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Concept Note: Regional Workshop on Harmonization of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Practices to Accelerate the Implementation of Western Indian Ocean Region Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs)

Dare Salaam, Tanzania, 28 - 29 March 2019

1.0 Introduction

Africa is recording on average the highest rate of economic growth, driven by huge financial flows and a rich natural resource base. A burgeoning youth population, low production costs and a favourable climate all provide a confluence in attracting unprecedented large scale developments hitherto unwitnessed as evidenced by infrastructural investments in ports, extractives, agriculture, roads and railways among others (see Annex 1). The need for integrated management of coastal and marine resources through Ecosystem Based Management approaches and especially the application of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) has become more critical and urgent. The planned Regional MSP Policy workshop is meant to provide a platform to governments and partners in the Nairobi Convention area to appreciate the progress made in the implementation of MSP at both policy/legal and institutional level and practice through country case studies and chart a common strategy for MSP in the region. This workshop follows the initial MSP meeting held in November 2017 in Seychelles convened by Nairobi Convention and partners and subsequent technical training workshops held in Mombasa and Mauritius in 2018. The workshop will take place against a backdrop of growing momentum in the application of MSP as a tool for integrated resource management in the region, hence creating great opportunities for shared learning.

2.0 Africa's Policy Developments in Support of MSP

There is an enabling policy environment from country, regional to global level in support of sustainable development. The African Union in May 2013 adopted a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years (Agenda 2063, which recognised that: *'Africa's Blue economy, ... shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth, advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.'* At its session in January 2014, the African Union Assembly adopted the 2050 Africa's Integrated Marine Strategic Plan of Action-(2050 AIM Strategy) which outline the actions that should be implemented to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable blue economy. The Strategy recognises that marine/maritime spatial planning will aid in balancing frequently competing sector-based interests, so that: (a) marine space and resources are used efficiently and sustainably, (b) decisions can be taken based on sound data and in-depth knowledge of the sea and inland water ways, and (c) investors have greater legal certainty, encouraging Africa's blue economic development.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2050 AIM Strategy are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The 2030 Agenda sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, with one of them (Goal 14) focusing exclusively on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.



3.0 Regional policy developments in support of MSP

The ongoing and planned large scale infrastructural developments in the Western Indian Ocean region are critical in unlocking the much-needed economic opportunities for the region. However, they have the potential to also exert intense pressure on the region's coastal and marine resources. The challenge, therefore, will be the need to ensure that consequent environmental impacts are minimized.

1.1. In recent years, countries in the Western Indian Ocean Region have progressively extended their interests into Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) especially for fisheries, deep sea mining, geo-engineering and exploitation of genetic resources, exacting pressure on these fragile marine resources. Realising the growing threats to marine biodiversity in ABNJ the international community through, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has created a working group on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Working Group) to discuss the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. However, in the WIO region, there is no coordinated regional strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ despite some specific sectoral initiatives. The collaboration between Mauritius and Seychelles in the establishment and operationalization of the Joint Management area (JMA) demonstrates the potential of regional countries to cooperate in the management of areas adjacent to their ABNJs. The ABNJ Deep Seas Project between UN Environment and FAO has been working over the last five years to help support understanding of ABNJ in the region and build capacity on area-based planning.

(<http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/projects/deep-seas-biodiversity/en/>)

The 10 Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region have appreciated the need for marine spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to promote integrated management of coastal and marine resources. The Parties have made commitments to adopt MSP through several Decisions:

Decision CP8/10.4: Blue and Ocean Economy

To *urge* Contracting Parties to cooperate in improving the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction, building on existing regional institutions including the Nairobi Convention and developing area-based management tools such as marine spatial planning to promote the blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Decision CP.9/1.2: Work programme for 2018–2022

To *request* the secretariat to develop and support the implementation of priority areas, including the management of marine protected areas,, growth of the blue economy, scientific research, fisheries management, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal management and the sustainable development of ports and harbours.



