Developing the Western Indian Ocean Regional Ocean Governance Strategy through a Participatory Process

Report of the Inception Meeting with initial Regional Ocean Governance (ROGS) Task Force

26 April 2022

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Background of the Meeting

Mandate - The mandate to develop an Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region (WIO) is embedded in the decisions of the Nairobi Convention (NC) Conference of Parties (COPs) and the decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). These are:

- AMCEN:
  - ✓ In 2015 AMCEN called for development of an African ocean governance strategy and, in 2017, further requested the UN Environment Programme and the Secretariats of the regional Conventions to cooperate with Regional Economic Communities (RECS) and other regional bodies to develop ecosystem-based approaches to ocean governance.
- Nairobi Convention COP Decisions:
  - ✓
  - ✓
  - ✓ Decision 10.5 of the 10ᵗʰ COP in 2021 requested the NC Secretariat (NCS) *"to finalise the development, in a participatory process, with the support of partners, of the ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region as a contribution to the African ocean governance strategy."*

Ocean Governance Task Force - Pursuant to CP 10.5 and previous COP decisions, the NCS facilitated nomination of representatives from the Nairobi Convention Parties and other stakeholders to be part of the initial WIO Regional Ocean Governance Task Force. This Task Force (TF) will support the participatory development of an ocean governance strategic planning framework for the region. In order to support this process, the Task Force will enhance its technical capacity on the theme of Regional Ocean Governance through targeted webinars and on leadership capacity through a series of applied workshops on multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue skills. The applied workshops will help build a culture of collective leadership within the TF and support the co-designing of participatory stakeholder engagement and consultations approaches for the ROGs development process.

Support Team - The meeting was organized by a support team of partners: the NCS (through the SAPPHIRE project), GIZ (through the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative project (WIOGI)), Collective Leadership Institute (CLI; through the SAPPHIRE project) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). The NCS's SAPPHIRE project, funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the UNDP, promotes policy and institutional reform to help improve the management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). The WIOGI project is a partnership between the NCS and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ). It aims to strengthen cooperation between relevant actors at regional and local levels for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). CLI contributes its expertise on process quality and collective leadership with a focus on building multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration capacity within the TF for a regionally led and participatory ROGS process. WIOMSA contributes its technical science to ocean governance expertise and capacity building to the process, including through guidance on strategy content and knowledge resources.

Inception Meeting Goals
Process Goals

- Recall ROGS COP mandate and process to date, including links to AMCEN
- Share and get feedback on proposed process for empowering ROGS Task Force to co-lead a participatory strategy development process

Concrete Goals

- Share and get feedback on the proposed ToR for Task Force members
- Discuss and collect inputs on ROGS priorities in Cluster Groups: sectors, challenges, cooperation opportunities, and stakeholders

Relational Goals

- Request Task Force members' readiness to review suggested non-state actors as ROGS Task Force members
- Build trust for the onward ROGS collaboration journey

Meeting Outcomes

The meeting was attended by **41** participants representing the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties, Regional Economic Commissions, the Indian Ocean Commission, the African Union and different WIO stakeholder groups. A full list of participants is in the annex.

All agenda items were deliberated, and the TF preliminarily identified the following:

- Benefits of creating a WIO ROGS
- Priority regional sectors
- Priority regional challenges and the
- Regional organizations, institutions, platforms etc. that should be engaged for the ROGS process

Meeting outcomes are further detailed in the next section and all referenced materials in the annex.

Report of the Meeting Sessions

1. Welcome, framing and introductions

Welcome - Mr Dixon Waruinge, NCS, opened the meeting by recognizing the presence of all partners. He acknowledged SAPPHIRE and WIOGI partners for organizing the meeting and. noted that the development a regional ocean governance strategy for the WIO was an important process that should also resonate at the national level in all NC countries. He highlighted the need to determine and consider any existing national ocean governance strategies in the region as part of the process to develop the WIO ROG.

Mr Waruinge further highlighted that existing regional frameworks such as the 2050 Integrated African Union Strategy and Agenda 2063 are strong on the blue economy and fisheries but do not fully delve into integrated issues of ocean governance. He emphasized that SDG 14 on Life Below Water calls for sustainable management and protection of the marine and coastal environment thus there is a need to put pieces of the different frameworks together. For example, the law of the sea provides for an integrated framework to operate within international seas, waters and continental shelves, but it is sectorally focused.

Mr Waruinge stated that the question on how to identify and best use existing legal frameworks to conserve WIO resources was part and parcel of the AMCEN process reiterating that the WIO Regional

Ocean Governance Strategy would feed into the Africa-wide Ocean Governance Strategy under development. He pointed out that the ROGS Task Force would be contributing to a global narrative for ocean governance and recognized the importance of the inclusion of key stakeholders and called on the Task Force to produce a document that can influence Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean and beyond.

Background and Context of Meeting - Dr Tim Andrew, NCS, stated that the main objective of the meeting was to discuss the process of developing an Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO region. This was in implementation of AMCEN's decision in 2015 that called for the development of an African ocean governance strategy and, in 2017 that further requested UNEP and the Secretariats of the regional Conventions to cooperate with RECs and other regional bodies to develop ecosystem-based approaches to ocean governance. He outlined the progress and milestones achieved in implementation of these decisions as below:

- **Sep 2019 partnership meeting** in Seychelles organized by the NCS and WIOMSA attended by RECs, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and other partners started discussions on OG in earnest. The meeting made a recommendation for the formation of a core group including the RECs to advance cooperation on developing the OG Strategy. Further, a comprehensive *background paper on Ocean Governance* was finalized with inputs by NC Contracting Parties and partners.
- **Apr 2021 meeting of the RECS, AU and Indian Ocean Commission** facilitated by the Secretariat agreed upon a draft action plan for the development of the OG Strategy .
- **Sep 2021 virtual training on ocean governance** organized by the SAPPHIRE Project in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute which spread over one month. Experts were nominated by SAPPHIRE and Convention Focal Points.
- **Oct 2021 Western Indian Ocean Governance and Exchange Network (WIOGEN) symposium** where the Convention hosted an Ocean Governance Day to share experiences on Ocean Governance.
- **Nov 2021 Nairobi Convention COP10 meeting** that adopted Decision CP.10/5 on the participatory development of a WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy .
- **Mar 2022 Terms of reference (ToRs) for the ROGS Task Force** were drafted by the NC Secretriat and shared these with the RECs and Focal Points together with an invitation/request to nominate a lead expert and an alternate to participate in the ROGS development process. This culminated in the convening of this inception meeting asthe first meeting for the initial ROGS Task Force.

Dr Andrew mentioned that the entire process of developing the ROGS is expected to take up to 18 months, with the aim of getting the ROGS adopted at the next NC COP11, planned for the end of 2023.

Participant Introductions – Ms Mai ElAshmawy, CLI, invited participants into breakout groups of four persons each to share their names and areas of OG-related expertise, and to discuss up to three of the most valuable benefits of having a high quality, viable and collectively owned WIO ROGS. Each group presented their group work results in plenary as clustered, below.

Table 1: Benefits of having a high quality, viable and collectively owned WIO ROGS as defined by the TF

Process	Approach
Unified vision and goals	Harmonised policies and policy tools
Coordination	Science-policy dialogue
Harmonization	Ecosystem approach
Sharing expertise/experience	Marine strategy
	Consideration of socio-economic values
Thematic	Complimentary continental agenda
Well-coordinated Blue Economy activities	
Marine spatial planning	
Maritime diplomacy	

2. Draft Participatory ROGS Development Process

Mr Dominic Stucker (CLI), Mr Bonface Mutisya (NCS) and Ms Yvonne Waweru (GIZ) described the proposed process for empowering a ROGS Task Force to collectively lead a participatory strategy development process.

Convening the initial TF - Participants were informed that the NCS had secured resources to support a participatory ROGS development process in implementation of NC COP decision CP.10/5 . Concrete steps to date include the implementation of a ROG training course (in which some TF members participated), the development of draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the TF and the development of a draft process architecture,(Figure 1 below), for convening and empowering the ROGS TF to collectively lead the process. The NC member countries, the RECs and the AU have also been requested to nominate a lead and an alternate to be engaged in the ROGS process, the majority of whom were in attendance.

Enhancing collective leadership in TF - Mr Stucker highlighted that CLI focuses on process quality and capacity building for collective leadership and multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue noting that CLI will invite TF leads to participate in 2-3 tailored workshops and 2-3 webinars. The aim will be to enhance TF members' ability to work as a team and become collective leaders that can more readily apply collaborative approaches to the ROGS engagement and consultation process. Each CLI workshop will take place online over 4 days, with 2 days in one week and 2 days in the following week. Further, CLI will convene a webinar following each workshop to support TF application of learned tools and approaches and to support alignment and/or synergies between the ROGS and the regional Information Management Strategy.

