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**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND
COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (NAIROBI
CONVENTION)**

Mahe, Seychelles

22-24 June, 2015.

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BACKGROUND

1. The Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention) and its two protocols (Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and Cooperation in Combating Marine Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Eastern African Region). The convention that was adopted in June 22 1985 came into force in May 1996. Following their entry into force, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the first meeting of the Contracting Parties in March 1997 in Seychelles and subsequently the Conference of Parties is held after two years to review the implementation of decisions of the COPs and to adopt the work program for the Nairobi Convention.
2. The Convention's work programs are collaborative programs that builds on the momentum achieved through the previous work programmes. The work program is implemented through a coordination structure that constitutes the programme coordination office in Nairobi which provides strategic direction; a Bureau of Contracting Parties that provides guidance in the implementation of the convention; a network of national focal points; thematic experts groups such as coral reef taskforce and the Consortium for the Conservation of Marine Resources.
3. During the sixth Conference of Parties on 29 March to 1 April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries considered, adopted and signed two instruments for the Nairobi Convention: the *Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean*; and a new *Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities*. The meeting also adopted a *Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities* (WIO-SAP).
4. The Seventh COP adopted twenty decisions among them: development of an ICZM protocol, review of the protocol on protected areas and wild fauna and flora, environment management for oil and gas exploration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, contribution to the UN regular process, strengthening the operational functioning of the secretariat, among others.

The Eighth Conference of Parties (COP 8)

5. The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region Secretariat (Nairobi Convention) in close collaboration with the Government of Seychelles, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), organized the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP8) for the Nairobi Convention under the theme "*Conserving the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Western Indian Ocean for the next 30 Years*" on 22 - 24 June, 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles. The COP8 for the Nairobi Convention coincided with the 30th anniversary -- the Convention that was adopted in June 1985
6. The Eighth Conference of Parties was preceded by three preparatory workshops, the launch of the Regional State of the Coast Report of the Western Indian Ocean and the signing of the Strategic Action Programme for Sustainable Management of the WIO large marine ecosystems (LMEs) by the Contracting Parties. The preceding preparatory workshops were held in the following sequence:
 - a) The Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop held on the 17-18 June 2015;
 - b) The Partnerships Workshop held on the 19 June 2015;
 - c) The Science - Policy Workshop held on the 20 June 2015;

The reports of these workshops are attached as Annex III of this report.

7. COP 8 was divided into two segments: an Experts meeting on 22 June 2015; and a Heads of Delegation Meeting on 23-24 June, 2015. The Experts' meeting discussed the UNEP Executive Director's report, the National Reports on the activities of the Contracting Parties, Observers reports, a Coordination Mechanism for the Nairobi Convention and the Draft Decisions for the Heads of Delegation meeting.

A. Report of the Experts Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. Introduction

8. The Experts meeting of June 22, 2015 at the Savoy Resort in Mahe Seychelles was attended by 106 participants including the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles, Mr. Didier Dogley, the Minister for Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Crafts of Comoros, Siti Kassim; the Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (UNEP - DEPI), Mette Wilkie; Principal and Permanent Secretaries, Directors and senior representatives of the Governments and the focal points of the Nairobi Convention from Comoros, Kenya, France, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. Also present were the representatives of UN organizations, NGOs, IGOs, research institutions and academia.

2. Opening of the Experts Meeting

9. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Head, Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention called the experts meeting to order.
10. The Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Ms. Mette Wilkie gave opening remarks commending the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention for their achievements in the conservation of the marine and coastal environment in the last 30 years. She called upon the Contracting Parties to discuss on future opportunities for oceans governance and sustainable management of ocean resources in the Western Indian Ocean Region. Her statement covered an overview of the Blue Economy initiatives in the WIO Region, the various projects and initiatives supported by UNEP, the revision of the Convention and adoption by the Contracting Parties of the Land-Based Sources and Activities Protocol (LBSA). She commended the Contracting Parties for the progress made in ratifying the Protocol. The Director thanked the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C), donors and stakeholders for their efforts to implement the Convention's Work Programme 2015-2017 and committed to UNEP's support in assisting the Secretariat to implement the work programme. Ms. Wilkie urged the Contracting Parties to participate in the post 2015 Development Agenda process and to take note of the Sustainable Development Goals particularly the goal to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and to harness the opportunities resulting from the post - 2015 development agenda process for the benefit of the Western Indian Ocean region.
11. The Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate of the Seychelles, Hon. Didier Dogley officially opened the Experts meeting.

3. Organizational Matters

12. In accordance with rule 16 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Nairobi Convention, the Chair of the Bureau, Tanzania handed over the Chairmanship of the meeting to the Host Country, Seychelles. Kenya, as the rapporteur, kept track of the key issues from the meeting.
13. The Chair introduced the agenda which was adopted as it was. The adopted agenda is attached as an annex of this report.

4. Highlights of the UNEP Executive Director's report

14. The head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat presented the highlights of the UNEP Executive Director's report focusing on the implementation of COP 7 decisions. The Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for a job well done in the implementation of the decisions and pledged their continued support to the Secretariat.

5. National Reports

15. The Contracting Parties reported on the implementation of the Nairobi Convention Activities in their countries. The Chair lauded the Government of Mozambique for ratifying the LBSA Protocol and encouraged other Contracting Parties to sign the protocol.

6. Observers Reports

16. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) gave a brief report confirming the commitment of CBD to supporting the WIO Countries to reach AICHI targets.

7. Coordination Mechanism for the Nairobi Convention

17. The representative of Tanzania made a presentation on Strengthening the Operational Functioning of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. The presentation highlighted the challenges of funding and the options for funding the Secretariat and also elaborated different scenarios for the structure of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat including a fully-fledged centralized Secretariat, a decentralized approach to institutional strengthening working through collaboration centres, expert bodies and partner institutions. A draft decision would be presented to the Contracting Parties on the proposed structure.

8. Draft Decisions for the Heads of Delegations Meeting

18. The Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention led the experts through the proposed draft decisions for the Heads of Delegations meeting highlighting the key issues for each decision. Various corrections and amendments were proposed for discussion by the Contracting Parties and the drafting team. The Conference of Parties convened a separate meeting to finalize the decisions.

9. Key Recommendations and Areas requiring Decisions from the Experts Meeting

19. Proposals were made to strengthen the functioning of the Secretariat while at the same time minimizing the effects on the core Nairobi Convention Secretariat budget. These included:
 - Broadening responsibility for regional support to implementation of the Convention activities;
 - Establishment of an *ad hoc* Task Team to further develop Terms of Reference for any arrangement or coordination structure;
 - Reinforcing the roles of Bureau vice-chairs in providing cross cutting support to implementation of the Convention in agreed areas (currently: work programme, coordination, and resource mobilisation);
 - Requesting governments to second at least three professional staff, either through seconded National Officers, junior professional officers (JPOs), and UN Volunteers (UNV) from Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat;
 - Mandating the Secretariat to initiate process for seeking secondments of professional staff, JPOs, or UNVs for the Secretariat; and
 - Mandating the Secretariat to call for willing institutions to offer to participate either as Regional Activity Centers or Collaborating or Specialist Centers based on agreed hosting criteria.
20. Options were proposed for increasing centralized funding to the Nairobi Convention. These include:
 - Making provision for voluntary contributions to the Nairobi Convention Trust Fund; or
 - Establishment of a new sister Trust fund that could be used as a receptacle for funds other than assessed contributions with clear guidelines for fundraising, and increasing the number of UNEP managed projects;
 - Indirect options for increasing support to the Convention such as expansion in the number of partnerships and continued efforts to influence partners' activities in support of the Convention.

10. Closing of the Workshop

21. The Chair of the meeting thanked the Contracting Parties and the other meeting participants for their active contribution and participation in the meeting. There being no other business, the meeting was officially closed.

B. The Launch of the Regional State of the Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region

22. The First Regional State of the Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region was launched, and the Preface and Foreword electronically signed, by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles Mr. Didier Dogley and the UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, on the 22 June 2015 at the Savoy Resort. The launch marked an important first for the Government of Seychelles as it was the first electronic signing ever done in the Country. The Editor of the report, Prof. José Paula gave a presentation on the content, mandate and methodology of the report. The Regional State of the Coast Report provides an excellent description of the coastal and marine environment of the region, covering ecological, social and economic aspects, and makes several recommendations for future actions. It is designed to enable the Secretariat of the Convention to meet its statutory obligation to periodically assess the state of the environment in the region and meet other broader obligations of understanding environmental concerns amongst states and strategies required to address

them. The 546 page report will be updated regularly and different products such as a summary for decision makers produced to ensure that meaningful uptake of its recommendations.

C. Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

1. Introduction

23. The Eighth Conference of Parties of the Nairobi Convention was officially opened by the Minister for Environment Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles, Hon. Didier Dogley, in the presence of the UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, on June 23, 2015 at the Savoy Resort, Mahe, Seychelles.
24. Present at the Opening ceremony and the meeting, were 120 participants including the Minister for Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Crafts of Comoros, Hon. Ms. Siti Kassim; the State Minister of the Premier's Office for Environment of Somali, Mr. Bur'i Mohamed Hamza; the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management of Mauritius, Hon. Jayeshwur Raj Dayal; the Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture Seychelles, Hon. Mr. Wallace Cosgrow; the Minister of Investment, Entrepreneurship Development & Business Innovation, Seychelles, Hon. Mr. Michael Benstrong; the Minister of Land-Use & Housing, Seychelles, Hon. Chris Lionnet; the Minister for Health, Seychelles, Mrs. Mitcy Larue; the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Dr. Rolph Payet; and the Chargée de Mission of the Indian Ocean Commission, Ms. Gina Bonne.
25. Also present at the meeting were Ambassadors, Resident Heads of UN organizations, Principal Secretaries, Principal and Permanent Secretaries, Directors, senior level Representatives of Governments and the focal points of the Nairobi Convention from Comoros, Kenya, France, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania.

2. Welcome Remarks

a. Welcome Remarks by the Chargée de Mission of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

26. Ms. Gina Bonne delivered a speech on behalf of the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission. The address focused on the how the IOC, as a Memorandum of Understanding partner of the Nairobi Convention, is contributing to the implementation of the principles of the Nairobi Convention by assisting member countries to deliver on its commitments to the Convention. The areas of collaboration and engagement between the IOC and the Nairobi Convention include the Blue Economy, Fisheries, pollution, surveillance and maritime security, education for sustainable development, and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

b. Welcome Remarks by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

27. Dr. Rolph Payet gave opening remarks on the 30 year journey of the Nairobi Convention in the Western Indian Ocean and the delivery of the Convention's vision of a "Prosperous Western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans".

c. Address of the UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

28. Achim Steiner delivered a key note address titled "Seizing the Blue Economy Approach in the Western Indian Ocean Region". He congratulated all the parties and the Secretariat for their hard work on improving

the conservation and sustainable management of the coastlines and oceans on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention's signing.

29. Mr. Steiner remarked that the Western Indian Ocean was an ecological haven facing growing threats of degradation as a result of climate change and other human activities, threatened ecosystems and livelihoods, urbanization pressures and consequently pollution in some key areas which is degrading water and sediment quality. All these result in a loss of biological diversity, problems for human health and a reduction in fish stocks. He added that the worst impacts are likely yet to be seen. By 2020 about 50 per cent of the populations of the Western Indian Ocean's mainland countries will live within the coastal zone. Economic activities will intensify, particularly in the areas of maritime trade, mineral extraction from the coast, oil and gas exploration, coastal tourism and bio-prospecting. While these sectors present enormous economic opportunities, the potential impacts may reduce natural capital.
30. He discussed the climate change related challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the adoption of the Samoa Pathway by UN Member States to support and invest in SIDS so they can achieve sustainable development. Mr. Steiner also discussed the role of the Blue Economy in ensuring improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.
31. Mr. Steiner underscored the importance of the work of the Nairobi Convention in contributing to global processes such the finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals. He wished the meeting delegates a successful meeting, and looked forward to hearing how the region and the global community can make the Blue Economy a reality.

***d. Opening Statement by the Minister for Environment Energy and Climate Change,
Seychelles***

32. Hon. Mr. Didier Dogley officially opened the Heads of Delegation meeting, welcoming delegates to the Seychelles for the 8th Conference of Parties. The Minister said that the number 30 was of special significance to the Conference of Parties and the Government of Seychelles as the Convention was adopted in Seychelles 30 years ago and that the 30 years symbolized maturity, experience and acquired wisdom; and with it a history of achievements. It was therefore a time for celebration and reflection on all that the Western Indian Ocean meant to the region.
33. Mr. Dogley lauded the leaders and partners in the region who back in 1985 had the foresight to create a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions to enable better management of our shared marine space. A mechanism that has enabled Countries to harness resources and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups beyond our region and which has ensured that the Western Indian Ocean has remained the healthy and productive marine space that it is today.
34. The Minister acknowledged the recommendations and the outputs of the preparatory workshops of COP 8: the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance, Partnerships and the Science to Policy Workshops. He remarked that the President and the Government of Seychelles were committed to the pursuit of a Blue Economy as the pathway to Seychelles future economic growth, prosperity and sustainable development and detailed the steps that the Government had taken to make Blue Economy a reality in Seychelles. The Minister called for the strengthening and improvement of existing partnerships between states, multilateral organizations, civil society and private sector and stressed the importance of developing new strategies to harness other expertise, information and technology that the region would otherwise not have access to. Mr. Dogley noted that while much progress had been made in consolidating the nexus between science and policy, it was clear that more needed to be done to bridge the gap between science and policy and that scientists and policy makers needed to communicate more, if policies were to be based on sound science and effectively address issues on the ground.

35. Mr. Dogley outlined the important role that the Nairobi Convention could play in the Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals and the post 2015 agenda and the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
36. He concluded by stating that the Nairobi Convention was an excellent regional initiative which is delivering remarkable results and urged the Contracting Parties to recommit to the Convention's vision and objectives. He further stated that Seychelles was committing to and inviting other parties to commit to a responsible implementation of the Nairobi Convention, which starts with sound knowledge and enhanced capabilities, and culminates in sound governance at the country level and at the regional level.

3. Organizational Matters

a. Election of the New Members of the Bureau

37. The Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat led the process of electing new members of the Bureau. The Heads of Delegations that attended the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP 8) elected two new members to replace the members who were required to retire from the bureau after serving their terms.
38. The following is the composition of the the bureau:

i. Chair -	Seychelles
ii. Vice -chair (work programme) -	Kenya
iii. Vice-chair (resource mobilization) -	Republic of South Africa - Newly elected
iv. Vice-chair (coordination) -	Mozambique
v. Rapporteur -	Mauritius – Newly elected

b. Adoption of the Agenda

39. The incoming Chair, Mr. Didier Dogley thanked the Outgoing Chair for the able leadership of the Bureau. He then outlined the agenda prepared by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, which is included as part of the Annex of this report. The agenda was adopted with minor amendments.

4. Statements by Ministers

40. The Minister for Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Crafts of Comoros, Siti Kassim; the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management of Mauritius, Hon. Jayeshwur Raj Dayal; and the Minister of State Minister for Environmental Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister Somali, Mr. Buri Mahamed Hamza made statements during the opening of the meeting. The statements collectively: emphasised on the need for collaboration between the Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and the Private Sector; elaborated on the importance of commitment to the attainment of the objectives and obligations acceded to by the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention and the need for a commitment to the Blue Economy pathways. The Ministers' statements are attached as part of the annexes of this report.

5. Statement by the Outgoing Chair of the Bureau

41. The Outgoing Chair of the Bureau, Tanzania, represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State for Environment, in the Vice President's Office, Mr. Sasi Salula, made a statement on behalf of the Bureau. The Chair thanked the Government of Seychelles for hosting the 8th Conference of Parties; the outgoing Vice Chair of the Bureau, Seychelles, the rapporteurs, Kenya, and the Secretariat for the collaboration and the support extended to Tanzania during its tenure as Chair of the Bureau. He congratulated the incoming Bureau officials- Seychelles, Kenya and Mauritius.

42. The Chair noted that the 8th Conference of Parties had been preceded by four-days of preparatory workshops, - the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance workshop; the Partnerships meeting and the Science to Policy workshop, which were characterised by debates on issues facing the Western Indian Ocean region and produced useful recommendations for the Governments and Contracting Parties. The Chair encouraged the Contracting Parties to take the resultant recommendations and adopt them in their national context with a view to improve ocean governance. He further explained that some of the recommendations from the workshop formed part of the proposed decisions for COP 8 and urged the Contracting Parties to adopt them.

6. Statements by Heads of Delegation

43. The Heads of Delegation from France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, and the Republic of South Africa made their statements and declarations at the 8th Conference of Parties. The statements are attached as part of the annexes of this report. The reigning theme in the statements was the examination of how the Contracting Parties can embrace and effectively implement the concept of Blue Economy. There was a common agreement that the Ocean and coasts of WIO region must be seen for the potential they have, in order to increase the growth rate of the prosperity of the countries and well-being of the people. The heads of delegation also reiterated the statements of the Ministers from Comoros, Mauritius, Somalia and Seychelles on the need for regional collaboration in addressing the challenges facing the region and the need for alignment of the Convention to other regional and global processes such as the African Union's Agenda 2063, the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM-2050), and the 19th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) on Harnessing the Blue Economy for Eastern Africa's Development.

7. Statements by Observers

b. Statement by the Convention on Biological Diversity

44. Ms. Jihyun Lee made a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The statement congratulated the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties and Secretariat, and WIOMSA, for launching the Regional State of the Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean region, which CBD believes will provide a very important foundation to help countries realize the Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean supported by sustainable and healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, and achieve the globally committed vision in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The statement highlighted the collaboration between the CBD and the Nairobi Convention and the achievements made on the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) process and thanked the Convention and partners like WIOMSA for facilitating capacity building and sharing experiences on marine spatial planning. A workshop on Marine Spatial Planning will be hosted by CBD and the Government of Madagascar in collaboration with the Convention and other partners in November 2015.

b. Statement by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

45. Dr. Kwame Koranteng delivered a statement on behalf of the FAO highlighting the synergies between FAO's work in the Western Indian Ocean region and the Work Programme of the Convention and that of the Convention's other partners such as the EAF-Nansen Project; Smartfish; the Deep Sea Fisheries projects (a component of the ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) programme); the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. The statement also highlighted the new phase of FAO's Programme which is being expanded to include many issues that are of relevance to the Work Programme of the Convention such as pollution, oil and gas and climate variability and change.

c. Statement by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (UNDOALOS)

46. The representative of UNDOALOS gave a report on some of the developments on oceans and the law of the sea within the context of the United Nations and the General Assembly. The statement highlighted the forthcoming release of the first World Ocean Assessment (WOA) in September 2015 accompanied by a summary for decision makers. The report will look at the current state of the marine environment, including social and economic aspects and raise awareness of the central role of the oceans in sustainable development. The statement also reported on DOALOS work in Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

8. The Work Programme for the Nairobi Convention

i) Climate Change Strategy- Secretariat

47. The Executive Secretary of WIOMSA presented the Regional Climate Change Strategy which was developed in accordance with Decision CP7/9 of the Nairobi Convention on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The presentation covered the aims and objectives of the strategy, the components of the strategy, and the strategic outcomes.
48. The Secretariat noted that the Strategy was not meant to replace the National Climate Change Strategies adopted by the Countries but rather to compliment mitigation and adaptation at a regional and sub-regional level particularly in relation to Oceans and Coasts which are not widely covered in many National Strategies. He added that the Strategy would be translated in French by the end of July 2015 and circulated to the Contracting Parties for comments.
49. A number of recommendations were made in relation to the finalization of the Climate Change Strategy including: alignment of the strategy to regional climate change processes; inclusion of coping mechanisms against the impact of climate change; inclusion of the root causes of climate change; inclusion of various stakeholders in order to cover cross-sectoral needs (civil society, media, gender, human rights groups, partners working on climate change issues – north-south collaborations; etc.); inclusion of mitigation aspects if any.
50. A decision on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation was brought to the Heads of Delegation for adoption.

ii) Protection of Sharks and Rays in the WIO – Wildlife Conservation Society

51. Wildlife Conservation Society presented a progress report on the Regional Review of Sharks and Rays of the Southwest Indian Ocean. The review was launched in response to the COP 7 decision (CP7/12) to incorporate sharks and rays in the program of work, undertake regional status report on the state of sharks, and report to the next Conference of Parties.
52. The interim findings of the report are that there is a major increase in shark and ray fisheries driven by market demand for shark and ray products and dwindling fish stocks; most shark and ray fisheries are unmanaged or minimally managed; most international trade is unregulated (fisheries and trade controls vary across the region and require strengthening in most of the countries) and most threatened species are not protected; there are major advancements in shark and ray conservation including NPOAs adopted in South Africa and Seychelles and also in the work of the IOTC; there are major gaps in knowledge of

species, status, fisheries and trade; there are numerous constraints to improved management (lack of technical expertise, staff, logistical capacity, inadequate knowledge and political will).

53. The presenter noted that there are still gaps in the report including specifics on national legislation as regards to protection and management of sharks and rays; advice from the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and Management agencies regarding priorities and constraints. The report also looked at the next steps in filling in the gaps.
54. A decision on Threatened and Endangered Marine Species (including sharks and rays) was brought to the Heads of Delegation for adoption.

iii) Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP)

55. UNEP/GEF International Waters Africa Portfolio delivered a presentation on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities. The WIO-SAP Project which will be executed by the Nairobi Convention has the objective of reducing impacts from land-based sources and activities and to sustainably manage critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of the WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels. WIO-SAP focus is on implementing the SAP developed as part of the WIO-LaB Project, including existing national plans and policies; national priority targets; regionally coordinated/integrated national activities and achievable sustainable impacts.
56. A decision on the Support to Implementation of Projects including the WIO-SAP Programme was brought to the Heads of Delegation for adoption.

iv) Proposed projects (North Mozambique Channel; Proposed Transboundary Marine Protected Area (Kenya & Tanzania); - Kenya)

57. The Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) initiative, led by WWF, delivered a presentation on the progress made on the Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative since the COP 7 Decision (CP7/1) to develop and support implementation of priority projects, including... marine governance in the Mozambique Channel... and to invite partners including the Global Environment Facility to support their implementation. The initiative's vision is "The People, countries and economies of the Northern Mozambique Channel prosper in a sustainable future founded on the natural and cultural assets and diversity of the region". The initiative has three components: visionary leadership from countries; engagement of stakeholders and sectors in the region; building the assets and capital of the NMC region using the Capitals Approach in five areas: political, institutional, environmental, social and economic.
58. Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Tanzania gave an overview on the Proposed Marine Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania. The TBCA proposes an institutional framework that is grounded in the Nairobi Convention or the East African Community that will allow for gazetted parks and reserves to continue to operate within their jurisdiction according to their country legislation, but enhance the effectiveness of this network of protected areas through transboundary coordination.
59. A decision on the Support to Implementation of Projects including the TBCA and NMC initiative was brought to the Heads of Delegation for adoption.

v) *Proposed Oil and Gas project with Grid Arendal*

60. GRID-Arendal discussed the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the offshore oil/gas sector in the Nairobi Convention Region which was launched in response to decision CP 7/8 of COP 7 to call upon Contracting Parties to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessments for Oil and Gas and to request the Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners to facilitate the development of regional guidelines addressing transboundary environmental impacts of oil and gas exploration and production, for consideration at the 8th COP.
61. The presentation covered the objectives of the SEA, how SEA can contribute to a sustainable Blue Economy and the proposed outcomes of the SEA (guidelines for National SEAs in the Western Indian Ocean, legal, policy and institutional strengthening, advice to the planning and implementation of national SEAs, Capacity Building for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring).
62. A decision on Environment Management for Oil and Gas development was brought to the Heads of Delegations

vi) *"Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the ABNJ" (FAO and UNEP)*

63. FAO and UNEP presented on the ABNJ Deep Seas Project on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the ABNJ; in particular component 4 of the project which deals with developing area-based management tools in the ABNJ and is of relevance to the WIO Region.

9. Adoption of Decisions

64. The Contracting Parties went through the Draft Decisions, amendments were made in Plenary and the Decisions were adopted subject to the recalling of Decision CP 7/18 on Support to the Federal Republic of Somalia on Management of Coastal and Marine Environment: *To request* the Secretariat and partners to facilitate development and implementation of programmes and projects in support of Somalia's effort to improve management of marine and coastal development. The adopted decisions are part of the annexes of this report.

10. Venue of the Next Meeting

65. The Vice Chair of the Bureau, Kenya, proposed Mombasa, Kenya as the venue for COP 9. The proposal was accepted by the Contracting Parties.

11. Other Matters

66. The Heads of Delegations for the Governments of Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania gave brief statements thanking the Government of Seychelles for hosting a successful 8th Conference of Parties.

