



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

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ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN SIDS PLATFORM

This communique refers to the communique about the Workshop to operationalize the platform of small island developing states (SIDS) to address specific issues and needs of SIDS and develop subsequent strategic positions.

The Workshop has come to a close after three days from Monday 08th August to Wednesday 10th August 2022.

Twenty-six participants attended the workshop. This includes representatives from REC (SADC – Southern African Development Community), African Union Member States (Comoros, Madagascar, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles), African Union Centre of Excellence (University of Cape Coast, Ghana), UNEP Abidjan Convention as well as AU-IBAR and AUDA-NEPAD staff members.

Part of the workshop included a 'Plenary Session. Participants had the opportunity to discuss mechanisms and specific recommendations for the establishment of the platform for African SIDS on fisheries and aquaculture development and also agreed on common contributions of the two working groups.

- ⑩ The term which is to be applied to the African SIDS platform. Either APSFA (African Platform for Small Island Developing States for Fisheries and Aquaculture) or FAPSA (Fisheries and Aquaculture Platform for Small Island Developing States in Africa) or AfriSIDS-FA.
- ⑩ The structure of the platform which will consist of a light dynamic forum with a Chair and Vice-Chair supported by Rules of Procedure (RoPs) and the AU-IBAR Secretariat. The Chair and Vice-Chair would alternate between a western SID and an eastern SID. All 6 African SIDS, Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Madagascar are members of the African SIDS Platform and will thus be represented along with an AU-IBAR Secretariat. Meetings will be held at least once annually, with ad hoc meetings as may be required. These must ideally be timed in advance of important regional/ international relevance to SIDS.
- ⑩ The objectives of the African SIDS Platform which seeks primarily to:
 - Advance the interests of African SIDS regionally and internationally in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as continentally within the African Union.



- Provide a platform to play a role in regional international negotiations on behalf of African SIDS in fisheries and aquaculture.
- ⑩ The African SIDS Platform is affiliated to the Pacific and Caribbean SIDS, SADC, AUDA-NEPAD, ECOWAS, ECCAS, IOC. It will continue to have the support of the AU-IBAR (through FISHGOV2) for the first 4 years, which will mobilise resources to allow the platform to be autonomous.

The Seychelles has expressed its commitment to take the lead in operating the platform and it has drawn attention to the importance of Mauritius's and Cape Verde's participation at the next meeting for the platform to be fully operational. It was also agreed that a policy which defines the objectives of the platform and its proposed actions in key themes (such as Climate Change, Human capacity building, Trade, Advocacy, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Development, Aquaculture) is prepared by the AU-IBAR Secretariat and circulated to all African SIDS and Madagascar well in advance of the next meeting, so that all can be well-informed for the next meeting. It was also noted that the Platform although now in place was at an interim stage, and some final arrangements on how it operates will be defined at the next meeting.

The Seychelles is expected to chair the next meeting, which thereafter would be passed to a westernmost SID.