Self-Organization of TF - Following support through the above CLI workshops, the TF is encouraged and expected to self-organize their regular meetings, which can, as desired, include both leads and alternates. These meetings would be intended to coordinate the consultation processes involving sector-specific regional stakeholders needed to inform the ROGS. The goal is to have a draft ROGS ready for validation at the beginning of 2023 and have it submitted to the eleventh NC COP for adoption at the end of 2023.

The proposed process architecture for the ROGS development is as shown below, with red circles indicating key phases or processes:

DRAFT Process Architecture: Participatory development of an ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region (NC COP Decision 10.5; AMCEN Cairo Declaration, 2015)

Figure 1: Draft process architecture for participatory ROGS process

> **Plenary discussion**
> During the plenary discussion that ensued, the following remarks were noted. The need to:
> - Expand the TF member list into TF profiles, e.g., with respective expertise and photos
> - Continue to build technical and leadership expertise of TF members
> - Loop in colleagues who were not present in the OG training in Sept 2021 (see above)

One of the TF members from IRD-France kindly offered to informally support any Task Force members who would need support for translation of technical terms between English and French.

3. Draft ROGS Task Force Role and Composition

TF ToR - Ms Yvonne Waweru mentioned that the Task Force terms of reference (ToR) had been shared to Nairobi Convention Focal Points and others for review.

She highlighted that the ToR aim to support TF members to:

a. Be a key stakeholder engagement and consensus building platform for the ROGS
b. Foster regional consensus on principles, priorities, actions and institutional arrangements
c. Ensure effective stakeholder engagement
d. Communicate key messages to decision-makers and foster public awareness

She stated that the workshop was an opportunity for participants to review and give feedback to the ToR adding that any major issues that would arise would be referred to FPs for further guidance. She emphasized that the Focal Points would be kept in the loop throughout the ROGS co-creation process.

> **Plenary discussion**
> - One TF member inquired if the mandate of the Task Force could extend to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) noting that it has been established that there is high connectivity of ecosystems in high seas (ABNJ), EEZ and coastal areas. In response Ms Waweru highlighted that the TF in the process of co-creation of the Strategy would be at liberty to answer this question in executing its mandate.
>
> - Another participant sought clarification on how the TF members will relate to the Focal Points. Ms Waweru clarified that TF members have delegated authority from the Focal Points having been nominated by them. Further, the ROGS would be endorsed and validated by FPs before it is brought to COP11 for adoption.
>
> - The question was raised as to whether the role of the TF would be advisory only. Dr Andrew responded that the TF has a broader role as it is expected to draft a detailed ROGS document that would be approved at higher levels and eventually be adopted at COP11.

Expanded Multi-Stakeholder TF - Dr Andrew briefed meeting participants on the composition of the TF. He mentioned that it is envisaged that the ROGS TF would ideally be composed of twenty-four (24) members that are well-informed, representative, and committed to the participatory development of a WIO ROGS taking into account stakeholder group, regional, and sector knowledge balance. He noted that sixteen (16) lead TF members had currently been nominated i.e. ten (10) representing countries, four (4) RECs, one (1) AU and one (1) IOC. He noted that these members are individuals with a range of skills and are drawn from the public sector. However, to be more representative and to include other skills, it was

proposed that the TF could be expanded by up to eight (8) individuals with a focus on non-state actors (including the private sector) to make a total of twenty-four (24) members.

Dr Andrew suggested that the Secretariat could prepare a list of potential non-state actor candidates to be invited to join the TF in order to fill any gaps. The profiles of these candidates would be shared with current TF members for their review and "no objection" clearance before being invited to join the TF and participate in a follow-up Inception Meeting in due course.

Several TF members voiced their support and there was no objection to this proposal by participants.

