

WIOMSA work on marine litter in the region,
implementation of the COP decision on a
technical working group on Marine Litter.

Dr. Ochanda Vallentine

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Good Afternoon MOZAMBIQUE!!!

Introduction Marine litter and Microplastics

1993 - 2018



Figure: Dead bird with marine litter in the gut



Figure: More litter



Introduction to marine litter cont...

- Marine litter/ marine debris, is one of the main environmental issues at a global level, as well as a major threat to marine and coastal biodiversity
- Discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the environment, including all materials discarded into the sea
- Most is plastic and has evidenced negative impacts.

Why the marine litter management programme

- COP 9 of the Nairobi Convention held in Mombasa, Kenya in August 2018, suggested in collaboration and cooperation with partners establish a marine litter regional technical working group in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Supporting marine litter monitoring programmes in the WIO Region

- In October 2018, WIOMSA issued a call for proposals on marine litter monitoring programmes in the WIO Region.
- Sixteen proposals from Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania were received.
- The initiative was for marine litter monitoring programmes in at least five sites within the WIO region to set baselines and to build human and technical capacities.

WIOMSA research on microplastic pollution

- Through, Marine Science for Management (MASMA) approved a three-year research project, ``Assessment of the Ecological Aspects of Microplastic Pollution in Dar Es Salaam, Zanzibar and Mombasa Coastal Marine Environments (MICROMARE)``.
- The Collaborators: University of Dar es Salaam, Kenya Fisheries Marine Research Institute (KEMFRI), The Environmental Archaeology and Materials Science (M&M) group of the National Museum of Denmark (NMD) and Roskilde University in Denmark.

Group of Experts For Marine Litter & Micro-plastics

- The research group will be housed in WIOMSA and supported by the Nairobi Convention for 3 years.
- Providing a cooperative approach involving critical partners in the region under the following themes.
 - **Research** The technical group will conduct a review of the existing gaps in knowledge with the aim of setting up a research agenda.

Group of Experts cont....

- **Capacity building** to build capacity for improved management of marine litter & microplastics.
- **Influencing policy and decision-making processes.** To bridge the gaps between science and policy processes, through providing well-synthesised information.
- **Contributing to the regional and global discussions.** On request, they will provide discussions on marine litter.

Specific TORs for the Group of Experts

- Assess status quo of marine litter & microplastics knowledge in the WIO region by reviewing the literature, Publish this review as a regional Status Report on Marine Litter.
- Facilitate a coherent regional vision and strategy for work on marine litter & micro-plastics within the context of the Nairobi Convention;
- Building of a constituency for action on marine litter and microplastics among formal and informal actors.

Specific TORs for the Group of Experts cont...

- Initiate and support development of relevant environmental education/awareness programmes.
- Provide and facilitate access to technical advice and including the adoption of appropriate management technologies and their reduction measures;
- Support the development and implementation of regional marine litter & microplastics monitoring programme;
- Identify capacity building needs, and the application of training activities related to marine litter & microplastics

Specific TORs for the Group of Experts cont...

- Develop regional Guidelines, Best Practices and Procedures in marine litter & microplastics management;
- Provide advice on the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework at all appropriate levels of the administration of marine litter & microplastics.
- Provide good science to support policy developments within the region.



Figure: Ahsante.