



UNEP - NAIROBI CONVENTION

Meeting of the

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN SCIENCE - POLICY PLATFORM

Date: 5 - 7 December 2023

Theme: Addressing Global Targets in the WIO in support of a Sustainable Blue Economy

Venue: Maputo, Mozambique

Call for Discussion Papers

Introduction

Acknowledging the important role that science plays in policy and decision-making, and the barriers that limit the uptake of science into policy, the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Science - Policy Platform (SPP) (hereafter referred to as WIO-SPP) was established by the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention. The objective of the Platform is to integrate relevant scientific evidence and findings into national and regional efforts to protect, manage and develop the coastal and marine environment sustainably.

This year's WIO-SPP is scheduled to take place from the 5th to 7th December 2023 in Maputo, Mozambique, jointly organized by the Secretariats of the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA with the support of other partners and programmes. The Mozambique National Institute of Oceanography will be the technical host of the meeting.

The overall objective of the meeting is to promote the linkages between science and policy for evidence-based decision-making as well as providing timely technical advice and policy recommendations for consideration in the development of decisions in the upcoming COP of the Nairobi Convention. The meeting is also intended to facilitate and promote a better understanding of on-going and emerging regional environmental challenges and opportunities, and of the strategies needed to address them in line with global protocols and best practice.

Call for Discussion Papers

Through this communication, the organizers would like to reach out to technical and policy experts to prepare discussion papers on selected initiatives of relevance to the theme and sub-themes (presented below) for the meeting, as well as papers that will potentially provide the scientific basis for decision-making at the national and regional levels. Each discussion paper should address at least one of the sub-themes. It is envisaged that the papers should have regional relevance, applicability and alignment with priorities of WIO countries and will potentially provide the scientific basis for decision-making at the national and regional levels with respect to the theme and/or sub-themes of the meeting.

The proposed sub-themes for the meeting are as follows:

- i. Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework at regional and national levels in the WIO, with focus on Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) as Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).
- ii. Opportunities for implementation of the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ) in the WIO.
- iii. Operationalization of the international legally-binding instrument on plastics.
- iv. Approaches to collaborative regional ocean governance for a sustainable Blue Economy.
- v. Blue financing for sustainable management of coastal ecosystems.



- vi. Implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- vii. Progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. SDGs 11,13, & 14)

The solicited papers will be lined up in the agenda for presentation at the meeting depending on the sub-theme that they respond to and must address the science and/or policy support for local implementation of the global initiatives, and how to take forward the recommended actions to allow for the necessary policy adjustments to ensure that each government in the WIO will meet its obligations and commitments under the global instruments.

The questions to be considered include the following:

- a. Do we understand or are we prepared for the implementation of these instruments at the national, or regional level?
- b. What progress have the Nairobi Convention Member States made towards meeting the 2030 targets?
- c. What could be the WIO region's contribution to the global debate on the subject?
- d. What are the policy limitations or science gaps that may hinder the attainment of the global targets?
- e. Should national targets be set, and is there a desire or mechanism available to monitor the target?
- f. Is there anything that needs to be done at the regional level to enhance attainment of targets at the national and global levels?

The discussion papers must have the following structure:

1. Background and rationale;
2. Linkage to regional and global processes;
3. The subject matter being addressed – i.e. state-of-the-art; etc.
4. Recommendations which can be both of a technical and/or policy nature as well as the national, regional and global dimensions of the same.

Each paper should not exceed four (4) A4 pages and should preferably be in Times New Roman font with font size 12 and single spacing. The papers are to be submitted to the Organizing Committee of the 2023 WIO-SPP meeting (jared.bosire@un.org, kakoranteng@gmail.com and secretary@wiomsa.org). Each paper will be reviewed to determine its suitability for presentation at the meeting. The deadline for submission is 30th October 2023. Papers presented in the meeting will be peer-reviewed for consideration for publication in the second edition of the WIO Science - Policy Platform Series, a joint publication of the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA.