

# **The Nairobi Convention Secretariat Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the ICZM Protocol, Madagascar**

**Date : 11- 12 September 2023.**

## **I. Introduction**

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region is renowned for the attractiveness of its coastal zones, high marine biodiversity and rich marine and coastal resources. The economic value of the WIO ecosystems goods and services is estimated at over USD 20 billion Gross Marine Product per annum and a total asset base of over USD 333.8 billion. With over 30 percent of the WIO population (about 60 million people) living within 100km of the coastline, the coastal and marine ecosystems provide essential sources of livelihoods and income to coastal communities and significantly contribute to national economies.

However, the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) marine and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity and resources are under pressure from anthropogenic activities such as coastal development, overfishing, sand mining, dredging and pollution from land-based sources and activities; compounded by climate change and a rapidly increasing coastal population, combined with a inadequate resource management strategies, poverty, and inequality.

Maintaining and restoring the WIO ecosystems and coastal and marine resources requires the implementation of an ecosystem approach to ocean governance and sustainable Blue Economy, with strong coordination between sectors for effective management, development and policy implementation supported by a multi-stakeholder approach at regional level, between national agencies and ministries, and at the community level.

## **2. Integrated Coastal zone management**

Integrated Coastal zone management is a dynamic and participatory process that involves all relevant stakeholders aimed at planning, managing, conserving and protecting coastal and marine ecosystems and resources; taking into account their fragility and sensitivity, interactions, the nature of uses as well as their impacts with a view to ensuring sustainable development.

The objectives of integrated coastal zone management are to: promote sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of coastal and marine resources; conserve the ecological integrity and value of coastal and marine ecosystems and their valuable ecosystem services; provide for monitoring, preparedness, reduction, mitigation and adaptation; and monitoring of the effects of natural risks, especially those associated with climate change; promote the development and implementation of regional and national integrated coastal zone management frameworks; encourage involvement of all stakeholders to participate in planning and implementation; prevent, avoid, mitigate and where necessary offset the harmful effects of anthropogenic activities on the coastal environment and address the emerging development activities on the coastal zone.

An ICZM Protocol provides a framework for promoting regional and national integrated coastal zone management, as well as enhance cooperation for sustainable development in the Western Indian Ocean region.

**Decision CP 6/3 (3):** requested the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to support the development of an ICZM Protocol, through a consultative process and in partnership with relevant regional and international organizations and programmes/projects. The request was reiterated by [Decision CP7/3](#), [Decision CP8/3](#), and [Decision CP.9/4](#)

In the preparation of the ICZM protocol from the year 2010 to the first negotiation meeting in 2013, the Secretariat in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) organized seven Ad-hoc Legal and Technical Working Group Meetings (LTWG). A total of seven drafts came up as a result of these sessions. The seventh draft ICZM Protocol was submitted to COP7 held in December 2012, in Maputo Mozambique for consideration.

In the Nairobi Convention area, regional drafting sessions on ICZM were enabled by the Swedish support in 2012 and negotiations followed thereafter in 2013 and continued through in 2016. The other partners who contributed to the drafts include; COI-IOC, WIOMSA, IDDRI, WCS, WWF. The GEF funded WIOSAP project supported the third (2016) and 4<sup>th</sup> negotiations (2019).

In response to [decision CP7/3](#) on 'Development of a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone, the [first](#) negotiation meeting was held on 25 -26 September 2013 in Cape Town. The [second](#) Negotiation Meeting on the Text of the First Draft of the ICZM Protocol of the Nairobi Convention was held on the 21-22 March 2016 in Mauritius. The [third](#) Negotiation Meeting was held on 21-24 November 2016 in Zanzibar. The [fourth](#) and final negotiations meeting was held on 25-27 March 2019, Dar es Salaam.

The Contracting Parties at the tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) held virtually in November 2021 requested the Secretariat under [Decision CP.10/3](#) to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries before the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties to adopt and sign the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region.

#### **Purpose of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries**

- To adopt and sign the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region. The signing will be by Government officials with delegated powers to make decisions on the ICZM Protocol on behalf of their governments.