Selection criteria – Dr Andrew advised participants that the selection criteria for additional TF members would focus on four areas; i.e. personal, organizational, knowledge and commitment to a collaborative approach. On a personal level, the focus will be on people who care about the WIO region as a whole and are committed to personal growth and development as collective leaders. From an organizational perspective, the focus will be on individuals in well positioned organisations that can help drive joint development of the ROGS and have secured their organization's support to participate in the planned ROGS process. Regarding knowledge, the focus will be on individuals who are well versed in ROGS-related topics and demonstrate a good understanding of WIO stakeholder landscape. Lastly, commitment to a collaborative approach will focus on individuals who want to work collectively through the TF and value multi-stakeholder dialogue as a key for the ROGS development process.
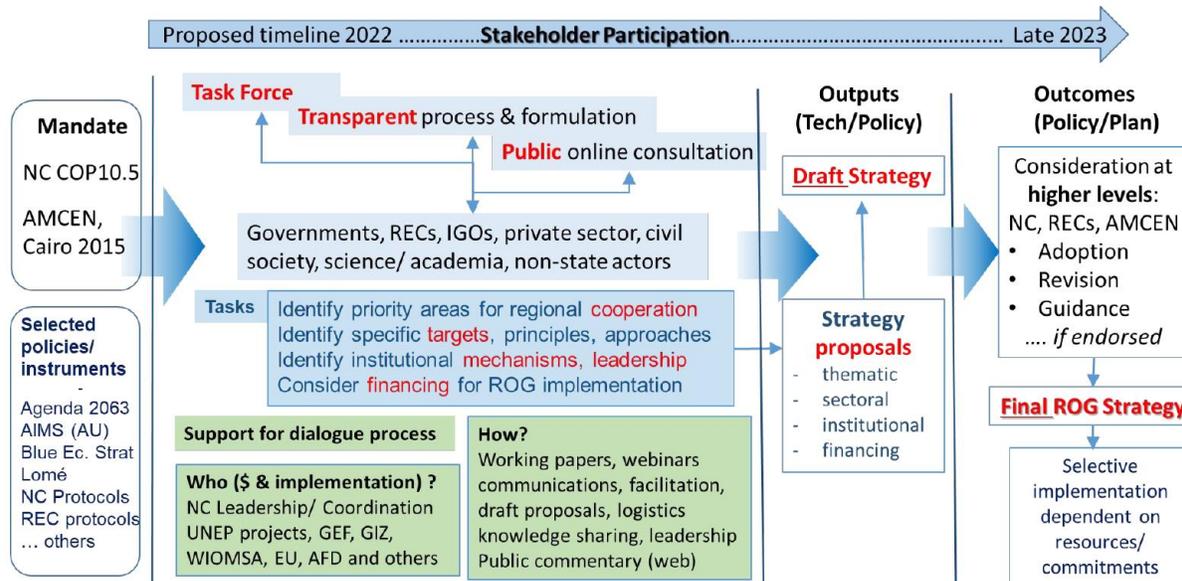
4. Draft ROGS Clusters and Sectors

Proposed Clusters - Mr Kieran Kelleher, a Consultant on Fisheries and Oceans (WIOMSA), explained why clusters are needed including to keep the ROGS development process manageable and to group common interests between institutions and sectors. He presented an overview of the proposed ROG strategy development process.

He highlighted that the proposed clusters were based on a 2019 review of ROG by the NCS and were:

- Maritime Security
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Blue Economy
- Knowledge, Science and Capacity Building

The Clusters could also be supported by working groups to address specific cross-cutting issues.

An overview of what is expected of the Task Force for the ROGS strategy process was highlighted, below.

Figure 2: Overview of proposed ROG strategy development process

Plenary discussion

From this presentation, questions arose regarding the flexibility of membership in the proposed Cluster Groups and cross-cutting Working Groups; the rationale of organizing the clusters as they had been- as there exists a lot of overlap between the clusters; and whether the priority areas should be determined by the TF.

Mr Kelleher emphasized that the TF is empowered to decide how to organize Clusters and Working Groups. He responded in the affirmative regarding the flexibility of TF leads (and alternates) to join additional Clusters or Working Groups based on their respective expertise. He also clarified that TF members would have the flexibility to propose innovative ideas throughout the process. Within the Clusters, there would be opportunities to identify areas of cooperation, priority sectors, and additional stakeholders to consult.

Agreeing on initial Clusters - Initial TF members decided to merge the Maritime Security and Blue Economy Clusters. Thereafter, three breakout groups were organized, one per Cluster, with each then identifying priority regional sectors, priority regional challenges, priority opportunities for enhanced cooperation and priority regional organizations, institutions, associations, platforms, etc. that should be engaged.

Cluster Group results - In plenary, results were presented (see following tables). Participants requested more time to work on the Cluster Group results and the interactive documentation slides were left online for an additional week. Below is a summary of the results.