Decision CP.9/10: Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy

2. *To also urge* the Contracting Parties, within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to cooperate with existing regional institutions on ocean governance and the conservation of marine biodiversity in adjacent areas beyond national jurisdiction, to build and develop area-based management tools, such as marine spatial planning, to promote blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean region;

3. *To request* the secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop capacity-building programmes on marine spatial planning as a tool for sustainable economic growth;

Decision CP.9/13.3: Enhancing cooperation, collaboration and support with partners

To invite the Contracting Parties and to request the secretariat to collaborate with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and other partners in the areas of capacity-building, implementation and sharing of experiences in integrated marine spatial planning in support of the blue economy;

4.0 MSP in the Western Indian Ocean Countries

The Government of **Seychelles** started MSP in 2015 with an aspirational target of declaring 30% of its Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) as marine protected areas (MPA). The stimulus for MSP came from concern about the interactions and conflicts between fishing, tourism, marine transport, and security while developing its “blue economy” to support a sustainable and diversified economy. The first target of designating 15% of the EEZ and MPAs is on track for implementation in 2020.

The Government of **Mauritius** has been advancing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in key maritime sectors such as port infrastructure, shipping, tourism, seafood, fisheries, aquaculture and marine renewable energy to strengthen its economic diversification. Mauritius has set up an MSP Coordinating Committee, bringing together all the relevant stakeholders to support the development of a holistic plan. It has also established three technical working groups focusing on new economic activities (aquaculture sites, marina development and tourism and recreational activities), Sustainable Development Goal 14 to achieve Target 14.5, and mainstreaming biodiversity within the framework of Ocean Observatory.

The **South Africa** Marine Spatial Planning Bill was approved by the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces in **December** 2018. Implementation of the national framework for Marine Spatial Planning will facilitate the development, implementation, and monitoring of marine spatial plans. Application of the MSP process will obtain economic, social, ecological and governance benefits that will contribute to achieving sustainable development and facilitate the attainment of South Africa’s national development objectives. The MSP will promote a culture of good ocean governance through integration among different objectives and economic sectors and manage competing demands on South Africa’s ocean space. The process will also enable the co-existence of compatible activities, and enhance co-ordination with terrestrial and coastal planning. Under Operation PHAKISA, the Republic of South Africa is fast tracking MSP development and implementation as evidenced by the recently declared 22 MPAs.



Following the adoption of the [EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning \(2014/89/EU\)](#), where all coastal European Union Member States are required to prepare cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021, **France** is currently developing its national MSP. In 2016, the [MSP Directive](#) was transposed into French legislation paving the way for the introduction of maritime spatial planning. The [Ocean Metiss](#) project on Réunion Island aims at developing an efficient decision-making tool for long-term sustainable development of the blue economy and it directly contributes to MSP initiatives.

5.0 Nairobi Convention Projects in support of MSP

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention have received GEF funding for two interrelated projects i.e.

1. The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project. The project will support the necessary policy and legal reforms, investments and capacity building requirements during the period 2017-2023. SAPPHIRE project will implement some of the strategic action programme recommendations developed through the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project and the South West Indian Fisheries Project (SWIOFP). The project will support MSP interventions off-shore and link closely with the WIOSAP project whose focus will be coastal/nearshore.
2. Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) project. The project aims at reducing impacts from land-based sources and activities and to sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems. WIOSAP is largely based on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) that was developed by the project 'Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean' (WIO-LaB)

The two Projects have MSP as major outputs hence the joint Regional MSP Policy Workshop. The Governments of the region and partners have expressed their desire for closer synergy in the implementation of the SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects for greater impact.

6.0 Objectives of the Workshop

The aim of the MSP workshop is to promote shared learning on MSP implementation in the region towards a common understanding on the importance of harmonizing and realigning MSP practices at the national and regional level for sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean region. The specific objectives of the workshop will be to:

- Appreciate the progress made on MSP implementation across the region and identify challenges and opportunities at the national level
- Define a regional MSP working group to ensue shared learning and promotion of best practice
- Understand the opportunities and constraints of MSP in ABNJ
- Initiate a common roadmap on MSP in the WIO region

Expected Outcomes:

- Participants will gain a better understanding of the status of Marine Spatial Planning practices in the Western Indian Ocean region as well as challenges and opportunities in the protection and management of the WIO Large Marine Ecosystems
- Best practices and lesson learnt on Marine Spatial Planning shared in the region
- A common action plan developed towards harmonization and institutional arrangement for integration of MSP to relevant national and regional policies, programmes and initiatives
- Decision on a regional Working Group on MSP

Expected Participants: Policy makers, representative of government institutions in charge of coastal and marine planning and management, Nairobi Convention Focal Points, SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects Focal Points, LME practitioners, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academia, experts and other key partners.

ANNEX 1: Africa’s Development Corridors (Weng et al. 2013)

