

BLUE ECONOMY SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE WORKSHOP

THEME: Harnessing earth observation for a sustainable blue economy through GMES & Africa.

1. AUC Blue Economy Strategy (Bachir Saley)

The comments and suggestions retained revolved around:

- Efforts to be made to achieve the protection of 10% of Africa's marine and coastal areas;
- Better involvement of women in the implementation of the blue economy strategy in Africa;
- Find sustainable financing mechanisms;
- Very good involvement and participation of political decision-makers;
- Need to find an effective and sustainable connection between the BE and GMES&Africa through the products and services developed by the consortia.

2. Updating on Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) ocean management activities ; UNESCO – IOC ; Update on GOOS-Africa initiatives

- Need to create an African University of Marine Sciences to bring together all the experts and expertise of the continent;
- Urgency to find a lasting solution to the in-situ data deficit through the acquisition of an African scientific vessel which will carry out regular campaigns;
- Reduce the under-representation of women in the Blue Economy sector;
- Need to collaborate with the various sub-regional fisheries commissions, the Abidjan Convention, the large marine ecosystems of the different African ocean currents.

3. Updating on GMES & Africa projects on Marine and Coastal Areas

Main recommendations:

- use the products and services developed by the two consortia in the implementation of the blue economy strategy in Africa;
- Operationalize its services and benefit the entire continent through supervised scaling.

4. Exploring the economic, social, and environmental aspects of oceans

Deux presentations :

KEMFRI (niveau national)

VIOMSA (Niveau international)

5. SESSION 3: INTERACTIVE GROUP DISCUSSIONS - PRIORITIES TO BE CONSIDERED BY EARTH OBSERVATION COMMUNITY.

Instead of the working groups, it was decided to address the two questions in the nursery, trying as much as possible to answer the questions proposed by the PMU.

- **Blue economy policy and strategic priorities.**

The participants discussed the following questions to arrive at a participatory approach to 3 priority strategies to be implemented in the short and medium term.

- What are the key Blue economy policy and strategic priorities that are applicable to the African context?
- What key challenges need to be addressed in the implementation of the identified Blue economy policy and strategic priorities?
- What best practices can regional and national institutions as well as businesses and stakeholders adopt to promote economic growth within the Blue economy sector?
- FR :
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- Quelles sont les principales politiques et priorités stratégiques de l'économie bleue qui sont applicables au contexte africain ?
- Quels sont les principaux défis à relever dans la mise en œuvre des politiques et priorités stratégiques de l'économie bleue identifiées ?
- Quelles meilleures pratiques les institutions régionales et nationales, ainsi que les entreprises et les parties prenantes, peuvent-elles adopter pour promouvoir la croissance économique dans le secteur de l'économie bleue ?

At the end of the discussions five (05) strategic elements were retained: these are Maritime Safety, Fishing, Energy, Climate Change and Tourism. The participants also recommended regional collaboration through the effective involvement of regional economic committees but also sub-regional fishing commissions for better ownership of the strategy and its implementation. The same applies to strengthening the governance of maritime security; this should also involve an effort to harmonize maritime laws. The need to encourage States to develop a national policy/strategy on the Blue Economy inspired by the African Union strategy also emerged from the debates. Actions should also be taken with a view to positioning in relation to the post-2020 global framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Aspects relating to the identification of sustainable financing mechanisms were also discussed.

- **Blue economy thematic priorities.**

Participants discussed the following questions:

- What are the key thematic priorities for sustainable resource management and conservation in the Blue economy?
- How can GMES&Africa's Earth Observation-based services enhance the efficiency and sustainability of Blue economy sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy, and shipping?
- How can stakeholders promote the adoption of the identified GMES&Africa's Earth Observation-based services ?

FR:

- Quelles sont les principales priorités thématiques pour la gestion durable des ressources et la conservation dans l'économie bleue ?
- Comment les services basés sur l'observation de la Terre de GMES&Africa peuvent-ils améliorer l'efficacité et la durabilité des secteurs de l'économie bleue tels que la pêche, l'aquaculture, les énergies renouvelables et le transport maritime ?
- Comment les parties prenantes peuvent-elles promouvoir l'adoption des services basés sur l'observation de la Terre de GMES&Africa identifiés ?

The discussions resulted in a certain number of suggestions and recommendations such as:

- The contribution of the GMES and Africa program to the knowledge, exploitation and management of renewable energy taking into account this context of climate change;
- The definition of the African marine space and its spatial planning;
- The availability of tools and equipment for observation and data acquisition in situ;
- Strengthening research structures;
- Capacity building for African Union border programs;
- The need to know and understand ocean resources through basic studies;
- The establishment of an effective ocean observation and prediction system.

SESSION 4: GOVERNANCE, REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

During this session, GOOS Africa and VIOMSA were asked, following the discussions, to propose three (03) concrete and priority actions to be implemented in the short and medium term.

- **GOOS Africa**
 - o Support the GOOS Africa secretary;

- o Organize a joint planning workshop between the two GMES consortia, scientists and decision-makers to understand the needs and find sustainable solutions;

- o Organize a capacity building workshop (training of trainers) on the concepts and benefits of the blue economy.

- **VIOMSA**

- o Organize meetings between users, decision-makers and politicians;

- o Organize a workshop bringing together the fishing community on a continental scale and train them on the use of earth observation data;

- o Participate in regular meetings of the various sub-regional Fisheries Commissions in order to present and disassemble the products of the GMES and Africa program;

About the Ocean Decade, participation in the next conference in Barcelona was recommended.

In terms of key recommendations, the following elements were retained:

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

OCEANIC LITERACY

INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN