regional policy frameworks, strategies and action plans	Regional BE trade mechanism in place	Effective Regional BE trade mechanism	2022-2023	C: AU-IBAR P: Member States; AFDB, UNECA, RECs
Facilitation of regional and sub-regional strategies and action plans	To facilitate the implementation of regional and sub-regional action plans	BE trade policy are in line with the ACFTA	Policy and regulations updated to new trade framework	2022-2025	C: AU-IBAR P: Member States; UNECA, AFDB, RECs

Table 58. Thematic Area 5, Objective 3 of Goal 2

Goal 2 - To have the African BE accelerates the Economics Transformation					
Objective 2.3 - Reinforce BE capacities and accelerate science, technology and innovation (STI)					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Enhanced capacity building of multi-stakeholders at multi-layer level	Capacity building based on the need assessment	Assessment done with proposals for actions	Assessment report completed	2021-2022	C: AU-IBAR P: NEPAD, AFDB, WB, UNECA, RECs, MS
Effective knowledge and information management	Create a BE platform to share information	The platform provides a tangible support for sharing BE information	The information on BE is available online	2022-2023	C: AU-IBAR P: MS, AFDB, UNECA, RECs, FAO
Smart social transformation	Ensure high level policy dialogue, establish a BE think-tank to facilitate public agencies, business communities and civil society organisations dialogue through innovative tools and techniques	A dialogue is in place alongside a BE think-tank	Annual report available	2023-2024	C: AU-IBAR P: MS, UNECA, AFDB, RECs
Organisation of continental STI Centres of Excellence	Map STI centres of excellence and leverage on specific capabilities for service delivering as well as developing network of Centres of Excellence	STI mapping is done to identify Centres of Excellence to engage into a network	STI network operational	2024-2025	C: AU-IBAR P: MS, UNECA, AFDB, RECs

Table 59. Thematic Area 5, Objective 1 of Goal 3

Goal 3 - Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development					
Objective 3.1 – develop innovative financing tool enablers to advance BE strategies at national, regional and continental level					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Asses innovative financing models and options	Conduct a review to determine financing models and the potential for implementation	Review of existing models	Report on existing models available	2021	C: AU-IBAR P: AFDB, WB, GEF, UNECA and RECs
	Evaluate the financing options that ensure resilience in the blue economy in Africa	Best financial options determined	Report on financial options available	2021	C: AU-IBAR P: MS; AU, UNECA, AFDB and RECs

Enhance the role of government, financial and insurance institutions in the financing of the blue economy	Organize a consultative meeting with various stakeholders to identify the role and contribution of government and other funding institutions to BE financing	National workshop organised with key recommendations	Workshop report available	2021-2022	C:AU-IBAR P: MS;AU, UNECA,AFDB and RECs
Improve the financing and insurance mechanisms and tools of the BE	Develop a policy and regulatory framework in the financing and insurance of the blue economy	National policy and regulatory framework are developed at national and regional levels	Reports on the financing framework available	2022	C:AU-IBAR P:AFDB,WB, GEF, UNECA and RECs

Table 60. Thematic Area 5, Objective 2 of Goal 3

Goal 3 - Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development					
Objective 3.2 – Initiate fiscal reform to improve fiscal system and local revenue					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Ensure appropriate government revenue and adequate incentives for investors	Conduct a study and develop scenarios to ensure the establishment of an appropriate business environment	The study provides key elements for the establishment of an attractive BE business environment	Report on BE business environment available	2022	C:AU-IBAR P: UNECA, WB, AFDB, GEF and RECs
	Set up national and regional action plans to improve fiscal system and local revenue	National Action Plans in place	National Reports available	2023-2025	
Improve equitable distribution of the revenue generated from the exploitation of oceanic resources	Develop a plan for equitable taxation of resource rent and equitable distribution	National plan for BE fiscal regulation is realised.	National reports available	2022-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AFDB, UNECA, RECs
Ensure that BE natural resources are well accounted	Evaluate the capacity for improving public expenditure management to ensure that volatile and temporary natural resource revenue translates to permanent benefits for the nation (see the UNECA BE toolkit)	Evaluation study completed with key indications on BE natural capital accounting	National reports available	2021-2024	C:AU-IBAR P:AFDB, WB, UNECA, GEF and RECs

Table 61. Thematic Area 5, Objective 3 of Goal 3

Goal 3 - Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development					
Objective 3.3 - Promote the creation of a maritime business alliance for the health and sustainable development of African Seas					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
Define the conditions for the establishment of a marine business alliance	Assessment of technologies and business models and innovations are needed to promote creation of a maritime business alliance	Pan African study completed	A Pan-African Report is available	2022	C:AU-IBAR P : UNECA, AFDB, RECs
	Evaluate the mechanisms requested to develop collaboration between business and education institutions at local and regional level to close the skills gap, /develop qualifications to tackle the unemployment challenge and raise the attractiveness of 'blue careers 'among students.	A set of consultative meetings have been organised with stakeholders to determine the role and contribution and develop partnership framework	Meeting Reports are available	2022-2023	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; AFDB, UNECA, RECs
	Evaluate the needs and opportunities for creating a cross -sectoral leadership alliance for sustainable development of African maritime regions (Regional Seas Programs, LME)	A consultative meeting with various stakeholders carried out	Report of meetings available	2023-2024	C:AU-IBAR P:AU, RECs, GEF,AFDB and UNECA

Goal 3 - Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development					
Objective 3.3 - Promote the creation of a maritime business alliance for the health and sustainable development of African Seas					
Targets	Actions	Expected results	Mean of verification	Time frame	Coordinator and Partnership
	Evaluate opportunities for innovative business and the steps to creating a maritime business alliance for health and sustainable development	A Pan-African study conducted and presents the key innovative elements	Report of the Pan-African Opportunity study done	2023-2024	C:AU-IBAR P: UNECA and RECs
	Determine how the ocean business community can best collaborate with other key stakeholders, e.g. multilateral/ bilateral development assistance, national governments, science institutions, etc.	Consultative meetings with stakeholders have been organised and provided fruitful indications on how to best collaborate	Meeting reports available	2023	C:AU-IBAR P: NEPDA, RECs, GEF, AFD and UNECA
Set up national and regional action plans	Implement national and regional action plans to promote the creation of maritime alliance	National and regional plans are completed	National and regional plans are available	2023-2025	C:AU-IBAR P: Member States; UNECA, ADFB, RECs, NEPAD

Annexes

Annex I Proposed Minimum List of Indicators

Theme / Goal /Objective	No.	Indicator
Thematic Area 1: Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems in the context of Africa Blue Economy		
Goal 1: Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes		
Objective 1.1 Establishing institutional coordination mechanisms to harmonized fisheries and aquaculture activities with other blue economy themes	1	# of MSs with harmonised blue economy institutional coordination mechanisms that are functional and effective
	2	# of MSs implementing Multi- Sectoral National Spatial management plans
	3	# of MSs that have ratified and are implementing international BE instruments (Disaggregated by type of instrument)
	4	# of MSs and RECs in which co- management principles are effectively implemented
	5	# of MSs effectively implementing the ecosystems approach to fisheries management
Objective 1.2 Promote conservation and sustainable management of aquatic resources	6	Change in rates of over exploitation of Blue Economy Resources
	7	# of user rights tools developed and implemented
	8	# of MSs implementing user rights tools in the aquaculture and fisheries sector
	9	# of enforceable BE related regulatory frameworks developed and implemented
	10	# of MSs and RECs with effective BE value chain information management and sharing systems
	11	# of MSs and RECs actively implementing approved precautionary approached in the management of fisheries and aquaculture value chains
Objective 1.3 Establish regional and sub-regional cooperation in the blue economy themes	12	# of MSs and RECs participating in and providing effective support to RFMs and RFBs
	13	Number of MSs and RECs where joint management plans are effectively implemented
	14	# of MSs effectively Implementing Marine Spatial Planning
	15	# of MSs and RECs that identify and protect critical habitat migratory routes
	16	Change in the BE regional integration ratio
Goal 2 : Optimise conservation and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources use while minimising conflicts with other blue economy sub-themes		
Objective 2.1 Develop small-scale fisheries whilst minimising the negative impacts of other blue investments	17	# of people trained disaggregated by type of training
	18	# of MSs and RECs effectively implementing co- Management principle
	19	Ratio of exclusive fishing zones designated to small scale fisheries
	20	# of fishing associations established and strengthened
Objective 2.2 Promote inclusive blue value chain incorporating fisheries sustainable aquaculture, ornamental fisheries and tourism sector	21	# of proven production techniques and models upscaled.
Objective 2.3 Achieve a responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing including inclusive inter-regional and cross border fish trade	22	# of NTBs to fisheries and aquaculture trade addressed
	23	Change in the value of interregional trade
	24	# of MSs effectively implementing catch certification schemes