12. Closure of the meeting

67. The Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat thanked the Ministers and Heads of Delegation for attending and engaging constructively with each other during the meeting and for signing the LME SAP. He expressed appreciation for the support received from UNEP, UNDP and other UN bodies in organizing COP 8. He thanked the partners such as WIO-C members, the IOC, the CBD, WIOMSA, UNDOALOS and FAO. He appreciated the conference interpreters and translators for their excellent work. Mr. Waruinge thanked the hosts, the Government of Seychelles, led by the Chair Mr. Didier Dogley, for the excellent arrangements for COP 8. He thanked Mr. Dogley in particular for his leadership as the Chair in discussing and adopting COP 8 decisions.
68. The Chair closed the meeting by thanking the Contracting Parties, delegates and observers for actively participating in the meeting. He noted that the Seychelles COP was the largest ever and that was a good indication that the Convention was growing from strength to strength and attracting new partners. He appreciated the work of the local organizing team led by Flavian Joubert.
69. There being no other business, the Conference ended at 12.45 pm on the June 24, 2015.
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ANNEXES

I: List of Participants of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention

EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE NAIROBI CONVENTION (COP8) And HEADS OF DELEGATIONS MEETING

ON 23-24 JUNE 2015

SAVOY HOTEL, IN SEYCHELLES

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II: Agenda of the Meetings

A. Agenda for Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop 17-18 June 2015

Time	Event	Responsibility
17 June 2015		
1) Introduction 0900 – 0905		Interim facilitator: Takehiro Nakamura
2) Opening Statements 0905-0910 0915-0925 0925-0935	Nairobi Convention Secretariat Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change(MEEC) Seychelles Chair of Bureau	Representative of the Secretariat Government of Seychelles Tanzania
3) Organizational matters 0935 – 1000	Tour de table, introduction of participants Adoption of the programme/agenda Election of chair (co-chairs) and rapporteur	Workshop participants
1000 – 1020	Coffee/tea break	
4a) Understanding the Blue Economy (I) 1020-1050 1050-1105 1105-1120 1120-1200	Blue Economy in the WIO Operation PHAKISA Seychelles Blue Economy Plenary on Blue Economy Discussion	Keiran Kelleher Lindelani Mudau Gov. of Seychelles
1200-1400	Lunch break	
4b) Understanding the Blue Economy (II) 1400-1415 1415-1430 1430-1530	UNECA Blue Economy Initiative Norway Blue Economy Initiative Q & A session	Facilitator; Magnus Ngoile Daya Bragante Johan Williams
1500-1520	Coffee/tea break	
4c) Four Parallel Working Groups 1520 – 1630 1630-1700	Identifying barriers at national and regional level Plenary-Reporting Back from Working Groups	Workshop Participants
1700	Closure of Workshop	
18 June 2015		
Recap of Day 1 0900 – 0915		Session Facilitator: Yannick Beaudoin-GRID Arendal
4) Valuation of Marine Ecosystem		

Goods and Services in the Western Indian Ocean 0915 – 0945 0945-1000	Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services Mauritius Natural Capital Accounting	Yannick Beaudoin Mauritius
1000-1020	Coffee/Tea break	
1020-1030	Western Indian Ocean Valuation	David Obura
5) Identifying Opportunities and Pathways for Transition to Blue Economy 1035- 1200	Four Parallel Working Groups i. Opportunities and pathways at national and regional level ii. Possible steps for national blue economy policy development	Workshop Participants
1200 – 1400	Lunch break	
1400-1445 6) Enabling frameworks for the blue/green economy 1445-1500	Plenary-Reporting Back from Working Groups World Bank Activities in the WIO-	Session Facilitator: Julien Rochette(PROG/IDDRI) Xavier Vincent
1500-1520	Coffee/tea break	
7) Discussion on Emerging Issues and Areas for Decision 1520-1650	Chair's Summary of Workshop and Areas for Decisions for COP8	Chair/Rapporteur
8) Closure of Workshop 1650 – 1700	Closing statement	Representative of Government of Seychelles

B. Agenda of the Partnerships Meeting on June 19, 2015

All the presenters in this Workshop are requested to note the following:

- i) If you have not done so, please provide a brief note (a paragraph or so) about your presentation.
- ii) Each presentation is allocated a maximum of 7 minutes. It is advised to include a slide or two highlighting the following:
 - What Governments should take note of and proposed actions in relation to your initiative?
 - How is your institution/initiative going to support governments' and sustainability of your actions?
 - Who else from the region could partner with your institution/initiative?
- iii) In the interest of time, presentations will be made from where you are seated; therefore all presentations should be uploaded well in advance.

Opening Ceremony		
0900-0910	Calling the Meeting to order	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
0910-0920	Opening remarks	WIO-C
0920-0930	Opening remarks	Chair of Bureau , Seychelles
0930-0945	Opening Speech	Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Organizational Matters		
0945-0950	Tour de table, introduction of participants	
0950-1000	Adoption of the Agenda	
1000-1020	Coffee/Tea Break	
Presentation of Reports		
1020-1027	Report on Status of Birds in the WIO	Birdlife International
1027-1034	Sharks and Rays Report	WCS
Issue-Based Discussions and Emerging Issues		
1034-1041	CBD's Partnership for EBSAs and Capacity Building (Sustainable Ocean Initiative)	Jihyun Lee
1041-1048	EAF-Nansen Project	Kwame Koranteng
1048-1055	IOI in Africa Activities and Opportunities	Adnan Awad
1055-1102	Ocean Health Index	Johanna Polsenberg
1102-1109	Coral Reef Restoration: Experience from Seychelles	Nirmal Shah
1109-1139	Discussions	
Presentations by WIO-C members		
1139-1230	1. Aligning MSP initiatives in the Western Indian Ocean - David Obura 2. Northern Mozambique Channel initiative - David Obura 3. Fish Forever, Mozambique - Patrick Mehlman 4. Modelling reef fish biomass, recovery potential, and management priorities in the western Indian Ocean - Katy Mathias	
1230 - 1400	Lunch Break	
Presentations by WIO-C members (contd)		
1400-1421	5. The Resilient Coasts Initiative - Mine Pabari 6. FFI's Approach and Activities in the Western Indian Ocean - Kate England 7. WIO-CC - Katy Mathias	
1421-1431	Discussions	
1431-1441	Summary Presentation on blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop	
1441-1450	Organization of two working groups on new areas for collaboration	
1450-1500	Group Discussions	
1500 -1520	Coffee/Tea Break	
1520-1600	Group Discussions	
1600-1630	Plenary(reporting back)	
1630-1650	Chair's Summary of Workshop and Areas Requiring Decisions for COP8	
1650-1700	Closure of the workshop	Closing Statements ▪ Nairobi convention Secretariat ▪ WIO-C

C. Agenda for the Science Policy Workshop June 20, 2015

Time	Event	Responsible
Opening Ceremony		
0900-0910	Calling the meeting into order	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
0910-0920	Opening remarks	
0920-0930	Opening remarks	Chair of Bureau , Seychelles
0930-0945	Opening Speech	Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Organizational Matters		
0945-0950	Tour de table, introduction of participants	
0950-1000	Adoption of the Agenda	
1000-1020	Coffee/Tea Break	
Presentations of the State of the Coast Report and Climate Change Strategy		
1020-1040	Presentation on State of Coast Report	WIOMSA
1040-1050	Presentation on Climate Change Strategy	WIOMSA
1050-1105	Discussions	
Issue-Based Discussions and Emerging Issues		
1105-1115	WIO-SAP	Christina Haffner-Sifakis
1115-1125	SAPPHIRE	Akiko Yamamoto
1125-1135	Transboundary Protected Area Between Kenya and Tanzania	Tim Andrew
1135-1145	Northern Mozambique Channel	David Obura
1145-1155	Waste Water Treatment in the WIO	Flavien Joubert
1155-1205	Marine Litter	Heidi Savelli
1205-1230	Discussions	
1230-1400	Lunch Break	
1400-1410	Oil and Gas Project	Yannick Beaudoin
1410-1420	CBD's work on EBSAs and Marine Spatial Planning	Jihyun Lee
1420-1435	FFEM-SWIO Project and Developing the area-based management tools in ABNJ: possible scenarios for the WIO	Julien Rochette & Aurelie Spadone
1435-1445	Science to Policy Engagements: Role for FARI	Julius Francis
1445-1500	Discussions	
1500-1520	Coffee/Tea Break	
1520-1530	Recommendations from Blue Economy and Partnership Workshops	
1530-1540	Organization into working groups	
1540-1630	Group Discussions on Areas Requiring Decisions for COP8	
1630-1650	Chair's Summary of Workshop and Areas Requiring Decisions for COP8	
1650-1700	Closure of the workshop	Closing Statements ▪ Nairobi convention Secretariat

D. Agenda for the COP 8 Experts Meeting 22nd June 2015

Conference of the Parties: Day 1 Experts Meeting	Responsible
1) 0900-0910: Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nairobi Convention Secretariat DEPI Director UNEP Bureau Chair Tanzania Minister MEEC, Seychelles 	
2) 0910-0920 Organizational matters	Chair
3) 0920-0935 Summary of UNEP Executive Director's report	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
4) 0935-1000 National Reports - Presentations	Contracting Parties
1000-1020 Tea/Coffee Break	
1020-1100 National Reports ...cont.	Contracting Parties
5)1100-1130 Observer's Reports 1130-1145 Coordination Structure of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat 1145-1200 Financial Report 1200-1215 Discussion	Observers Tanzania Didier Salzmann
1215-1245 IDDRI-IUCN Side Event	
1245-1400 Lunch Break	
1400-1500 Draft Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme for 2013-2017 Implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities Development of a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management Review of the Protocol on Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Western Indian Ocean Region Environment Management for Oil and Gas Exploration Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation 	
1500-1520 Tea/Coffee Break	
6)1520-1645 Draft Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of Sharks Blue Economy Contribution to the United Nations Regular Process Science to Policy Engagements Strengthening the Operational Functioning of the Secretariat Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP) Renewed Partnerships Financial matters 	
1645-1700 Finalization of draft decisions for the Heads of Delegations Meeting	
8) 1700-1715 Any other business and closure of experts meeting	
1730 Cocktail at Savoy Hotel	

E. Agenda for the Heads of Delegation Meeting 23-24 June, 2015

1. Opening of the Meeting:

Statements;

- a) IOC
- b) UNEP
- c) Representative of the host Government.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the Agenda.

4. Statements by Ministers(Comoros, Mauritius, Somalia)

5. Statement by Outgoing Chair-Tanzania

6. Statements by Heads of Delegation

7. Work Program for Nairobi Convention.

- vii) Climate Change Strategy- Secretariat
- viii) Protection of Sharks and Rays in WIO – WCS
- ix) Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP)
- x) Proposed projects (North Mozambique Channel; Proposed Transboundary Marine Protected Area (Kenya & Tanzania; - Kenya
- xi) Proposed Oil and Gas project with Grid Arendal
- xii) Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the ABNJ" (FAO and UNEP)

8. Adoption of decisions.

9. Venue of the next meeting.

10. Other matters.

11. Closure of the meeting

III: Other Workshops Reports

A. The Report of the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop

1. Introduction

1. The Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop was held on the 17-18 June, 2015 at the Savoy Hotel in Mahe, Seychelles and was attended by 60 participants including government officials, the focal points of the Nairobi Convention, and regional and international organizations (NGOS, UN Agencies) and experts on Blue Economy.
2. The workshop deliberated on key issues including the points that the Governments should take note of in relation to the Blue Economy: Understanding the concept and principles of the Blue Economy; the experiences of Countries of WIO in the implementation of the Blue Economy; Identifying barriers to the Blue Economy; Valuation of Marine Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Western Indian Ocean; Identifying Opportunities and pathways for transitions to Blue Economy; and enabling Frameworks for the Blue Economy. A set of recommendations from the Blue Economy workshop were forwarded to the Partnerships Workshop, the Science-Policy workshop and Experts workshop for further review and integration into the new work programme for the Nairobi Convention and for decisions for the Heads of Delegation meeting for the Eighth Conference of Parties for the Nairobi Convention.