1. **Science and Knowledge Cluster - Ms Florence Galletti, Dr Francis Marsac, Dr Pacifica Ogola, Dr Immaculate Sware Semesi and Ms Gina Bonne**

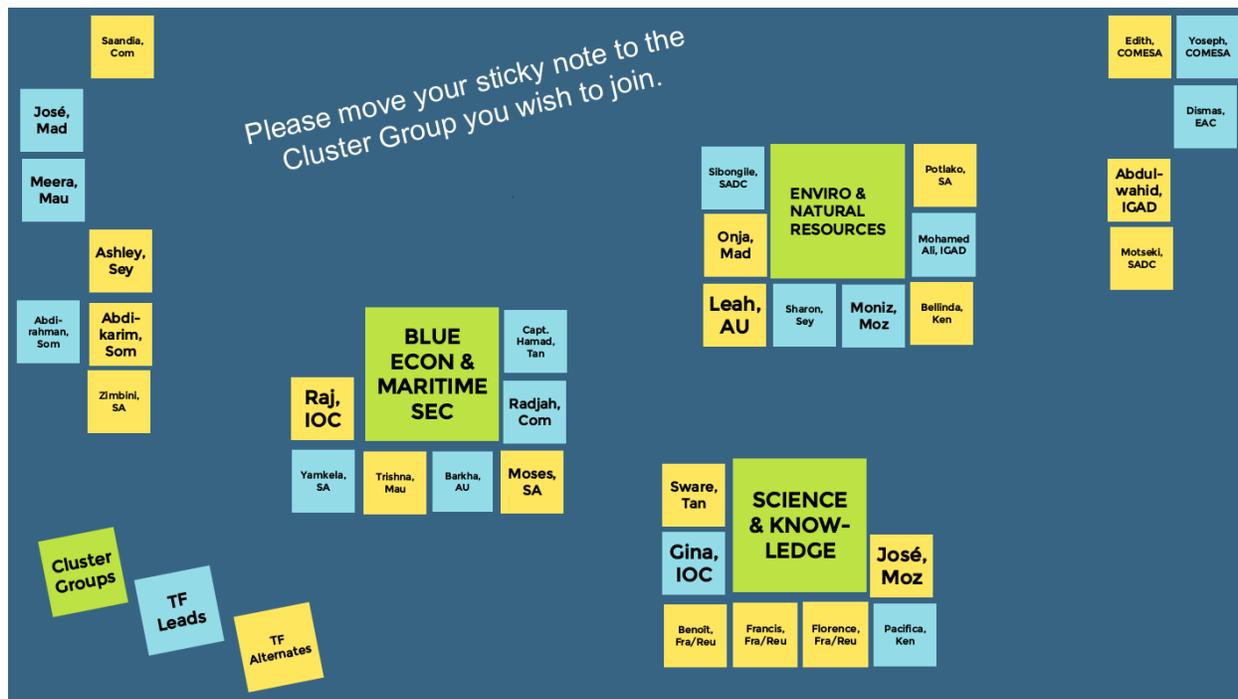| Priority sectors	Priority regional challenges
Fisheries	Capacity Building
Maritime shipping	Shared and coordinated governance
Sustainability	Combatting IUU fishing
Oceanography	Marine Spatial Planning
	ABNJ and connection with national waters
Priority opportunities	**Priority regional organizations**
Fisheries	WIOMSA
Maritime shipping	CSIR
Sustainable …	IOC
Oceanography	RCMRD
	IRD

2. **Environment and Natural Resources Cluster - Ms Bellina Akello, Ms Leah Wanambwa, Mr Mohamed Ali, Mr Potlako Khati, and Ms Sharon Gerry**

Priority sectors	Priority regional challenges
Maritime transport (shipping)	Pollution – marine and land
Community groups	Climate change
MDAs	waste- full cycle
Fishing groups	unsustainable exploitation of resources
NGOs and civil societies	
Priority opportunities	**Priority regional organizations –**
Best practices- transfer of knowledge and skills	IORA
	AMCEN
Ownership	IOC
Capacity Building and Training	IUCN
Information management and coordination	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
	Academia

3. **Maritime Security and Blue Economy Clusters – Ms Barkha Mossae, Capt. Hamad Bakar, Mr Moses Ramakulukusha, Ms Ambadi Radja, Ms Trishna Sooklall and Mr Arthur Tuda**

Priority sectors	Priority regional challenges
Maritime safety and security to support blue economy	Combatting IUU
	Search and Rescue
Fisheries and aquaculture	Climate Change
Marine conservation	Waste management and marine pollution
Sustainable tourism	Data sharing and consensus building
Shipping and maritime transport/connectivity	Financial assistance
Priority opportunities	**Priority regional organizations**
Blue Economy Diplomacy	IOTC
Marine Conservation (Regional Network of MPAs)	IUCN
	SIOFA
BBNJ	AUC
Maritime Surveillance	WIOMSA

Initial Cluster Group Members - The meeting went over time by about 30 minutes and several TF members who signed up for a Cluster Group had to leave and could not fully participate in the above discussions. Furthermore, TF members that could not attend the first Inception Meeting were given the opportunity to join a Cluster Group in the week after the meeting. Here are the initial results of Cluster Group members:

Figure 3: Initial Task Force Cluster Groups members

5. Closing and next steps

Meeting Feedback - Ms ElAshmawy requested participants to fill in the inception meeting online feedback form.

