



## **The First Meeting of the Group of Experts for Marine Litter and Microplastics**

**13-14 June 2019, Cape Town, South Africa**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Ninth Conference of Parties to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment for the WIO region (Nairobi Convention) held in Mombasa, Kenya in August 2018, *requested* the Secretariat, in collaboration and cooperation WIOMSA and other partners, to establish a marine litter regional technical working group in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Several other related decisions were adopted under ‘Decision CP.9/3. Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean’ including on the development of a regional strategy or action plan or both on the management of marine litter and microplastic and capacity-building programmes on marine litter and microplastics, including microbeads, for a harmonized approach to conducting outreach, data generation, monitoring, reporting and public awareness activities on the impact of municipal waste and marine litter on marine species and their habitats; and encouraging countries to discourage plastic microbeads, take measures within their national capacities to consider phasing out their use in the region and promote the exchange of expertise, best practice and lessons learned.

In response to the ‘Decision CP.9/3. Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean’, especially in respect to establishing a marine litter regional technical working group, WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in collaboration with other partners working on marine litter and microplastics, is setting up a Group of Experts on Marine Litter and Microplastics. The main objective of the Group is to provide a forum for sharing and exchange of information; providing policy guidance and advice to the Nairobi Convention and other regional frameworks; and synthesizing information on the topic from different sources and produce peer-reviewed publications and other products. The Group’s work is planned to be completed in three years or less.

Following the call for expressions of interest from regional experts working on different aspects of marine litter and microplastics, interested in being considered for the Group’s membership, nine regional experts and four observers from institutions with on-going projects on marine litter and microplastics, have been invited (from 34 applicants) to serve as members of the Group. Technical expertise and experience on marine litter work, gender consideration and regional balance formed the criteria for selection.

## List of Invited Members and Observers

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Peter Ryan	South Africa
2	Catherina J Schenck	South Africa
3	Maria Perpétua J. Scarlet	Mozambique
4	Stefan R. Knights	Seychelles
5	Linda Godfrey	South Africa
6	Lydia Gaspare Kanyairita	Tanzania
7	Eric Ochieng Okuku	Kenya
8	Zara Pardiwalla	Seychelles
9	Margot Thibault	Reunion
	<b>OBSERVERS</b>	
1	Anthony Ribbink	African Marine Waste Network
2		IUCN
3		Indian Ocean Commission
4	Heidi Savelli-Soderberg	UNEP/GPA

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

Following the selection and notification of the selected experts, an inaugural meeting of the Working Group is planned for in Capetown from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. The broad goal of the Group of Experts on Marine Litter and Microplastics is to provide a forum for the sharing and exchange of information on marine plastics; to provide policy guidance and advice to the Nairobi Convention and other regional frameworks; and to synthesize information on the topic from different sources and produce peer-reviewed publications and other products. The Group's work is planned to be completed in three years or less.

The main objective of the meeting is to operationalize the Group of Experts on Marine Litter and Microplastics. The specific objectives are to:

- i) Discuss the terms of reference, institutional arrangements and mode of operations;
- ii) Share information on on-going national and regional initiatives on marine litter and microplastics;
- iii) Identify and prioritize opportunities offered by regional/global processes to the region and how the Group and the countries could benefit from these processes;
- iv) Identify and prioritize what the Group should focus on in the next three years
- v) Develop a three-year workplan for the Group.

## **EXPECTED MEETING OUTCOMES**

- i) Approved Terms of Reference and agreed mode of operations
- ii) Established leadership of the Group
- iii) A list of planned and on-going initiatives on marine litter and microplastics
- iv) A list of priority actions for the Group
- v) A draft three-year workplan

Given the wide regional representation, it is envisaged that most if not all subsequent meetings of the group will be held remotely.

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### PROVISIONAL MEETING PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
<b>THURSDAY, 13 JUNE 2019</b>		
<b>Opening and scene setting</b>		
09:00 – 09:10	Welcoming remarks	
09:10 – 09:20	Participants introduction	
09:20 – 09:30	Organization of the Meeting: Election of the Chairperson for the Meeting	
09:30 – 09:35	Adoption of Agenda	
09:35 – 10:00	Introduction of the Nairobi Convention and its GEF-funded projects	
10:00 – 10:15	Terms of reference and mode of operations	
10:15 – 10:30	Outcomes of the WIOMSA/ African Marine Waste Network (AMWN) marine litter Workshop	
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>Planned and on-going initiatives</b>		
11:30 – 12:30	Presentations by members of their projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WIOMSA Marine Litter programme</li> <li>▪ African Marine Waste Network</li> <li>▪ IUCN</li> <li>▪ IOC</li> <li>▪ Seychelles</li> <li>▪ Mozambique</li> <li>▪ Tanzania</li> <li>▪ Kenya</li> <li>▪ South Africa</li> <li>▪ Reunion/Madagascar</li> </ul>	
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 14:40	Presentations by members of their projects (continued)	
<b>Regional/Global initiatives</b>		
14:40 – 15:00	Marine litter monitoring, capacity building and National Source Inventories	UNEP/GPA
15:00 – 15:20	GESAMP – Marine Litter Working Group	
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
16:30 – 17:00	General Discussion	

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
<b>FRIDAY, 14 JUNE 2019</b>		
<b>Prioritization and workplan</b>		
09:00 – 09:10	Recap of Day 1	
09:10 – 09:40	Discussions on priority areas for actions	
09:40 – 10:10	Discussions on products	
10:10 – 10:30	General Discussion	
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00 – 11:30	Workplan with roles and timeline	
11:30 – 12:15	Next steps including communication and future interactions	
12:15 – 12:30	Closing	
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	