Theme / Goal /Objective	No.	Indicator
Objective 2.4 Attract and promoting private-public-partnership (PPP) sectors investments and financing for fisheries and aquaculture in order to realise the full potential of the blue growth	25	Change in the value of investments in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains
	26	# of MSs that update CAADP Compact Plans to comprehensively include fisheries and aquaculture
	27	# of MSs with functional investment plans in fisheries and aquaculture
Objective 2.5 Accelerate the dev of fisheries and aqua fish processing and storage capacities within BE-related industries	28	# of people trained disaggregated by type of training
Objective 2.6 Maximise benefits from high seas fisheries	29	% of African Common Positions adopted at international Forums
Goal 3: Ensuring sustainable social, economic, environmental and equitable outcomes and human rights whilst safeguarding natural capital and blue investment		
Objective 3.1 Develop communication strategies about blue growth as well as create awareness and develop human capacity	30	Number of people trained disaggregated by type of training
	31	# of MSs benefiting from the African Centre of Excellence for Aquaculture
Objective 3.2 Ensure security of investment of fisheries and aquaculture	32	# of legal frameworks protecting the rights to property and proceeds implemented
	33	# of MSs implementing the sustainable funding strategy for BE strategies
	34	# of innovative financing models/ mechanisms developed and up-scaled
Objective 3.3 Create safe working conditions and security	35	# of RECs effectively implementing regional strategies to combat piracy
	36	# of MSs effectively implementing national strategies to combat piracy
Objective 3.4 Strengthen resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change	37	# of MSs with effective systems of recording and estimating the value of ecosystem and marine services
Objective 3.5 Empower women and youth in fisheries and aquaculture in order to take full advantage for blue growth	38	# of gender sensitive legislation and policies reviewed and updated
Objective 3.6 Rehabilitate and or secure threaten fishing grounds/zones, prevention of land-based pollution and degradation of aquatic environments	39	# of MSs and RECs effectively implementing pollution monitoring mechanisms
Thematic Area 2: Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement in the context of Africa Blue Economy		
Goal 1: Carrying cargoes from African countries for import and export at reasonable rates		
Objective 1.1 Control sea freight rates and other transport costs	40	# of MSs with functional BE coordination mechanisms
Objective 1.2 Promote good governance of the sector	41	# of Continental Maritime Framework developed
Objective 1.3 Promote the training of actors	42	# of actors trained disaggregated by type of training
Objective 1.4 Ensure security and safety in the African maritime area	43	# of ports modernized
	44	# of new ports built
Goal 2: Develop interstate trade		
Objective 2.1 Creation and development of transport corridors	45	# of transport corridors evaluated
Objective 2.2 Develop sub-regional cabotage transport	46	Value of funding obtained to support regional cabotage companies

Theme / Goal /Objective	No.	Indicator
Objective 2.3 Application of conventions and agreements on free movement of persons and goods and standards	47	# of MSs and RECs effectively implementing blue economy strategies and action plans
Thematic Area 3: Coastal & Marine Tourism, Climate Resilience, Environment and Infrastructure in the context of Africa Blue economy		
Goal: I Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and empowered communities		
Objective 1.1 Develop integrated strategies for sustainable environmental management	48	# of MSs and RECs that develop and implement strategies and action plans to integrate climate resilient economies and communities
Objective 1.2 Develop capacity for climate resilient economies and communities	49	# of MSs and RECs effectively implementing strategies and action plans to integrate climate resilient economies and communities
Objective 1.3 Marine ecosystem balanced		
Objective 1.4 Enhance local communities' livelihoods	50	Change in the level of participation of local communities
Objective 1.5 Develop a risk management framework	51	# of MSs implementing the Blue economy risk management framework
Goal 2 Integrated and Sustainable Coastal & Marine Tourism		
Objective 2.1 Develop integrated strategies for regional cooperation	53	# of RECs implementing regional action plans for integrated regional BE action
Objective 2.2 Develop capacity to strengthen regional institutions	54	# of people and institutions whose capacities has been enhanced
Objective 2.3 Harmonized collaboration on transboundary matters	55	# of regional frameworks reviewed and aligned
Objective 2.4 Enhance partnership between public and private sector	56	Change in the # of PPPs implemented for sustainable Marine and costal tourism
Objective 2.5 Promote R&D and technology transfer	57	# of people and institutions whose capacities have been enhanced for enhanced R&D and Technology Transfer
Objective 2.6 Support integrated planning mechanism	58	# of MSs implementing integrated spatial planning
Objective 2.7 Enhance inter and intra coordinated mechanism	59	# of capacity building events held for BE Coordination mechanism members
Goal 3: Sustainable Tourism		
Objective 3.1 Develop integrated strategies for sustainable tourism	55	# of MSs implementing integrated tourism strategy
	56	Change in the number of borders implementing one stop border shop for visa services
Objective 3.2 Develop integrated tourism infrastructure strategies	57	# of MSs implementing the integrated infrastructure strategy
Goal 4: Resilient Infrastructure, Blue Carbon & other Ecosystem Services		
Objective 4.1 Develop strategies for resilient infrastructure	58	# of MSs implementing the integrated resilient infrastructure strategy
Objective 4.2 Establish strategic linkages including infrastructure	59	# of MSs with strong infrastructure linkages
Thematic area 4: Sustainable Energy, Mineral Resources and Innovative Industries in the context of Africa Blue Economy		
Goal I : Unlock sustainable blue energy potential		
Objective 1.1 Increase blue energy penetration in the energy mix	60	Change in the percentage of BE energy in the energy mix
	61	# of BE energy projects piloted
Objective 1.2 Contribute in increasing reliable, affordable and modern energy	62	# of Mature sustainable blue economy technologies identified for upscaling
	63	# of potential blue energy technology locations identified
	64	# of SBE projects implemented