Proposed Next Steps/Actions

a. A follow-up email to be circulated with the meeting report and documentation
b. Non-state actors to be suggested for inclusion in Task Force, followed by a second Inception Meeting
c. First CLI Leadership Workshop and Technical Sector Webinars to follow

Task Force Member Feedback on Inception Meeting

A short Inception Meeting Feedback Form was circulated to Task Force member participants at the end of the meeting. A week was allocated for completing the Form and 12 responses were received. Meeting goals were assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 "weak" and 5 "strong," with these average results:

Table 2: Quantitative Task Force member feedback on Inception Meeting goals

Inception Meeting Goal	Average
Process: Recall ROGS COP mandate and **process to date**, including links to AMCEN	**4.2**
Process: Share and get feedback on the **proposed process** for empowering ROGS Task Force to co-lead a participatory strategy development process	**4.2**
Concrete: Share and get feedback on **proposed ToR for Task Force members**	**4.3**
Concrete: Discuss and collect inputs on **ROGS priorities in Cluster Groups**: sectors, challenges, cooperation opps, stakeholders	**4.2**
Relational: Request Task Force members' readiness to review **suggested non-state actors** as ROGS Task Force members	**4.0**
Relational: Build trust for the onward ROGS collaboration journey	**4.1**
Overall Average	**4.17**

Furthermore, respondents submitted qualitative responses regarding what they liked most about the meeting and what they would improve. Below, please find headers of clustered responses, each preceded by the number of related responses.

What did you like most about today's Inception Meeting?

- 4x - Good organization and facilitation of the meeting
- 4x - Interactive and participatory approach
- 3x – Inputs from organizers
- 2x - Regional diversity of participant network
- 2x - Richness of discussions

What would you improve for similar future meetings?

- 4x - Extend time for meetings, especially discussions
- 3x - Provide more space for Task Force to lead the process
- 3x - Encourage/provide opportunities for participant preparation for meetings
- 2x - Provide facilitation and capacity building support
- 2x - Provide translation (1 for Portuguese, 1 for French)
- 2x - In-person meetings would be valuable

Support Team response - The Support Team is very appreciative of and takes seriously all of the above Inception Meeting feedback received from Task Force members. We are aware that we are engaged in a complex and dynamic process spanning 10 countries and are prepared to learn and adapt our way through it together. We will strive to build on strengths and to address development areas with humility, collective intelligence, and innovation.

In the annex, please find complete Task Force member feedback and more detailed response from the Support Team for improvement suggestions received.

Time	Session
14:00	**Informal Welcome** • Tech Check and Orientation
14:10	**Welcome, Framing, and Introductions** • **Welcome** by **Mr Dixon Waruinge**, Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS): ROGS COP mandate, objective of process, link to AMCEN (5 min) • **Framing** by **Dr Timothy Andrew**, Senior Programme Manager, NCS: ROGS history, timeline for ROGS approval by COP (5 min) • **Meeting Goals** by **Ms Mai ElAshmawy, Senior Project Manager, (CLI)** (2 min) • **Introductions:** Task Force members and alternates (2 min set-up; 8 min in small groups; 8 min in plenary); Input givers
14:40	**Draft Participatory ROGS Development Process** • **Input** by: • **Mr Dominic Stucker**, Managing Partner, Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), • **Mr Bonface Mutisya,** Project Assistant, NCS, • **Ms Yvonne Waweru**, Senior Governance Advisor, GIZ: Proposed process for empowering ROGS Task Force to collectively lead a participatory strategy development process (10 min) • **Plenary discussion:** Comments, questions, suggestions? (5 min)
14:55	**Draft ROGS Task Force Role and Composition** • **Input** by **Ms Yvonne Waweru**: Task Force ToR summary (5 min) • **Plenary discussion:** Comments, questions? (7 min) • **Input** by **Dr Timothy Andrew**: Toward an expanded, multi-stakeholder Task Force (5 min) • **Plenary discussion:** Comments, questions? (7 min)
15:20	**Draft ROGS Clusters and Sectors** • **Input** by **Mr Kieran Kelleher**: Suggested ROGS clusters and sectors (7 min) • **Plenary discussion:** Feedback on clusters and sectors: Adapt, remove, add? (7 min) • **Breakout groups:** Testing the process by cluster (5 min set-up, 25 min discussion) From the perspective of your group's cluster, please discuss and document: 1. Priority regional sectors (rank if possible) 2. Priority regional challenges (rank if possible) 3. Priority opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation (rank if possible)

