



## Concept Note

### WIOMPAN Exchange Learning Workshop

#### Capacity Development on Effective Management of Marine Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean Region

1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

##### A. Background

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region is renowned for its richness in often rare, endemic, and endangered marine species associated with the region's vast critical habitats and innumerable islets and atolls. The region has a coastline stretching for more than 15,000km, a continental shelf area of about 450,000km<sup>2</sup> covering ten countries (Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and the United Republic of Tanzania) with a combined population of approximately 244 million. The ten countries are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the protection, management, and development of the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region.

The countries in the WIO region have progressively extended economic exploitation of their marine and coastal resources especially for fisheries, mining, geo-engineering and exploitation of genetic resources, exacting pressure on these fragile marine resources. Resource exploitation has progressively tipped the balance between meeting the demand for economic development, and the need for conservation of the natural resources<sup>1</sup>. To ensure effective management of coastal and marine resources, establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) has been advocated as tool to enhance sustainability of coastal and marine resources.

##### B. Development in Support of MPAs in the Western Indian Ocean Region

The formal establishment of marine protected areas stems from the Geneva Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1958 which was the first major global move to exercise some control over the extraction of marine resources. Subsequent international agreements, laws and publications laid the foundation for a massive increase in marine areas under protection globally such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with SDG 14 specifically promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development<sup>2</sup>.

The proclamation of marine protected areas intends to achieve long-term biodiversity conservation objectives and sustainable use, and where appropriate, provide vital tools for the conservation of natural resources and spur blue growth while maintaining endangered ecosystems and habitats. The ten Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention have appreciated the need for marine protected areas (MPA) as a tool to promote integrated management of coastal and marine resources. Several Conferences of Parties (COPs) Decisions have made commitments on MPAs:

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nairobiconvention.org/clearinghouse/sites/default/files/\\_MPA%20Outlook\\_July%202021.pdf](https://www.nairobiconvention.org/clearinghouse/sites/default/files/_MPA%20Outlook_July%202021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nairobiconvention.org/clearinghouse/sites/default/files/\\_MPA%20Outlook\\_July%202021.pdf](https://www.nairobiconvention.org/clearinghouse/sites/default/files/_MPA%20Outlook_July%202021.pdf)

- Decision CP.9/10. Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy<sup>3</sup>
- Decision CP.9/11. Development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks
- Decision CP.10/8. Area-based Planning Tools for Sustainable Blue Economy<sup>4</sup>

In addressing the COP decisions, the contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention supported the development of an MPA Outlook which reviews the commitment by governments to achieve 10% protection of marine and coastal areas through effectively and equitably managed MPAs and other effective area-based management measures (Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14). The Outlook considers the formulation of the CBD's post 2020 biodiversity framework, that proposes, among other goals a zero net biodiversity loss by 2030, as well as providing a baseline for the post 2020 framework<sup>5</sup>.

The WIO MPA Outlook identifies that the countries in the WIO region have established 143 Marine Protected Areas (or equivalent), covering a total of 555,436.68km<sup>2</sup>. This represents 7% of the combined exclusive economic zone and 17 percent of the coastline. By the end of 1970s, only 19 MPAs had been established in the WIO region with the number increasing dramatically over the past 20 years. The focus for conservation has also changed from conserving inshore fish stocks and associated habitats, as strictly small no-take zones, to much larger areas, with often diverse zoning schemes that permit multiple uses.

While the findings and analysis from the WIO MPA Outlook presents the interest in improving management effectiveness of MPAs in the WIO region, it represents a timely opportunity to develop regional interventions that can assist the currently designated MPAs. Furthermore, they can play a critical role in drawing much needed higher level government attention to the current situation and ensuring that there is sufficient capacity and ability to effectively manage any sites that may be proclaimed in future. In order to realise these, the WIO MPA Outlook recommends the following among others.

- i. Sufficient suitably qualified and experienced personnel need to be appointed to enable management implementation. This can be supported through capacity development programmes that support actual job requirements.
- ii. All management plans need to be reviewed, updated, adopted and implemented. Annual plans of operation need to be directly linked to these strategic management plans.
- iii. Proactive law enforcement and compliance strategies for ensuring boundary integrity of the MPAs.
- iv. Community development programmes should focus on identifying and developing alternative livelihood opportunities for impoverished communities.
- v. The development of a comprehensive regional monitoring programme to continuously evaluate management effectiveness and to facilitate adaptive management is vital.
- vi. The allocation of dedicated, secure and adequate budgets needs to be prioritized for MPA management. These budgets form the baseline of being able to achieve MPA objectives and mitigate and respond to current identified shortfalls in management effectiveness.

---

<sup>3</sup> [Nairobi Convention Decisions](#)

<sup>4</sup> [ditto](#)

<sup>5</sup> [WIO MPA Outlook](#)

The Nairobi Convention through its project on capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries - Phase 3 - (ACP-MEAs 3) aims to support the governments in fulfilling their obligations as parties to MEAs and to address the environmental challenges they face and to reap the benefits of improved environmental governance of coastal and marine resources and effective implementation of the related Nairobi Convention Protocols at national and regional levels. Specifically, the project focuses on improving capacities on Ocean Governance by establishing a regionally representative network of MPAs with proper management capacities for effectiveness. In this regard, the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with Western Indian Ocean Science Association (WIOMSA), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN), Varuna, Minderoo and other partners, is organising capacity development, exchange and learning workshop on enhancing effective and sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the WIO region.

### C. Objectives of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to train and develop capacity of MPA managers and OECMs practitioners on effective and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources in the Western Indian Ocean Region. Specifically, the training will entail regional diagnosis of challenges and priorities facing MPAs; MPA certification, developing and implementing adaptive management and monitoring plans; setting new MPA management standards and reporting in line with SDG 14 and-the Global Biodiversity Framework.

### D. Expected Outcomes

- i. Key operational priorities for MPAs for effective management identified. Capacity and operational gaps to inform training and capacity-building priorities for MPAs.
- ii. Key priority actions increasing OECMs coverage and their co-management.
- iii. Management tools, resources, and enhanced expertise for effective management of MPA & OECM
- iv. Shared learning, best practices, and exchange of practical information within the WIO region.

### Participants

The workshop will bring together different stakeholders from governments and non-governmental organisations involved in conservation and management of MPAs as well as OECM practitioners among others.

## Provisional Workshop Programme

Day 1: 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	
<b>Objective 1:</b> prioritize challenges for effectively management of MPAs and OECMs	
i.	Opening Session
ii.	Purpose and the Objectives of the Workshop
iii.	Regional overview of challenges based on the WIO MPA Outlook Report
iv.	Group Sessions: Discussion and presentation of common MPA/OECM site management operational and capacity challenges
Day 2: 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023	
<b>Objective 2:</b> Enhance sound design, planning and effective management of MPAs and OECMs to support the delivery of site, national, regional, and global goals.	
i.	Overview of MPA and OECMs: Management effectiveness
ii.	Development and implementation of effective management and monitoring plans
iii.	Principles of effective reporting at national and regional levels in light of the SDG 14 and GBF framework
Day 3: 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	
<b>Objective 3:</b> site assessments and certification, enabling conditions, capacities, and essential components.	
i.	MPA Certification Process
ii.	Requirements for marine conservation
iii.	Discussions: Priorities to the implementation of a regional work plan and roadmap
Day 4: 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	
i.	Field trip to an MPA within the Dar es Salaam Marine Parks and Reserves for shared learning, best practices, and exchange of information on the 3 objectives.