Theme / Goal /Objective	No.	Indicator
Objective 1.3 Assess the availability of sufficient infrastructure at (a) national (b) regional, (c) and continental level	65	# of MSs in which blue energy infrastructure reliability and readiness are assessed
	66	# of proposals for regional energy infrastructure needs developed
	67	# of proposals for natural gas pipelines developed
Objective 1.4 Power the blue economy	68	# of innovative powering devices in oceans identified
Goal 2: Create conducive regulatory environment for the development and application of sustainable blue energy		
Objective 2.1 Reform unsustainable financial structure and create conducive energy finance instruments	69	# of MSs using the market driven electricity tariff systems
	70	# of MSs with updated energy data management systems
Objective 2.2 Develop sustainable blue energy master plan and policy derivatives	71	# of MSs with revised renewable and blue energy strategies
Objective 2.3 Develop environmental impact assessment guidelines	72	# of MSs and RECs implementing the Harmonised BE strategies
	73	# of MSs with updated environmental spatial maps
Goal 3: Meeting the growing demand of mineral resources for economic prosperity		
Objective 3.1 Increase deep-seabed and seawater mining production for meeting demand and economic prosperity	74	Ration of deep sea water and sea water mining output to total national mining output
Objective 3.2 Create conducive regulatory frameworks for exploration of deep seawater	75	# of MSs that develop and implement regulations for SBE mining
Objective 3.3 Promote sustainable and environmentally friendly deep-seawater exploration	76	# of MSs and RECs that domesticate and implement deep bed mining guidelines
Objective 3.4 Capacity building and technology transfer	77	# of experts trained
	78	# of MSs using the online clearing house for status of six capitals
Goal 4: Harnessing the potential of innovative industries through R&D		
Objective 4.1 Develop policy framework to accelerate the transfer and application of blue economy technologies	79	# of MSs with institutionalized research and development for innovative industries
Objective 4.2 Strengthen institutional, infrastructural and human capacity	80	# of national, regional and continental institutions strengthened
	81	# of persons trained (disaggregated by type of training)
Objective 4.3 Promote the application of innovative industries	82	# of energy adoption projects implemented
	83	# of desalinization projects implemented
Objective 4.4 Create innovative industry database and support tools	84	# of decision support tools developed and rolled out

Thematic Area 5: Polices, Institutional and Governance, Employment, Job creation and Poverty Eradication, Innovative Financing in the Context of Africa Blue Economy		
Goal: I To Strength Institutions for Policy Environment and Governance to coordinate African BE		
Objective 1.1 Fostering coherence in policy practice and harmonisation of regulatory frameworks within and across sectors and levels	81	# of MSs and RECs that adapt and implement the M&E Framework
Objective 1.2 Capable Institutions to foster inter-sectoral collaboration, implementation and accountability in delivering on Africa's blue economy goals	82	% of common African Positions Adopted at international Forums
Objective 1.3 Enhanced analytical and information support system at all levels for informed decision making and reporting	83	% of persons and institutions whose capacities have been strengthened
Goal 2: To have the African BE accelerates the Economics Transformation		
Objective 2.1 To assist MS and RECs to mainstream integrated strategies for sustainable and inclusive BE with focus on value chain enhancement	84	# of MSs implementing trade policies that are aligned to AfCFTA provisions
Objective 2.2 Mainstream relevant mechanism and framework to operationalise AfCFTA and Continental Frameworks	85	# of STI countries of Excellence identified
Objective 2.3 Reinforce BE capacities and accelerate STI	86	# of blue economy related regulatory frameworks developed and enforced
Goal: 3 Africa to assume leadership for financing BE development		
Objective 3.1 develop innovative financing tools and enablers to implement BE strategies at national, regional and continental levels	87	# of innovative financing mechanisms developed and rolled out
Objective 3.2 Initiate fiscal reform and other incentives to improve financial system and improve PPP and financing (State and non-State).	88	# of countries that comprehensively reform the fisheries and aquaculture sector for improved PPP
Objective 3.3 Promote the creation of a African Blue business alliance for the health and sustainable use of African Aquatic Ecosystems	89	# of MSs and Private sector enterprises participating and benefiting from the African Blue Business Alliance



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