	4. Main regional organizations, institutions, associations, platforms, etc. that should be engaged (public, private, civil society, and academic) to ensure participatory ROGS development <u>and</u> sustainable implementation • **Group presentations and discussion:** Rapporteurs present back in plenary (max. 3 min each; 12 min total) • **Plenary discussion:** On presentations (8 min)
16:25-16:30	**Gratitude, Next Steps, Closing** • Inception Meeting Feedback Form (3 min) • Next steps (1 min) • Check Out (1 min)

Annex II - Participants List

Task Force Members – Country Representatives	
Comoros	Ms Ambadi Radja
France (Reunion)	Ms Florence Galletti
	Mr Benoît Rodrigues
	Dr Francis Marsac
Kenya	Dr Pacifica F. A. Ogola
	Ms Bellinda Akello
Madagascar	Mr José Victor Randrianarimanana
	Ms Onja Dauphine Robson
Mauritius	Ms Trishna Sooklall
Mozambique	Mr Moniz Munguambe
	Mr José Ariscado
Seychelles	Ms Sharon Gerry
Somalia	Dr Abdikarim Hersi
South Africa	Mr Yamkela Mngxe
	Mr Moses Ramakulukusha
	Mr Potlako Khati
	Ms Zimbini Nkwintya
Tanzania	Capt. Hamad Bakar Hamad, PhD
	Dr Immaculate Sware Semesi
Task Force Members – Regional Representatives	
AU	Ms Barkha Mossae
	Ms Leah Wanambwa
IGAD	Mr Mohamed Ali Muse
IOC	Ms Gina Bonne
SADC	Ms Sibongile Mavimbela
Support Team Members and Partners	
CLI	Ms Mai ElAshmawy
	Mr Dominic Stucker
GIZ	Ms Yvonne Waweru

	Ms Carol Mutiso
WIOMSA	Mr Julius Francis
	Mr Arthur Tuda
Consultant	Mr Kieran Kelleher
UNEP/NCS	Mr Dixon Waruinge
	Dr Tim Andrew
	Dr Jared Bosire
	Mr Robert Wabunoha
	Mr David Ouma
	Mr Nathan Majwa
	Dr Jane Ndungu
	Ms Angela Patnode
	Ms Melisa Mureithi
	Mr Bonface Mutisya

Absent with Apology

Task Force Members – Country Representatives	
Seychelles	Ms Ashely Dias
Task Force Members – RECs Representatives	
COMESA	Dr Yoseph Mamo
	Ms Edith Tibahwa

Annex III – Task Force Feedback on Inception Meeting and Supporting Team Response

A short Inception Meeting Feedback Form was circulated to Task Force member participants at the end of the meeting. A week was allocated for completing the Form and 12 responses were received. The following is a complete summary of all results.

Meeting goals were assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 "weak" and 5 "strong."

Goal	Average
Process: Recall ROGS COP mandate and **process to date**, including links to AMCEN	**4.2**
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Concrete: Discuss and collect inputs on **ROGS priorities in Cluster Groups**: sectors, challenges, cooperation opps, stakeholders	**4.2**
Relational: Request Task Force members' readiness to review **suggested non-state actors** as ROGS Task Force members	**4.0**
Relational: Build trust for the onward ROGS collaboration journey	**4.1**
Overall Average	**4.17**

1. What did you like most about today's Inception Meeting? (clustered)

Good organization and facilitation of meeting

- The kindness and friendliness of the organisers

- It was a great meeting

- Proper guidance from leading team, Dominic and Mai

- Colleagues were really helpful especial on IT issues relating to virtual interactions