2. Opening of the Workshop

3. The Focal Point of the Nairobi Convention in Seychelles called the meeting to order and welcomed participants to the first of a series of workshops in the build up to the Eighth Conference of Parties meeting in Seychelles.
4. The Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Mr. Dixon Waruinge gave welcoming remarks thanking the Government of Seychelles for organizing the Eighth Conference of Parties for the Nairobi Convention. He noted that this was the second Blue Economy workshop organized by the Nairobi Convention with the first one being held in December 2013, in Seychelles.
5. Mr. Waruinge noted that Blue Economy was on the agenda of many intergovernmental agencies such as UNECA which hosted the Annual Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for East Africa on harnessing the Blue Economy for Eastern Africa's Development which was held in March 2015 in Antananarivo. The European Union advocates for Blue Growth as the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. He noted that the Convention's definition of the Blue Economy is guided by AU's Agenda 2063, Decision 565 of the Africa Union Assembly, January 2015, article 13, that underscores the blue economy and states that: 'Blue Economy as used here refers to a sustainable and equitable economic growth driven by oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and floodplains. These water bodies are endowed with abundant flora and fauna, marine ecosystems; are sources of water and food; aquatic life including fish, and other aquatic foods; power generation; medium for transportation; and sustenance for livelihoods and economies for many African countries.
6. The Chair of the Bureau, Tanzania noted that the potential of Blue Economy needs to be explored further to generate knowledge and share experiences on how the ocean economy can be sustainably utilised to support socio-economic development of countries in the region. He added that the technical expertise in the workshop could be harnessed to ably advise and convince decision makers on developing appropriate policy frameworks that are underpinned by scientific findings and on improving existing policies to enhance economic growth.
7. The meeting was officially opened by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change in Seychelles, Didier Dogley. The Minister welcomed the participants to Seychelles on behalf of the Government of Seychelles noting that it was with great pleasure that Seychelles offered to host the conference of parties and that he hoped

that the arrangements were agreeable to participants. He lauded the Nairobi Convention for its 30 years of hard work and progress in managing the regional marine space and pledged the support of the countries of the WIO Region to the convention. The minister noted that the President of Seychelles, President James Michel, has ceaselessly promoted the concept of the blue economy as a viable solution to sustainable development for Small Island Developing States and coastal states. There is no convention that underscores the objectives of the blue economy better than the Nairobi convention. This convention speaks to the very core elements of the blue economy, which is the protection, management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment for the creation of wealth for this and future generations. Engagement with the blue economy is after all a political commitment. It is a statement to the entire world that the countries involved are willing to be active participants and legitimate beneficiaries of our ocean space. The Minister noted that Seychelles, as the incoming chairman of the convention, was willing to work with other governments to ensure continued progress in this regard. Blue Economy, oceans governance, and science are important enabling mechanisms that can help us comprehend and develop better policies.

3. Organizational Matters

8. In accordance with rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences for the Nairobi Convention, the Chair of the Bureau from COP7, representative of the Government of Tanzania, handed over the Chairmanship of the meeting to the Host Country, Seychelles. The Blue Economy workshop was jointly facilitated by the Government of Seychelles and UNEP. WIOMSA, which was appointed rapporteur of the meeting, kept track of the key recommendations of the workshop. The Chair outlined the agenda prepared by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, contained as part of the Annex of this report. The agenda was adopted with minor amendments.

4. Issue Based Discussions

9. Kieran Kelleher, a consultant contracted by WIOMSA delivered a presentation on Building the Blue Economy in the WIO Region. The key messages from the presentation are that the blue economy is a political challenge with a choice of pathways, it may involve short-term social, economic and political costs; the key challenges in the Blue Economy are maintaining/enhancing benefits from renewable resources; ensuring sustainable benefits from extractive resources; the role of government is as a facilitator, the private sector is the key investor an engaged civil society provides the political foundation for the Blue economy; good governance, a favourable investment climate and healthy coasts and oceans are fundamental even without a dedicated blue economy initiative – a ‘no regrets’ strategy; the assessment of the performance of the ocean economy can build a vision for the blue economy and inform policies, plans and governance; a blue economy initiative must be complementary to other initiatives, e.g. on poverty reduction, climate change.
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10. The Representative of the Government of South Africa shared South Africa’s experience in the development of a Blue Economy strategy. The presentation was titled: Operation Phakisa: Unlocking the economic potential of South Africa’s Oceans. Operation Phakisa is led by the Department of Environmental Affairs and is meant to maximize the economic potential of South Africa’s oceans, which are estimated to have the potential to contribute up to one hundred and seventy seven billion rand to GDP by 2033 compared to fifty four billion rand in 2010. Operation Phakisa Labs identified four growth areas: marine transport and manufacturing (double the size of the Marine Transport and Manufacturing (MTM) sector to create jobs and increase its contribution to the country’s GDP), offshore oil and gas exploration (create an environment that promotes exploration- to drill 30 exploration wells in the next 10 years while simultaneously maximising the benefits for South Africa), aquaculture (catalyse growth in the sector by scaling up the sector as an initial step to sector development), marine protection services and governance (effective governance through an integrated framework and governance, ocean protection and marine spatial planning).
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11. The Representative of the Government of Seychelles delivered a presentation on the Progress on the Development of the Blue Economy in Seychelles. The scope of the Blue Economy covers activities which explore and develop ocean resources; which use ocean space; activities which protect the ocean environment;

which use ocean products as a main input; which provide goods and services to support ocean activities. These are fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, mineral exploration, port development, mariculture, hydrocarbons, and maritime security. The Blue Economy policy shifts the focus from viewing oceans as a means of free resource extraction and an unlimited sink for the disposal of waste to one where ocean values services are included in decision-making and where the benefits are shared more equitably for all Seychellois. The presentation also focused on the progress made so far in the implementation of the Blue Economy (A national stakeholders workshop held in 2014, the establishment of a Blue Economy Department, housed in the Ministry of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy, a National Blue Economy Road-mapping Exercise done with Common Wealth Secretariat, a Blue Investment Forum will be held in December 2015, the hosting of the Second Blue Economy Summit in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates in 2016 and the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and Debt for Adaptation Swap).

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12. The Representative of UNECA delivered a presentation on harnessing the Blue Economy for Eastern Africa's development covering the recommendations and conclusions of the 19th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (2-5 March 2015, Madagascar) on the Blue Economy. These include: a Blue Economy can play a vital role in sustaining robust rates of economic growth in Eastern Africa (real GDP grew at 6.6% from 2009 to 2014); the key productive sectors for Blue Economy are fisheries & aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, energy and mining; Blue Economy covers all water bodies including lakes and rivers in addition to seas and the coast. The meeting agreed that the Blue Economy would build on existing relevant frameworks such as the Law of the Sea, and the AU 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy. The experts also recognized the need to balance economic interests with adherence to the highest environmental and social considerations as encapsulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. The meeting resolved to urge member States to mainstream the Blue Economy into their national and regional development plans and agreed on the need to build/strengthen R&D, country databases and centres of excellence in such areas as oceanographic mapping. A background study on the Blue Economy is ongoing and the report will be ready in 2015. The presentation also defined key principles of the Blue Economy.

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13. The representative of the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries delivered a presentation on 'Norway: a Blue, Blue Economy Nation?' The presenter discussed the economic value of the Norwegian seas and the principles governing the exploration for oil. In the late 1960 a small group of senior government officials were given the task of preparing for oil and gas exploration in Norwegian waters. The group established the main principles for petroleum exploration in Norwegian waters where the fisheries and the fish resources were duly taken into account. The principles include the Polluter Pays Principle and royal societies (pipelines and other petroleum devices on the seabed must not be a hindrance to bottom trawl activities- in contrast to other parts of the North Sea, where pipelines are marked on the maps with a warning of liability for damages; and mechanical collection of oil from the sea surface rather than the use of dispersants to combat oil spills, limiting additional damage to fish stocks through chemical contamination; thinking fish – the Sandeel fields mapping approach which determines where to allow drilling for oil, and at which time of the year; controlled growth for aquaculture development; the development of management plans for Norwegian seas; and the use of marine knowledge in managing marine resources (MAREANO).

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14. Participants held group discussions to identify barriers at a regional and national level to the Blue Economy approach. Some of the barriers identified include: proliferation of regional economic commissions in the region with limited coordination of activities; absence of Ministries of Finance and Planning in the blue economy discussions; lack of one-stop office in the government to coordinate discussions and development of programmes in blue economy; lack of frameworks for coordinating discussions on blue economy including a monitoring mechanism; lack of understanding of what blue economy means and the benefits thereof for national economies; inadequate balance among the various sectors of the economy (the 'Dutch disease') in development decisions (Development bias); inadequate policies because the true potential of ocean resources has not been well articulated and recognition of the same (valuation, environmental accounting, etc.) as well as lack of attribution of coastal economic activities to ocean economy; lack of comprehensive spatial planning that takes all

the sectors into account; lack of clarity regarding goals and blue economy terms –wellbeing vs economic growth; political will; use of GDP as measure of ‘progress’; a focus on immediate economic growth – need to consider long term vision and opportunity costs; spending too long on definitions etc. – need to learn by doing; competition between countries limits regional integration; lack of mechanisms/structure for managing trade- offs in ocean management smart decision; unbalanced participation of the governments vis a vis foreign companies in the ocean sectors leading to limited benefit to national economies; lack of science based decision making tools in the marine and coastal sector; and the absence of a global implementation framework/strategy for the blue economy.

15. Participants also looked at ways of overcoming these barriers including: the need to mainstream blue economy in national economies; development needs to be sustainable and any new initiative should build on the current initiatives; linking of both blue economy and green economy; frameworks for understanding aggregated benefits from ocean resources; the Nairobi Convention supporting countries in the development of ocean policies; the Nairobi Convention encouraging multi-sectoral collaboration at the national level; development of a regional framework for blue economy in the region; and sharing of information and best practices.
16. The second day of the Blue Economy workshop begun with a recap of the previous day’s deliberations.
17. GRID-Arendal led a discussion on the valuation of marine Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Western Indian Ocean.
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18. The representative of the Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative delivered a presentation on Understanding and Valuing the Marine Ecosystem Services of the Northern Mozambique Channel. The recommendations of the presentation include cooperation across countries being essential (Conventions, SDGs, etc.); more consistent and finer resolution data (e.g. from inventories of natural assets/capital) needed for Ecosystem Service valuation; addressing priority sectors/fill gaps with initial investment (funding); the use of ES valuation as a basis for investment/development/impact choices – e.g. investment funds; development of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a foundation for decision-making, as well as for information processing, including of ES valuation results.
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19. The representative of the Government of Mauritius delivered a presentation on Mauritius National Capital Accounting noting that the approach gives a comprehensive idea of the wealth of nations and should be incorporated in the National Accounts and acknowledged that the elaboration and implementation of the National Capital Accounting system is a highly technical and costly task. It is felt that, unassisted, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will not be able to meet the target of the Aichi-Nagoya Strategy which states that ecosystem and “biodiversity values should be incorporated in national accounts” by 2020.
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20. Participants broke into groups to identify opportunities and pathways for transition to Blue Economy at a regional and national level and the possible steps for national blue economy policy development. Opportunities identified included: the large number of organizations engaged in the marine and coastal environment; network of NGOs, CSOs and consortiums whose actions and interventions need to be consolidated, harmonized and optimized.
21. Some of the regional level pathways that were raised in the discussions include the consolidation of current efforts; interconnectivity between countries; consolidation of regional efforts; alignment under one umbrella of the Nairobi Convention that will provide a forum and catalyse and consolidate initiatives, synthesize data, build capacity, bring together donors, the private sectors, NGOs/CSOs and international organizations and organize periodic meetings on blue economy; alignment to a regional forum (World Economic Forum) that will bring together all agencies and organisations and whose main focus is on transboundary issues; the review and set up of a common analytical framework; setting up a framework for a strategic approach; emulation of previous declarations such as the IOC declaration (2014); Nairobi Convention Secretariat should support the interface between science and policy makers; capacity building in various sectors; Knowledge and experiences sharing; collecting information at a regional level (a regional research strategy) and easing access to information through having a common knowledge /database that is interoperable (e.g., Reunion database); strengthening of

national statistic offices and uptake of results in decision-making; build on the existing and past efforts; and involvement of the civil society in Blue Economy Approaches.

22. At a national level, participants noted that certain countries (Seychelles, South Africa and Mauritius have already elaborated their pathways towards Blue Economy and should go ahead and implement these. For the rest of the countries, participants advocated for tailored approaches depending on the national context and needs and better coordination amongst actors and organizations. Other points that were mentioned included the embedding of the Blue Economy in key government ministries; sectoral reforms to provide for blue economy to develop at the national level; the Nairobi Convention to facilitate a regional participatory assessment of the status of blue economy in the WIO region to identify country needs including capacity needs for countries.

