

# WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

## Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

Mwita M. Mangora | Margareth S. Kyewalyanga | Mwanahija S. Shalli  
Daudi J. Msangameno | Saleh A. Yahya

Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam

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# Background and Rationale

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- Marine litter – globally threatening and impacting the health and integrity of the oceans ecosystems
  - Biodiversity and marine life – pollution, public health, depleted fisheries, habitats and species loss
  - Impair economies - recreation, navigation and shipping



# Background and Rationale

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- Marine litter – global political and public agenda
  - Complex, multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral, transnational
  - 80% of marine pollution comes from LBSA - increasing use of synthetic materials, industrialization and urbanization





# Background and Rationale

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- Two background studies in WIO
  - Lane et al. (2007). Regional Overview and Assessment of Marine Litter Related Activities in the WIO Region
  - UNEP/NC & WIOMSA (2009). Review of Policy, Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks for LBSA Management in WIO Region

# Background and Rationale

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- Issues characteristic in WIO confirmed by the two studies:
  - Drivers, sources, types, amount, dispersion pathways of marine litter are mostly inferred rather than demonstrated; warranting baseline assessment about original sources for introducing effective marine litter control measures
  - Inadequate waste disposal and management practices – plastic and other forms of waste easily escape poor collection infrastructure, enter the environment
  - Land based sources are more significant than marine based, but, marine-based sources are more difficult to control

# Background and Rationale

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- Issues characteristic in WIO confirmed by the two studies:
  - Inadequate specific/exclusive policy and legal measures, public awareness, baselines for informed preventive/control measures, particularly at the sources
  - Capacity and success in managing the marine litter varies significantly between countries – political, legal, infrastructure and tech, resources

# Mandate and Call for Action

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- UNEA Resolutions 1/6 of 2014 and 2/11 in 2016 on “Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics”
  - UN Environment to provide assistance in the development of national and regional measures to address marine litter, acknowledging local, national and regional variations.
- NC COP8 Decision CP.8/2 in 2015 on “Amended NC and LBSA Protocol”
  - Implement the GPA within the context of the LBSA Protocol with support of UN Environment to combat pollution
- UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.3/L.20 in 2017 on “Marine Litter and Microplastics”
  - Regional Seas Conventions, within their mandates, support prevention and reduction of marine litter and microplastics and their effects.

# Approach to Develop the Action Plan

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- Review of literature
  - existing actions plans from other regions
  - reports and scientific papers
- Regional Stakeholders Consultations on Early Drafts
  - NC Focal Points meeting – April 2018, Nosy Be, Madagascar
  - NC Science to Policy meeting – July 2018, Durban, SA
  - NC COP9 – August 2018, Mombasa, Kenya



# Approach to Develop the Action Plan

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- Regional Stakeholders Consultations for Validation
  - WIOSAP LBSA workshop – December 2018, Maputo, Mozambique
- Support country specific action plans

# Objectives of the Action Plan

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- (i) To **provide guidance and enhance knowledge on the prevention and reduction of marine litter and microplastics** including upstream interventions and its impact on marine ecosystems, public health and safety through coordinated regional actions.
- (ii) To **monitor the quantities and distribution of marine litter and microplastics** for enhancing knowledge and establishing a regional mechanism to deal with the marine litter problem and its impact in the region.
- (iii) To **serve as a guide in the management of marine litter and microplastics** in accordance with accepted international and regional standards and approaches.
- (iv) To **advocate for removal through clean-up campaigns** of already existing marine litter to the largest extent possible.

# Guiding Principles

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- **Precautionary Principle:** taking preventive measures when there are reasonable grounds for concern
- **Polluter-pays Principle:** costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures to be borne by the polluters
- **Integration Principle:** integrating solid waste management and other strategies to ensure environmentally sound management of human activities and rational use of resources.
- **Prevention Principle:** preventing marine litter generation at source, removal of existing litter and improvement of solid waste management.
- **Public Participation Principle:** creating awareness about the problem of marine litter.
- **Sustainable Production and Consumption:** transforming unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, decoupling human development from environmental degradation.