Interactive and participatory approach

- Very interactive session

- The ability to interact and share information

- Participatory setup for stakeholders

- The open way that participants have their opinion

Inputs from organizers

- The introduction to the tasks ahead

- Very detailed session

- Capacity building

Regional diversity of participant network

- Broad stakeholders of the WIO Region

- Network in Ocean Governance

Richness of discussions

- Discussion and collecting inputs on ROGS priorities in Cluster Groups

- The richness of the discussions

2. What would you improve for similar future meetings? (clustered)

Extend time for meetings, esp. discussions

- Extend time duration of meeting with small breaks

- More time for discussions within groups/clusters

- Allow discussion and engagements

- Timing

Provide more space for Task Force to lead the process

- Give responsibility to members of the group for more interaction

- Allow participant to contribute on the conduct of the meeting, refrain from the classroom style, we do understand and know exactly what the WIO regions wants and the continental agenda. Listen to us.

- Sharing experience for ocean governance

Encourage / provide opportunities for participant preparation for meetings

- Encourage pre-meeting preparatory sessions

- Have the questions asked at least a few minutes before the start of the meeting to prepare to answer them

- Readiness for meeting interactions

Provide facilitation and capacity building support

- Maybe put a moderator (from the organizers) in each small group

- Capacity building

Provide translation

- Possibility of translation into Portuguese. I, for example, have difficulties expressing myself in the English language.

- The availability of an online French-English translation and vice versa would be a plus, even if we can do without it . We are running out of time during the discussions. This point may be changed in the future?

In-person meetings would be valuable

- Physical meetings would add more value

- Physical meetings are better than online, especially for initial/setup meetings

3. Any additional comments? (comments that fit above were moved)

- Looking forward to the next meeting

- Thanks the event organisers

- This project is good for our country

Support Team Response - The Support Team is very appreciative for and takes seriously all of the Inception Meeting feedback received from Task Force members. We are aware that we are engaged in a complex and dynamic process spanning 10 countries and are prepared to learn and adapt our way through it together. We will strive to build on strengths and to address development areas with humility, collective intelligence, and innovation.

Regarding specific suggestions for improvement:

4x - Extend time for meetings, especially discussions

→ Indeed, CLI workshops will create more space for interaction and discussion, as can self-organized Task Force meetings. Please be aware that while the Support Team will expand the meeting or workshop agendas, we will need Task Force members to reciprocate with full and active participation.

3x - Provide more space for Task Force to lead the process

→ We are so glad to hear this feedback! It indicates that you are the right people for the Task Force. Indeed, co-designing and carrying out a participatory ROGS development process depends on the collective leadership of the ROGS Task Force. Throughout, know that the Support Team is also there to help you succeed!

3x – Encourage / provide opportunities for participant preparation for meetings

→ We appreciate this request and see opportunities for additional preparation for meetings, e.g. through:

- Reading background papers and ocean governance materials and attending a series of technical sector webinars organized by the Support Team and partners (e.g. especially for Task Force members who could not attend the Ocean Governance Training in September 2021)

- Preparing for CLI workshops (e.g. by working on stakeholder consultation lists; by conducting peer coaching sessions with your partner to develop further as a collective leader; by reading excerpts from the book Leading Transformative Change Collectively that underpins CLI's workshops), and

- Conducting ongoing preparation and coordination through self-organized Task Force meetings between workshops and webinars organized by the Support Team.

2x - Provide facilitation and capacity building support

→ Indeed, capacity building – both on technical and leadership topics – is planned into the process. The Support Team wants to be sure the ROGS Task Force is set up for success!

Furthermore, please note that Task Force members who complete all 3 CLI workshops successfully will not only benefit from the ROGS development process through the application of new multi-stakeholder collaboration tools and models, but will also be certified as Collective Leadership Specialists and join a global, mutually-supportive Community of Practice of 300+ Specialists that endures beyond any project timeframes.

2x - Provide translation support (1 for Portuguese, 1 for French)

→ Thank you for speaking up about translation support. While we do not have the resources to translate written materials or provide simultaneous translation, we are very happy that a Task Force member and a Support Team member have declared themselves ready to help with informal translation of technical terms during TF meetings and workshops, as well as bilaterally, as requested.

2x - In-person meetings would be valuable

→ We also agree. Unfortunately, given that our initiative is a regional one, it is very expensive to gather everyone for meetings and workshops. That said, some of your ROGS stakeholder consultations may occur at regional in-person events that you are planning to attend anyway. Such meetings may present opportunities for in-person side-events. It is planned to offer CLI's third and final workshop in-person and the NCS intends to convene a larger in-person ROGS validation workshop once a draft strategy has been developed by the TF.

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