[Group A](#); [Group B](#); [Group C](#); [Group D](#)

23. The representative from the World Bank delivered a presentation on its activities in Fisheries and the Environment in the WIO Region which include the support of regional and national projects (SWIOFP, WIO-LaB and ASCLME, Kenya Coastal Development Project, SWIOFish); Analytical and Advisory Services; Development of Policy Operations and budget support for reforms. Proposed future interventions could include South West Indian Blue Economies (SwioBlue). The presentation also outlined possibilities for support for projects and technical studies in partnership with the Government.

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5. Key Recommendations and Areas requiring Decisions from the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop

24. There was general consensus that oceans are critical to both the economy and life support systems in the WIO region.
25. Bearing in mind the AU definition of the Green/Blue Economy, and recognising that a Green/Blue Economy is one that addresses economic growth, social well-being and environmental sustainability together, and that a blue economic approach is simply the green economic approach applied in the ocean/aquatic context (i.e. Marine/aquatic-based, environmentally sustainable economic growth that addresses social wellbeing), countries need to develop objectives and pathways aimed towards maximising benefits from the ocean.
26. Although primary implementation of Blue Economy activities will occur at a national level, and each country will define their own pathway towards implementation, the Nairobi Convention could assist countries at a technical level, and also promote sharing of national experiences both at a regional and international level. Further investigation of the need for a regional coordination mechanism for the Blue Economy is needed.
27. The principles of sustainable development are well known, but it is important to develop a common regional understanding of these principles as they relate to the Blue Economy, SDGs, and AU Agenda 2063. The Nairobi Convention could play an important role in communicating the opportunities provided by these principles, and building capacity to apply these principles.
28. Better inter-sectoral coordination of activities and improved ocean governance to enhance the Blue Economy at a national and regional level is needed. Nairobi Convention could assist in mapping out 'who does what' in the region in terms of the Blue Economy, including the role of civil society (including community-based organisations) and the private sector. Any national and regional initiatives should build on existing efforts such as UNECA and others.
29. Tools such as marine spatial planning and valuation of ecosystem services need to be refined, harnessed or developed to improve planning and decision making in Blue Economy matters. Nairobi Convention may assist in compiling existing tools in the region or internationally into a regional toolbox.

30. Need to move away from using only GDP data to measure development of the Blue Economy, and put more emphasis on 'intangible' benefits. Nairobi Convention could promote regional input into the 'beyond GDP' discussion, including developing a regional mechanism to track progress.
31. Need to obtain finer level data to properly inform decisions on development of the Blue Economy. Nairobi Convention could support improved national level data collection and quality assurance.
32. Need to make use of experiential learning on Blue Economy from all countries in the region, as well as internationally. Nairobi Convention to create a platform for sharing experiences as part of the Clearing House Mechanism.
33. There is a need for a long-term funding pipeline to support Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties to develop the Blue Economy.
34. It will be important to ensure that policy makers understand the concept of the Blue Economy and are well informed with the latest information in order to make decisions. The Nairobi Convention could continue to promote science to policy interactions on the Blue Economy.

6. Closing of the Workshop

35. The Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention thanked the presenters and the participants of the workshop and noted that areas for collaboration exist for instance with the CBD's building of practical guidelines and tool kit on the Blue Economy that will be shared with the Nairobi Convention Partners.
36. The representative of the government of Seychelles closed the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop, thanking participants for the constructive meeting. He thanked the facilitators of the group discussions and the various chairs of the sessions. He wished the participants a pleasant stay in Seychelles.

B. The Report of the Partnerships Workshop

1. Introduction

1. The Partnerships Workshop was held on June 19, 2015 at the Savoy Hotel in Mahe, Seychelles and was attended by 60 participants including government officials, the focal points of the Nairobi Convention, and regional and international partner organizations (NGOS, UN Agencies).
2. The workshop deliberated on key issues including the points that the Governments should take note of in relation to partnerships in the management of Coastal and Marine Environment of the WIO Region, the various interventions and initiatives driven by non-state actors in the WIO Region and proposed actions in relation to the initiatives; how the initiatives will support government action and who the initiatives could potentially partner with in the region. A set of recommendations from the partnership workshop was forwarded to the Experts workshop for further review and integration into the new work programme for the Nairobi Convention and for decisions for the Heads of Delegation meeting for the Eighth Conference of Parties for the Nairobi Convention.

2. Opening of the Workshop

3. The meeting was called to order by the Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. He noted that the Partnership workshop was organized by the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C). He welcomed participants to the workshop and wished them fruitful deliberations.

4. The representative of the Citizens Engagement Platform (CEPS), Jules Hoareau welcomed the presence of civil society organizations to the Seychelles noting that it was important to acknowledge the important role that NGOs play in environmental conservation, which the Government of Seychelles had acknowledged by including CSOs in Environmental Commissions. He called for close cooperation between NGOs, CSOs and Governments to increase the impact of interventions on coastal and marine environment and resources. He welcomed delegates to the Seychelles and wished them fruitful deliberations, tangible and solid results.
5. The Chair of the WIO-C, Ademola Ajagbe, who was also the chair of the Partnership meeting, noted that the meeting was the first of its kind aiming to profile the critical roles of Non-State Actors in the management and development of the Coastal and marine environments of the Convention Area and to promote public-private-civil society partnerships and joint programming. He noted that the achievement of sustainable development called for joint efforts of both State and Non-State Actors to decouple “silo- lisation” from regional and national development approaches and to leverage resources, capacities and networks. He noted that the WIO-C was launched at the 5th Conference of Parties in 2007 and was anchored in the context of the Nairobi Convention.
6. The intercessional Chair of the Bureau, Tanzania, welcomed partners to the workshop noting that they play a key role in coaching governments and jointly acting with them in implementation of activities on the ground. He noted that the conclusions and recommendations of the partnership meeting would receive recognition at the heads of delegation meeting of the Eighth COP.
7. The meeting was opened by the Minister for Environment Energy and Climate Change, Didier Dogley. The minister made opening remarks stating that there was still a lot to learn about the marine environment and that real progress in the sustainable management of the WIO Region could only be attained by working together. He acknowledged the wide spectrum of organization and individuals, who have during the last decades worked ceaseless for the betterment of our understanding and the preservation of common natural assets and saluted the leadership and engagement of the multilateral organizations, international and local NGOs, civil society, private sector and individuals, who contribute towards the implementation of the objectives of the Nairobi Convention. The minister noted that the creation of WIO-C, anchored in the Nairobi Convention, was an acknowledgment by governments that the civil society plays a big role in the management of coasts and oceans in the WIO region. The minister iterated the importance of the civil society as the source of the most powerful and persuasive story lines that effectively contribute to policy and policy-making processes in all our countries. He recognised the value and impact of conservation programs implemented by many of the partners including (WWF, CI, CORDIO, WIOMSA, WCS, IUCN, and many other partners such as the UNEP, UNDP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and lauded the WIO-C as a mechanism that can coordinate projects and programs to ensure complementarities and synergy and to avoid duplication of efforts in the management of the coastal and marine environment in the WIO region. The minister noted that the Government of Seychelles highly values the contribution made by the multilateral organizations, civil society and the private sector and that it would be identifying how it could further strengthen the existing collaboration between WIO-C, the Nairobi Convention, the Governments’ of the WIO countries and the private sector.

3. Organizational Matters

8. In accordance with rule 16 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences for the Nairobi Convention, the Chair of the Bureau from COP7, representative of the Government of Tanzania, handed over the Chairmanship of the Partnership meeting to the Host Country, Seychelles and the Chair of the WIO-C. WIOMSA, which was appointed rapporteur of the meeting, kept track of the key recommendations of the workshop.
9. The Chair outlined the agenda prepared by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, contained as part of the Annex of this report. The agenda was adopted with minor amendments.

4. The Presentation of Reports

10. The representative of Birdlife International presented a Regional Synthesis report on the Status of Birds in the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Nairobi Convention Area. The aim of the report is to provide an objective and scientific basis for listing birds in the Protocol Concerning Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora in the East Africa Region; provide information on the status of birds and the key habitats in the region; and to use information on birds to extrapolate the status of the wider ecosystems in the WIO region. The report listed 108 species of concern and identified 53 marine important bird areas. The report recommendations include the replacement of bird species currently listed in Annex II with the updated bird list; the review of the species lists of other taxa listed in the protocol; the prioritisation of conservation efforts on the 108 species proposed and their habitats; strengthening of the protection of candidate marine IBAs nationally and at site level; review of regional conservation actions and policies to encompass the High Seas, establishment of clear links between the Nairobi Convention and the complementary Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the establishment of a network of bird experts in the region to advise on bird protection.

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11. The representative of Wildlife Conservation Society presented a progress report on the Regional Review of Sharks and Rays of the Southwest Indian Ocean and indicated the interim findings of the report in response to COP7 decision (CP7/12) to incorporate sharks and rays in program of work, undertake regional status report on the state of sharks, and report to the next Conference of Parties. The report recommendations for the COP are: to undertake regional Shark Status Assessment and Develop Regional Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks under FAO IPOA-Sharks; to review and revise list of Chondrichthyan species to be considered for listing in the Annexes of the Convention protocol; to facilitate the convening of a regional IUCN Red List workshop to assess regional conservation status of sharks and rays and build collaborations; to engage with CITES to implement capacity-building efforts in support of effective CITES implementation and broader trade controls for CITES-listed and other heavily traded chondrichthyans; to expand membership in and engagement with CMS and CMS Sharks MOU and to engage with IOTC and SWIOFC to collaborate in management and conservation of sharks and rays.

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5. Issue-Based Discussions and Emerging Issues

12. A number of presentations and discussions on emerging issues and areas requiring decisions were delivered by intergovernmental associations, the partners in the meeting and WIO- C members, in plenary during the workshop. A summary of the presentations is presented below.
13. The representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity delivered a presentation on CBD's Partnerships for EBSAs and Capacity Building (Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI)) for EBSAs, and outlined a framework for cooperation that was adopted by the CBD's tenth COP in Nagoya in 2010. The framework is an overarching one on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners and it has 20 targets that are relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity. The presentation outlined the areas that the CBD has worked with the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties and other organizations in the region such as FAO, ISA, UNDP-GEF ASCLME, UNESCO-IOC, IOSEA, IUCN, GOBI, Indian Ocean Commission, IOC-ARC, Birdlife International, CORDIO, CSIRO, IGOOS, ICSF, SIODFA, WIOMSA, and WWF-Madagascar. CBD is partnering with the Nairobi Convention in its Sustainable Ocean Initiative created during COP 10 to meet capacity challenges faced by national implementation in achieving Aichi Targets. A workshop on SOI is planned for November 2015 in Madagascar that will focus on training on Marine Spatial Planning building on EBSAs scientific information and the creation of a forum for building technical partnerships and discussing financial opportunities for on-ground implementation.