# Actions and Interventions

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- Stakeholder Engagement Actions
- Policy and Legal Action
- Operational Actions
- Education and Outreach Actions
- Monitoring, Research and Reporting Actions
- Capacity Development Actions

# Stakeholder Engagement

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- **Action 1:** *Establish a regional working group to coordinate stakeholder participation in management of marine litter*
  - WIO Marine Litter Regional Working Group to coordinate and advise on appropriate actions for marine litter management.
  - Identifying National lead institutions as National Marine Litter Focal Points to review existing government strategies and responsibilities in the management of marine litter.
- **Action 2:** *Develop and implement model national management plan for marine litter*
  - Develop a model for integration of marine litter issues and enhance collaboration
  - Encouraging development of appropriate industry and/or sector specific guidelines within the framework of National Management Plans that cater for both state and non-state actors

# Policy and Legal Frameworks

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- ***Action 3: Review, evaluate and strengthen legislative measures for effective management of marine litter***
  - Determine relevance and effectiveness of the legislative measures in addressing marine litter.
  - Introduction of new legislation, where necessary, dealing specifically with marine litter and microplastics management.



# Operations for Reduction of Marine Litter

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- **Action 4:** *Improve port reception facilities to effectively manage ship-generated waste*
  - Identify and determine adequacy and priority areas for improvement of existing Port Reception Facilities.
  - Address concerns by shipping industry partners and vice versa.
- **Action 5:** *Eliminate, change or adapt products for environmental benefits*
  - Product and process evaluation to control primary microplastics.
  - Promote voluntary agreements with manufacturing and retail sectors to phase out the use of microplastics.

# Operations for Reduction of Marine Litter

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- ***Action 6: Maintain clean environmental compartments***
  - Clean and maintain key areas - beaches, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports and inland waterways.
  - Produce maps of hotspots of accumulation and floating litter to facilitate effective risk assessment.

# Education and Outreach

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- ***Action 7: Promote the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover)***
  - Consider and promote used plastics as useful resource, with commercial value, rather than a waste problem.
- ***Action 8: Encourage product eco-labelling***
  - Promote product labeling to show microbead content and raise to producers and consumers.
- ***Action 9: Establish a clearinghouse mechanism on effective strategies and practices for waste management***
  - Establish database of what is known about marine litter and microplastics, and their effect on the marine environment.

# Monitoring, Research and Reporting

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- **Action 10:** *Test and validate standard methodologies for studying and reporting on marine litter and microplastics for the WIO region*
  - Test, validate and adopt common methodologies, guidelines and protocols for assessment and monitoring of marine litter and microplastics.
- **Action 11:** *Update baseline data on marine litter and microplastics in the WIO region.*
  - Generate baseline data on marine litter at both regional and national level.

# Monitoring, Research and Reporting

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- **Action 12:** *Promote research on alternative biodegradable materials*
  - Research on technologies for production of alternatives to plastics.
- **Action 13:** *Identify ‘hotspots’ of land- and sea-based sources for plastic and microplastics*
  - Targeted mitigation measures using a combination of modeling and knowledge of actual and potential sources.

# Capacity Development

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- ***Action 14: Develop human capacity and infrastructure***
  - Education, training and knowledge exchange on assessment, monitoring and policy making to address marine litter.
  - Investment in waste management systems.



# Country Enabling Actions

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- Understand and manage human behaviour on marine litter.
- Sustain public education and outreach (awareness and communication) programmes.
- Maintain cross-country sharing of best practices and lessons.
- Promote research and monitoring of waste recycling programmes within communities and especially amongst the youth.
- Enhance collaboration and sharing of resources amongst different actors for management of marine litter – UN and regional bodies, national and local governments, MDAs

# Support NC COP9 Decision CP.9/3

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1. Urged Contracting Parties to take active measures to stem the tide of marine litter, including micro plastics and micro beads, in the WIO region, including by the development of a regional marine litter action plan and the establishment of a marine litter regional activity node
2. Requested the Secretariat to assist the Contracting Parties to enhance their capacity to undertake harmonized approach to data monitoring and reporting, and uptake of best practices from other countries and regional seas programmes

Thank you....

