

Draft Decision
(for discussion purposes only)

Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region Contracting Parties

Eleventh meeting [date] May 2024

Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

Preamble

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (hereinafter the Nairobi Convention),

Recalling the Nairobi Convention Decision CP.10/5. Ocean Governance Strategy and the need for an ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region as a contribution to the African ocean governance strategy, the oceans and blue economy, climate change and other Africa policies and the initiatives of the Regional Economic Communities

Reaffirming their commitments to the United Nations Law of the Sea and other international conventions related to ocean governance and international principles of sustainable and responsible use of the oceans

Aware of the vital social, economic and environmental role of healthy oceans and coastal and marine ecosystems and the growing threats to

Taking note of the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant policies and decisions of the African Union

Appreciating the contributions of regional stakeholders in the participatory process to develop the ROGS and the support of bilateral and international partners

Decide,

Decision CP.11/#. Approval of the Western Indian Ocean Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

1. To **approve** the Western Indian Ocean Regional Ocean Governance Strategy and implement as set out in annex A.
2. To include activities to implement the ROGS within the NC Programme of Work.
3. To request the Parties to make **best efforts to implement** the strategy through cooperation, provision of human and other resources as may be possible, and through alignment of policies and governance mechanisms, including through active engagement of the Regional Economic Communities and other regional and international organisations with mandates related to ocean governance.
4. To request the partners engaged in **supporting** regional initiatives to meet the SDGs, and SDG 14 in particular, to support the implementation of the strategy at national and regional levels and make best efforts to align their activities on oceans to drive synergies and efficiency, address resource gaps and avoid fragmentation.

5. To request the secretariat to establish **interim** high-level policy, technical and finance platforms based on cooperation between existing regional institutions to further develop consensus institutional arrangements, implementation plans for the strategy and facilitate the resources required for implementation.
6. Following a further participatory process(es), to prepare **recommendations** for effective long-term institutional arrangements capable of addressing all necessary aspects of regional cooperation on ocean governance.
7. To request the secretariat to **report** on the progress of implementation of the strategy at all regular meetings of national focal points and meetings of the Contracting Parties

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