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14. The representative of the EAF Nansen Project of the FAO delivered a presentation focused on the role of the EAF Nansen as an emerging partner of the Nairobi Convention and outlined the focus areas of the project – i.e., “Strengthening the Knowledge Base for, and implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries”. The project supports fisheries policy formulation, fisheries management, conducts ecosystem assessments and monitoring, supports oil and gas initiatives, and capacity building underlies all of its activities. As a partner, the Nansen project brings an ultra- modern research vessel to the table with the vessel operating cost and the capacity for integrated assessment and management of marine resources. The Nansen Project is entering a new work phase (2016-2010) and this offers the opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships in the implementation of the work areas of the project, including a research cruise to the Indian Ocean Gyre in September 2015.
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15. The International Ocean Institute (IOI), Southern Africa (IOI-SA) delivered a presentation on its activities and opportunities for collaboration. Its activities in Africa have included UNEP-RS via Abidjan Convention (the PoE approach to develop Blueprint for governance support), the LME’s (UNDP- BCLME) - Baseline governance assessment and the African Capacity Development Programme (IOI African offices and the Partnership Network). It outlined its Ocean Governance Course for Africa that was launched to support the AU 2050 AIM Strategy. The presentation also covered IOI work in human resource development projects and in Marine Invasive Species in the region, including work for the Indian Ocean Commissions Biodiversity Project that is ongoing.
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16. The representative of Conservation International delivered a presentation on its Ocean Health Index Program as a framework for coordination amongst regional and country sectors and as a tool for measuring and tracking ocean uses and benefits that can be customized to meet local management needs. The ten goals of the OHI were used as a framework to explain how the tool can be used in a flexible manner, and how the tool is applicable to the WIO. The OHI has not previously been used in the region but has been extensively used in other parts of the world.
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17. The representative of Nature Seychelles presented a success story on Coral Reef Restoration, titled “Reinventing Reefs in the Anthropocene: Restoring Ecosystem Services and Scaling up Blue Economy Outputs”. Nature Seychelles has developed an inventive way of restoring reefs that are adapted to climate change that involves planting coral reef nurseries in sheltered areas and transporting coral reef colonies to degraded areas. The presentation noted that the key to successful large scale coral reef restoration lies in scientific based restoration involving scaling up of experimental-size technology, use of cost-effective locally found materials, highly skilled lead staff and scientific divers (6-10 people/year) and dedicated infrastructure (dive boat, SCUBA gear, in situ marine laboratory (Praslin Island). The project has resulted in capacity building on science based reef restoration and a toolkit for coral reef restoration that could be used in other parts of the region.
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6. Presentations by WIO-C Members

18. The representative of CORDIO presented and discussed the Northern Mozambique Channel initiative. The Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) initiative, led by WWF, delivered a presentation on the progress made on the initiative since the decision of the Contracting Parties CP7/1 in 2012 that mandated the Convention Secretariat to develop and support the implementation of priority projects including marine governance in the Mozambique Channel. The initiative requested for a decision on “Strengthening the development of an Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) framework to safeguard the Northern Mozambique Channel”. The NMC initiative urged the Contracting Parties to request the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to continue to lead a process towards the establishment of an Integrated Ocean Management Framework for the Northern Mozambique Channel; to urge the Contracting Parties to engage actively in and endorse the framework proposal being developed for the NMC, for submission to the Global Environment Facility and other donors, and to call

upon the Global Environment Facility and other potential funding agencies to support the Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative.

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19. The representatives of CORDIO, IUCN and IRD gave a presentation on aligning Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the WIO. The presentation covered the MSP initiatives at a regional level (WIO-SAP, SAPPHERE, CBD, MSPWIO Project) at a sub-regional level (Mozalink and the NMC Initiative) and at the national level (South Africa and Seychelles). It also looked at the key dimensions of MSP, and the policy frameworks supporting MSP. It looked at the MSPWIO Project as a demonstrator for fostering MSP and regional cooperation. The presentations noted key actions for the contracting parties: to establish mechanisms for catalyzing initiatives and fostering alignment that is a working group, from NCSEC modus op) bringing together representatives of major programmes (governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental); to promote synergies and coordination through shared information/datasets and technical procedures and shared capacity building work plans to maximize integration and synergies for national actors.

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20. The representative of RARE led a presentation on the Fish Forever (FF) project noting that the project's expertise was in Social Marketing and Theory of Change, capacity building at local levels (typically local NGOs), the Pride Program that delivers social marketing campaign to build constituency, and Freshwater Reciprocal Water Agreements. The FF project covers 5 countries including Mozambique. The presentation covered the FF Mozambique project goals. The project aims to achieve improved fisheries management, increased social capital through local fisheries management, improved social resilience to climate change, increased capacity within the Ministry of Fisheries, restored Marine Ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity (ecological resilience), established management norms for implementing legislation for national shift to managed access management regimes. The project is due to start activities on the ground in Mozambique within the next months.

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21. The representative of WCS delivered a presentation on Modelling reef fish biomass, recovery potential, and management priorities in the western Indian Ocean. Biomass modelling and mapping (11,678 - 2.5x2.5 km square grid planning units having coral reefs in the WIO including Maldives and Chagos). The project focuses on time to recovery modelling, based on space-for-time substitution in 16 regional fisheries closures; spatial prioritization based on choosing sites based on the cost of biomass recovery in years; systematic (Marxan) planning to minimize cost to ensure protection of high biomass reefs (also a proxy for diversity); Biomass depletion (community closure) model where priority is set to close most depleted reefs to promote sustainable fisheries. Some of the findings of the project are that Reef fish biomass can be modelled by management systems and human pressure with about 60% accuracy; recovery of biomass takes about 20-25 years but varies in different locations. A dual approach that combines the national and the biomass-depleted or community closure model is recommended for future action, rather than using a regional approach.

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22. The representative of IUCN presented on the Resilient Coasts Initiative which was catalysed by the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami that led to the establishment of a regional platform for Action for resilient coasts in 2006. Kenya and Tanzania officially applied to become dialogue countries and a decision was made to establish an independent MFF in the Western Indian Ocean, with the support of MFF Asia. The preparatory Phase of the project was initiated with the support of SIDA through UNEP and a partnership formed between Nairobi Convention, IUCN, WIOMSA and CORDIO to implement the project. The presenter gave a progress report on the implementation of the initiative and stated that a situation analysis had been conducted covering the ecological and social profile of coastal systems in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania; a comprehensive framework for action has also been developed & endorsed. The presenter called for increased recognition of the values of natural capital & nature based solutions, and invited partnerships that could help to drive the Resilient Coasts process forward.

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23. The representative of Flora and Fauna International delivered a presentation on Partnerships – Championing Conservation Leaders. FFI is focused on supporting local organisations to deliver marine conservation goals and it works with key partners such as East Africa Wildlife Society (EAWLS), Mwambao, and marine authorities, to champion conservation leaders in the WIO. FFI supports partners in response to their needs so its engagement varies from covering aspects of organisational strengthening, HR, strategic development, right through to technical support on designing management or livelihood strategies. FFI has worked with EAWLS along the Kenya coast to help establish co-management arrangements between BMUs and marine authorities by way of LMMAs/CCAs under Kenya's Fisheries Act. Two co-management plans have advanced to approval and implementation. Other areas of FFI work are: Influencing fisheries reforms and building capacity for co-management; Empowering local stakeholders to protect marine environments; and improving industry practices. Future work areas for FFI include marine species, expansion of successful LMMA approaches, and proof of impact research and designing of innovative financing models.

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24. The representative of the ISLANDS Project delivered a presentation on the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO-CC) that was launched in September 2014. The WIO-CC is an initiative of the President of Seychelles. The IOC, through the ISLANDS Project has provided support for the finalisation of regional/national targets; communication about the WIO-CC, the WIOCC climate change portal (to be launched at UNFCCC COP21); and the WIO-CC trust fund study. Future areas of support include Human Resources (Communication support, support to presidency, recruitment of WIO-CC coordinator); Organisation of First Steering Committee meeting, and setting up of a regional observatory for climate change.

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25. The IOC Biodiversity Project gave a brief summary of its program areas and the call for proposals that will be launched on the 7th of July 2015 and is open to Non-State Actors (Economic and social partners, including trade union organisations, private sector, and Civil society in all its forms according to national characteristics).

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26. There were group discussions to deliberate on questions such as: What are the needs of partners (NGOs, private sector and multi-lateral organisations) from the governments of WIO region? How can access to funding be improved through joint programming? What are the opportunities available for joint programming between your organizations and the Nairobi Convention? What needs to be done to pursue these opportunities? How are the existing and new partnerships sustained beyond the COP8? A summary of the group discussions are captured in the key recommendations and areas for decision making.

7. Key Recommendations and Areas requiring Decisions from the Partnership Workshop

27. It was generally agreed that the Nairobi Convention is an established platform to coordinate national priorities (a bottom-up approach), and activities of non-state actors with the view to further ocean governance and conservation in the region, linking regional activities to global platforms, and influencing donors to align support to regional/national priorities.
28. It was recognised that non-state actors play a critical role in supporting governments in carrying out their mandates, particularly at a technical level, enhancing knowledge-based decision making, and allowing greater support at grassroots level. Greater linkages with established non-state actor groups such as the WIO-C need to be encouraged.
29. In order to further the establishment of a regional partnership for the WIO region, a Partnership Charter should be formed. Such a Charter could enhance the collaboration and coordination amongst partners including the private sector and local communities, maximize synergies and avoiding duplication through exchange of

information and improved communication. The Charter could include a shared regional vision. The Nairobi Convention could lead this process.

30. Opportunities for Partnerships with the Private Sector (PPPs) need to be explored as an additional funding stream to support regional activities in the marine and coastal environment.
31. New opportunities and partnerships need to be developed such as linkages with the FAO EAF Nansen Programme, and the International Ocean Institute (IOI), among others.
32. There is a need to ensure that the organisational capacity of non-state actors is strengthened in order to maximise the effectiveness of their efforts to access funding and manage projects and programmes.
33. Existing processes such as the Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) of the regional GEF projects, the WIO-CC, and ongoing processes driven by the CBD and others need to be capitalized upon. Non-State actors stand ready to partner with regional bodies to address these challenges.
34. Governments should be encouraged to establish sectoral/professional networks/associations to formalise the role of non-state actors in contributing to technical processes such as SEAs and EIAs both at a national and regional level.
35. The Nairobi Convention should work with non-state actors to prioritize/guide restoration of degraded coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, and conduct assessments and revise lists of threatened and endangered species (e.g. birds, sharks and rays).
36. The Nairobi Convention should support and guide the development of capacity building initiatives, utilizing where appropriate existing programmes and partnerships.
37. Governments need to strengthen national structures to facilitate and encourage partnership collaboration, particularly with non-state actors, and to ensure that activities are in line with government policies, strategies and commitments.

8. Closing of the Workshop

38. The Chair of the Bureau, Tanzania said that the workshop gave the regional partners a voice to communicate issues of the Western Indian Ocean to a bigger audience.
39. The Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention thanked the partners for their contribution in the meeting noting that the partners had an obligation to support government institutions to protect the WIO. He added that the Governments had taken note of the points that they could act on for decision making.
40. The Chair of WIO-C thanked the partners for their participation, the Government of Seychelles for hosting the workshop, the interpreters for their efficient work and the Secretariat of the Convention for their support in putting together the partnerships workshop.
41. The Government of Seychelles thanked the participants for their active participation, for the productive meeting and the positive results that portended good for the WIO for the Region and that would move the Nairobi Convention forward. The meeting was officially closed.

C. Report of the Science Policy Workshop

1. Introduction

1. The Science for Policy workshop was held on the June 20, 2015 at Avani Hotel in Mahe, Seychelles and was attended by 60 participants including- researchers and scientists, government officials, the focal points of the Nairobi Convention, experts from national government institutions, and regional and international partner organizations (NGOS, UN Agencies).
2. The workshop deliberated on key issues including the Regional State of the Coast Report, the Climate Change Strategy, various programs and initiatives in the Western Indian Ocean region and the opportunities for coordination of activities by the Nairobi Convention, science to policy engagements and the role of the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) in the science-policy interface.
3. A set of recommendations from the Science for Policy workshop were forwarded to the experts workshop for further review and integration into the new work programme for the Nairobi Convention and for decisions at the Heads of Delegation meeting for the Eighth Conference of parties for the Nairobi Convention.

2. Opening of the Workshop

4. The meeting was called to order by the Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. He acknowledged the presence of the experts from Research Institutions who prepared the first Regional State of the Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region that would be launched on the June 22, 2015. He noted that the amount of information and data that the region generated was enormous and that the State of the Coast Report and other complementary mechanisms like the science policy forum would ensure that the knowledge generated by scientists was shared with policy makers to facilitate science based decision making. He added that the science for policy Workshop was facilitated by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association.
5. The Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention in his opening remarks noted that processes like the science policy forum gave decision makers from African countries data that would strengthen the position of African states in global processes such as the IPCC.
6. The Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change in Seychelles, Didier Dogley officially opened the Science for Policy Workshop.

3. Organizational Matters

7. In accordance with rule 16 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences for the Nairobi Convention, the Chair of the Bureau from COP7, representative of the Government of Tanzania, was the Chair of the meeting and he handed over the Chair to the Host Country, Seychelles. WIOMSA, which was appointed rapporteur of the meeting, kept track of the key recommendations of the workshop.
8. The Chair outlined the agenda prepared by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, contained as part of the Annex of this report. The agenda was adopted with minor amendments.

4. Presentations on the Regional State of the Coast Report for the WIO Region, and Climate Change Strategy

9. The editor of the Regional State of the Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region delivered a report on the production of the first regional state of the coast report for the WO Region to be launched on the June 22, 2015. The presentation covered a summary of the various parts of the report, the mandate and methodology of the report, and the key recommendations of the various parts of the report. The multi-authored report provides an

excellent description of the coastal and marine environment of the region, covering ecological, social and economic aspects, and makes several recommendations for future actions. It is designed to enable the Convention Secretariat to meet its statutory obligation to periodically assess the state of the environment in the region and meet other broader obligations of understanding environmental concerns amongst states and strategies required to address them. The report, which will be updated regularly, will ultimately lead to enhanced capacities of the WIO Countries to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment using the best available information.

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10. The Executive Secretary of WIOMSA presented the Climate Change Strategy for the Marine and Coastal Environment in the Nairobi Convention Area. The Strategy was developed in line with Decision CP7/9 of the Nairobi Convention on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation requesting the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties, and other partners, to facilitate the finalization of the regional strategy on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation in the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region and report progress to the next Conference of Parties. The strategy was developed to address the issue of inadequate emphasis on coastal and marine sectors in national climate and development plans as well as sector-specific strategies and plans. It also addresses the issue of the lack of a regional framework at the Nairobi Convention level to guide activities to address climate change concerns. The presentation covered the aims and objectives of the strategy, the components of the strategy, and the strategic outcomes.

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5. Issue-Based Discussions and Emerging Issues

11. Numerous presentations and discussions on emerging issues and areas requiring decisions were delivered in plenary during the workshop. A summary of each of the presentations is presented below.
12. UNEP/GEF International Waters Africa Portfolio delivered a presentation on past, current and planned UNEP/GEF interventions in the WIO region that are linked to the structures and processes of the Nairobi Convention. These included the WIOLaB, ASCLME-SWIOFP projects that have been completed and upcoming projects including the WIO-SAP, and Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the ABNJ, while new proposals that are being developed include for the Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative and the Marine Transboundary Protected Area between Tanzania and Kenya.
13. The WIOSAP Project which will be executed by the Nairobi Convention has the objective of reducing impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manages critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of the WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels. WIO-SAP focus is on implementing the SAP developed as part of the WIOLaB Project, including existing national plans and policies; national priority targets; regionally coordinated/integrated national activities and achievable sustainable impacts.
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14. The representative from UNDP, Water and Oceans Governance delivered a presentation titled 'From ASCLME to SAPPHIRE'. The presentation covered the main outputs from ASCLME and its partners, including the Strategic Action Programme for Sustainable Management of the WIO LMEs that has been endorsed by nine WIO Countries and will be signed on the June 23, 2015. The SAPPHIRE Project will support the implementation of the WIO LME SAP developed by the ASCLME Project.
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15. The representative of Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Tanzania presented on the Proposed Marine Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania. The TBCA proposes an institutional framework that is grounded in the Nairobi Convention or the East African Community

that will allow for gazetted parks and reserves to continue to operate within their jurisdiction according to their country legislation, but enhance the effectiveness of this network of protected areas through transboundary coordination by a Marine Transboundary Steering Committee (MTBSC) that will provide a coordination mechanism to enhance collaboration between existing institutions, frameworks and stakeholders would be established. The initiative would aim towards a system of differently zoned areas in the transboundary seascape that would allow for different levels of protection, enhance community participation in conservation and economic development, and harness the existing co-management initiatives between the networks of protected areas. The project proponents (KWS and MPRU) requested the support of the Contracting Parties for this and other transboundary initiatives that would enhance collaboration between countries, and to support the proposed submission to the GEF and other funders that would be prepared to assist with initiation of the process towards establishment of the TBCA.

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16. The Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) initiative, led by WWF, delivered a presentation on the progress made on the initiative since the decision on the Contracting Parties CP7 1 in 2012 that mandated the Convention Secretariat to develop and support the implementation of priority projects including marine governance in the Mozambique Channel. The NMC initiative urged the Contracting parties to request the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to continue to lead a process towards the establishment of an Integrated Ocean Management Framework for the Northern Mozambique Channel; to urge the Contracting Parties to engage actively in and endorse the framework proposal being developed for the NMC, for submission to the Global Environment Facility and other donors and to call upon the Global Environment Facility and other potential funding agencies to support the Northern Mozambique Channel initiative. They also requested for the appointment of a Marine Spatial Planning Task Force.

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17. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre delivered a presentation on Area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) focusing on component 4 of their program which is aimed at developing and testing of a methodology for area-based planning to protect deep sea ecosystems which are particularly vulnerable from the ever increasing pressure from human activities using tools like MPA network planning, Marine Spatial Planning and Trade off analyses. The program aims to share lessons and use regional examples of area-based planning in ABNJ, to test appropriate area-based planning tools in pilot regions such as the WIO through the Nairobi Convention and to test the applicability of area-based planning tools to deep sea ABNJ.

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18. The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles, presented on "Wastewater management needs to reduce threats in the Western Indian Ocean Region". The topics covered in the presentation were justification why wastewater management needs to be a priority, the challenges in handling waste water in the WIO Region, and responses to waste water management challenges. The presenter advocated for adequate & tailored technology for wastewater management as a decision support tool, with the technological design being framed by existing physical conditions and contextual structures; and the development of supportive policies and innovative financial mechanisms for the effective management of waste water.

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19. The Global Partnership on Marine Litter, UNEP projected a video and delivered a presentation on the impact of Marine Litter and what the partnership is doing to address the challenges posed by marine plastic debris and microplastics, by addressing such materials at source. Such measures include providing support to the development of marine litter action plans by countries on a regional, national and municipal scale; and establishing marine litter nodes/networks. The presentation also looked at areas for collaboration with the Nairobi Convention within the Strategy/Action Plan for the WIO.

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20. The EAF Nansen Project of the FAO led a discussion on making the best use of the Nansen research vessel's data through the Nairobi Convention Platform focusing on the EAF Nansen as an emerging partner for the

Nairobi Convention. The programme offers a unique mechanism for cooperation, knowledge generation and exchange of technology and lesson learning in developing regions, particularly in Africa. It produces the most credible and sometimes only independent source of data on marine (fishery) resources under the flagship of the United Nations which allows for easy access for the vessel across jurisdictional boundaries to address transboundary issues. The presenter called for the better use of the wealth of data and information in the management of fisheries through the sharing of the data and information through the Nairobi Convention Platform.

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21. GRID-Arendal led a discussion on oil and gas focusing on Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for a Blue Economy. The presenter outlined the areas of collaboration with the Nairobi Convention such as coordinated action in the management of transboundary marine and coastal resources like oil and gas; in the generation of knowledge and capacity in SEA noting that the program would continue to work with the Convention to formulate appropriate policies and secure national commitments.

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22. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) delivered a presentation on their work in the WIO, including the identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and how these could contribute towards achieving Aichi Targets in Marine and Coastal Areas in Support of the Blue Economy. It was reiterated that there is a need for commitment from the Parties of the Nairobi Convention to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting. The presenter requested the Nairobi convention to welcome the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) and support the SOI regional capacity building workshop (November 2015), being convened by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat.

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23. The FFEM-SWIO Project presented on developing the area-based management tools in ABNJ: possible scenarios for the WIO. The presentation looked at the approaches that have been used in other areas such as MPAs and temporary fisheries closures, Coalition approaches used in the Pelagos and the Sargasse Sea; sectoral approaches (OMI, AIFM) and noted that the tools could be applied in the WIO region under the Nairobi Convention Framework. Regarding the improvement of the governance framework in areas beyond national jurisdiction, it was stressed that it is essential to look for solutions at the regional level and build on existing structures, such as the Nairobi Convention, in order to develop area-based management tools that are efficient, adapted and that take into account the specific features of the region. This cannot be achieved without the involvement of coastal States in these matters.

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24. WIOMSA led a discussion on Science to Policy Engagements: Role for Forum for Academic and Research Institutions. The presentation focused on the need for a Science to Policy interaction to provide an opportunity for policy makers and practitioners to articulate their data and information needs; to enhance the understanding of scientists' on the regions' decision-making processes and improve the scientists contribution to policy and to provide a mechanism for policy makers to review major scientific findings, to foster dialogue and build trust between policy/decision-makers and scientific community, to improve research uptake and utility in making decisions and to develop mechanisms for sustained interaction between science and policy makers. The discussions focused on whether FARI should be mandated to act as a formal advisory scientific and technical body with a mandate to provide advisory services to the governments, to review assessments in support of the COP agenda and decisions; to act as a quality control organ for publications and research emanating from the region and to engage with global and regional processes in relation to science-policy interface.

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6. Key Recommendations and Areas requiring Decisions from the Science to Policy Workshop

25. The meeting discussed areas that needed to be taken forward for decisions by the Contracting parties. The key recommendations from the discussions are listed below.
26. Governments could consider establishing a science office/focal point to facilitate science to policy dialogue, and ensure that research of partners meets government's needs.
27. Important to ensure collaboration of efforts and funding in the Mozambique Channel between all the potential partners including France.
28. In terms of transboundary initiatives there is a need to ensure that sufficient consultation takes place from an early stage, and capacity is built to leverage additional resources.
29. Management of waste water and sewage under extreme conditions is a challenge in SIDS, and lessons should be shared on how to improve disaster preparedness under these conditions.
30. In terms of managing marine litter, it was recognised that this was a national and regional issue (e.g. Aldabra). Regulation of plastic and other wastes at source is key to success (e.g. plastic bag ban in Rodrigues (Mauritius), and proposed bans in France, in 2016).
31. Several offers of partnership were made during the day including EAF Nansen data sharing with NC, CBD MSP capacity building, regional support for marine litter mitigation efforts, support through the upcoming and proposed GEF Projects, SEAs for oil and gas from UNEP and FAO ships time for oil and gas issues etc. WIOMSA offered to assist FAO in making information available through publication and other communication means.
32. Support for transboundary approaches to management of shared resources was sought from the contracting parties, to enhance national and regional efforts to face challenges in the marine and coastal environment.
33. It was re-iterated that there was a need for science and research to provide options to governments to enable them to better carry out their mandates.
34. Proposals to convert the current science to policy initiatives in the region into a more formalised structure linked to the Nairobi Convention. A strengthened FARI would allow for better quality control for regional reporting. It was also noted that it this body would be useful to address fisheries and other ocean related matters in the region. Also in simplifying scientific information to be useful for policy makers. The mechanics of how such a body would be formed and function needs further elaboration.
35. Enhance interactions at a national level between national research institutions and government.
36. Regional best practice guidelines for oil and gas are needed to back up national efforts.
37. Somalia has approved the establishment of the Somali Marine Resources Research centre since COP 7.
38. Regional pollution reaction capacity needs to be enhanced (esp. in relation to oil and gas, and shipping). SEAs at a national level would assist in this process.
39. Access and sharing of information needs to be enhanced at a regional level, to allow policy makers to make use of this information.
40. There was a call for the IOC and the Nairobi Convention to work more closely together due to many common interests.

7. Closing of the Workshop

41. The Coordinator of the Nairobi Convention thanked the Workshop participants for their active participation in the meeting noting that the Convention had a full plate for its work program with partners lining up to collaborate in

the implementation of various marine and coastal development programs in the region. Some of these joint initiatives include the WIO SAP, and SAPPHIRE, the CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative, the MOU with the IOC and the partnership with WIOMSA that developed the Regional State of the Coast Report, the WIO SAP Project Document and the Regional Climate Change Strategy.

42. The Representative of the Government of Seychelles officially closed the Science Policy Workshop thanking the participants, the local organizing team from Seychelles for the excellent coordination of the associated meetings of the 8th COP, the international conference centre for the provision of audio-visual and interpretation equipment, and the interpreters of the meeting.

IV: Opening Statements

A. Statement by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Seychelles on the Opening of the Blue Economy Workshop

Excellences

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all,

On behalf of the Government of Seychelles, I wish to welcome you to Seychelles and to the 8th conference of the parties to the Nairobi convention and its associated meetings, which starts today. It is with great pleasure that Seychelles has offered to host the conference of parties, and we hope that you will find the arrangements that have been made agreeable. We are sure that the Seychelles setting shall provide the right environment for you to assimilate the large amount of information, which is on the agenda for the coming days. It is also our aspiration that this Conference would produce bold and ambitious decisions that shall renew your determination to derive from all the science, realistic solutions for our region.

Dear delegates, in 1985, several countries of the region came together and adopted the Nairobi Convention on the protection, management and development of the coastal and marine environment of the western Indian Ocean. This coming together was an important step in getting countries of the region to address common priorities through a mechanism that is legally binding and that aims at achieving long term sustainable measures. After many years of hard work by party states, we have come to the stage, where we have a mature convention and ten fully engaged parties that are willing to push for far reaching results in the region and at the global level. Today, the Nairobi Convention is 30 years old. Three decades, which signifies a whole generation of hard work and progress in managing our regional marine space.

It is an achievement that we need to celebrate. We should celebrate not simply because the convention is 30 years old but because despite the difficulties of the past three decades, and the challenges of providing for an expanding population, all of the countries of the region have shown tangible progress in their efforts to sustainably manage this common regional space.

At this eighth Conference of parties, we the countries of the WIO region, pledge to support into the future this convention to ensure another thirty years of progress in the protection of the marine and coastal environment. It is a commitment that is taxing on the meagre human and financial resources of all member states, but we remain conscious that we have no choice.

As we all know the cost of inaction will be much higher tomorrow should we fail to take appropriate action today.

The challenges ahead for the next 30 years are many and far reaching: be it climate change, degradation and pollution of the marine environment or land based impacts. The long term perspectives on these regional and global issues may be overshadowed by the very immediate needs of the populations and the current limits to what governments can achieve. But we have to realize that everything remain connected. If we really want to achieve a prosperous Indian Ocean that can continuously support the population of over 30 million people living on the coast, we will have to be ambitious in our approach and bold in our decisions. A healthy Indian ocean will only happen through concerted actions, founded on bold ambitions, creative and practical measures. Let us be reminded that many of these measures begin with us assembled today in this meeting.

More than just an exploration of concepts, today's workshop should be representative of our determination as coastal states to engage with the major issues around ocean governance and our willingness to do things differently. We must build bridges and optimize the compounding effects of real partnerships and expertise that have been built over the years. We should steer our efforts to deliver for our communities as we move into the future and to ensure that our populations reap the benefits of our efforts through better management approaches taken at the national and regional levels.

The President of Seychelles, President James Michel, has ceaselessly promoted the concept of the blue economy as a viable solution to sustainable development for Small Island Developing States and coastal states. There is no convention that underscores the objectives of the blue economy better than the Nairobi convention. This convention speaks to the very core elements of the blue economy, which is the protection, management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment for the creation of wealth for this and future generations.

Engagement with the blue economy is after all a political commitment. It is a statement to the entire world that the countries involved are willing to be active participants and legitimate beneficiaries of our ocean space. It should be a preoccupation of islands as well as continental coastal countries to have the right conditions to ensure that we make the most of our oceans.

To ensure we continue to move the convention forward and reap the benefits it promises, we should remain responsible in our commitments and obligations towards our region and on the global stage. Seychelles, as the incoming chairman of the convention, is willing to work with governments to ensure continued progress in this regard. Blue Economy, oceans governance, and science are important enabling mechanisms that can help us comprehend and develop better policies.

But the fundamentals remain: the beneficiaries are our local population, our connections with our ocean space, and the interdependence between neighbours and within the region cannot be substituted.

Let us all during these coming days commit to make our convention a model one that we all can be proud of. We have come so far against all adversities. With the experiences and expertise we have amassed over the last 3 decades there is no reason why we cannot use the Nairobi Convention as a vehicle to achieve the blue economy in our region.

I wish to thank UNEP and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for co-financing and organizing the meeting and everyone who has made the trip to be with us this week. I thank you for your support and wish you all good luck in your deliberations. I now have the pleasure to declare this meeting open.

B. Statement by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Seychelles on the Opening of the Partnerships Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

Good morning to you all,

The marine and coastal ecosystems of the Western Indian Ocean are rich and diverse. The richness of this ecoregion is strongly influenced by a number of major ocean currents in the Mozambique Channel and the presence of unique underwater geographic structures. One of these important structures is the Saya de Malha Banks, which is part of the Mascarene Plateau. It supports what is believed to be the largest shallow water biotope and the largest seagrass meadow in the world.

But the richness of the WIO does not end there. We still have a lot to learn about the marine environment that we share and because of its vastness we can only make real progress, if we all work together.

It is important for us from the outset to recognize the wide spectrum of organization and individuals, who have during the last decades worked ceaseless for the betterment of our understanding and the preservation of these common natural assets. We salute the leadership and engagement of the multilateral organizations, international and local NGOs, civil society, private sector and individuals, who have contributed and continue to contribute towards the implementation of the objectives of the Nairobi Convention.

In 2007 at the 5th COP of the Nairobi Convention, we established the Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean, (WIO-C). The creation of WIO-C anchored in the Nairobi convention was an acknowledgment by governments that the civil society plays a big role in the management of

coasts and oceans in the WIO region.

We are all aware that the civil society is the source of the most powerful and persuasive story lines that effectively contribute to policy and policy-making processes in all our countries. Specifically, they used storylines; (1) to set the agenda on environmental hazards, and response; (2) to construct and form public debate, changing the rules of the game, by catalyzing shifts from the business as usual model; and (3) to construct the content of public deliberation, shaping meanings related to environmental policy,

The Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Western Indian Ocean, WIO-C was a particularly relevant development, given the clear need to coordinate matters to do with land-based activities, coasts and oceans, the marine pollution from sea based sources in the WIO region.

Over the years, the governments of the WIO have voiced concern over the continued degradation of the marine and coastal environment as a result of which several regional organizations have developed strong coastal and marine conservation programs.

We recognise the value and impact of conservation programs implemented by many of the partners in this room including (WWF, CI, CORDIO, WIOMSA, WCS, IUCN, and many other partners such as the UNEP, UNDP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)). Most of the times these projects and programs are complimentary, synergistic and at times unfortunately, duplicative. This is not intentional but without clear coordination things can quickly go astray, even when we have the best intentions.

In particular, when there is a multiplicity of projects and programs and a high number of key stakeholders. The best approach is for all parties to come together and discuss and agree on how their initiatives could be more effective in influencing decision-making and changing the face of natural resource management in the WIO region.

This partnership workshop is therefore an opportunity to put in practice and rationalize the objectives of the WIO-C and to also harness the contributions from many of the partners to develop synergistic partnerships that will advance the interests of marine research, conservation and management in the region.

This meeting is also intended to encourage partners that were not part of the nine founding members of WIO-C (: IUCN, WWF, WIOMSA, CORDIO, WCS, UNEP-Nairobi Convention, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), to join the WIO-C as members or partners, to provide a credible network of organizations, which will be able to provide decision support, share information and experiences, mobilize resources and develop collaborative programmes for the WI region.

The Government of Seychelles highly values the contribution made by the multilateral organizations, civil society and the private sector. We must during today identify how we can further strengthen the existing collaboration between WIO-C, the Nairobi Convention, the governments' of the WIO countries and the private sector. It is only through strong partnerships that we can make a real difference through advocacy and leverage meaningful global support for our work here in the region.

I now have great pleasure to wish you all success in your deliberations and to declare this important meeting open. I thank you for your attention.

C. Statement by Ademola Ajagbe, WIO- C Chair at the Partnership Meeting of the Nairobi Convention COP 8, organised by WIO-C and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat

Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles, Mr. Didier Dogley,
Chair of the Bureau,
Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Mr. Dixon Waruinge
Development Partners

Esteemed Colleagues
All protocol duly observed

I must admit that one of the reasons for not being in politics is because of my dearth of knowledge of meeting protocols- pardon my ignorance. Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you all to the Partnership Meeting, the very first of its kind. It's the Adam of its kind, as some of you may imagine.

The Partnership Meeting is organised by the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C), in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention. The meeting aims to profile the critical roles of Non-State actors in the management and development of the coastal and marine environments of the Convention Area. More importantly, it aims to promote public-private-civil society partnerships and joint programming.

From Somalia to South Africa, Mozambique to Mauritius, the major challenge of the region is the same: there are no silver bullet for accelerated sustainable development. Whilst sustainable development is logical and economically viable on paper, its reality calls for joint efforts. Joint efforts of both State and Non-State Actors to decouple "silolisation" from regional and national development approaches and to leverage resources, capacities and networks to achieve a quantum leap forward in the development of the region.

If I may go back in time, the journey of this Partnership Meeting began in September 2006 when the WIO-C was established as a collaborative initiative to raise the profile of the Nairobi Convention's Member States, support fundraising and improve their overall effectiveness in marine and coastal conservation through sharing of lessons and a streamlined work programme.

WIO-C was formally launched at the 5th Conference of Parties of the Nairobi Convention in November 2007, in Johannesburg, South Africa, reinforcing its mandate and anchoring it in the context of the Nairobi Convention.

The mission of the WIO-C is to advance efforts to protect, conserve and manage the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean region while working to alleviate poverty and attain sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable segments of its population.

Members of the WIO- C include:

- Birdlife International
- Blue Ventures
- Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO)
- Conservation International
- East African Wildlife Society
- Fauna & Flora International
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Rare
- The Nature Conservancy
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- World Wildlife Fund

As we gear up for today's meeting, I urge us to purpose to again, leave a mark in the history of the Nairobi Convention through constructive dialogue to identify the challenges in the region, and concerted and coordinated efforts to find solutions that will move the region forward.

Long live the Partnership! I thank you!

D. Statement by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Seychelles on the Opening of the Science Policy Workshop

The PS Fisheries Kenya, Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention, The Heads of Departments, Focal Points of the Convention and partners – all protocols observed

A very good morning and bonjour,

I am delighted to be with you, here, today-some of you for the third time in one week. But we have a job to do and I am going to be with you until the job is done and we are all happy with the fruit of our labour.

The Seychelles is a Small Island Developing State, at the forefront of the battle to adapt to climate change. We firmly believe we can win this battle, if we are prepared to shift from business as usual to a more sustainable development approach, the Blue Economy.

The Seychelles has an Economic Exclusive Zone of over 1.37 km² to manage and protect. It is no mean task to manage such a huge expanse of marine space. The task is not any easier for any of the contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention. Collectively in the WIO region we are responsible for over 15,000 kilometres of coastline from Somalia to South Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands. We also have over 60 million people that live along the coast, many of them deriving their livelihoods from the ocean.

This is, ladies and gentlemen, a huge responsibility. It is for this reason that we must use all our expertise in Science and policy making, to generate maximum returns from our oceans and coasts, at the same time maintaining ecological integrity of our marine ecosystems.

We are also aware of the gap in incorporating scientific knowledge into effective policies. In many cases scientists do not consider the needs of decision makers and many scientists find their work, even when explicitly aimed at informing policy, is not put into consideration. This gap between science and policy creates a knowledge gap and is a barrier to the efficient management of the marine and coastal environment.

As part of our tasks today we need to identify ways and means to bridge that gap between scientists and policy makers so that policies are based as much as possible on solid science.

It is in recognition of the need for a regional platform, where scientists and policy makers balance between science for science sake, and interest-based policy making approaches that, the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention, at their Seventh Conference of Parties identified the need for regular sessions that will bring scientists, civil society, private sector, policy and decision makers together, to address the issues of sustainability of the marine resources. The Science to Policy workshop today is such a meeting whose aims are to merge all relevant types of knowledge – both within and outside science – on the marine and coastal environment in order to jointly find suitable solutions that will help us to initiate, the transformation to sustainable development in the Western Indian Region.

From the discussion on 19 June, in the Partnerships workshop, we concluded that major international non-governmental organizations under the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean have established innovative marine and coastal programmes and projects that demonstrate real potential for sustainable community-based marine and coastal management and restoring habitats e.g. corals and fish stocks.

I applaud this work, which proves the commitment of all concerned. The commitment of all partners will need to be redoubled in the years to come, a sentiment reflected in the theme of the Eighth Conference of Parties, which is looking forward to the conservation and sustainable growth in the WIO region for the next 30 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on 17-18 June we discussed The Blue Economy and there is no doubt that oceans drive economic growth and bring a host of benefits to society.

The ecological health and economic productivity of marine and coastal ecosystems can be boosted by shifting to a more sustainable economic paradigm that taps their natural potential - from generating renewable energy and promoting eco-tourism, to sustainable fisheries and transport. The Blue Economy can be achieved while reducing the decline in the ecological health and economic productivity of the Western Indian Ocean by shifting to a greener, more sustainable economic paradigm in which human well-being and social equity are improved.

We are already seeing progress in this direction in the region.

The Government of Seychelles has adopted the Blue Economy Concept. Mauritius has the Ocean Economy and the Republic of South Africa has developed Operation PHAKISA to unlock the economic potential of the ocean in a sustainable manner. This is encouraging, but we still need to develop a greater understanding of the value of ocean and coastal resources (blue capital), create valuation and accounting tools for this blue capital, and look at management options for sustainable economic growth.

The work of the Nairobi Convention will be critical in catalysing the blue economy discussions, The vision of the convention for 'a Prosperous Western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans' – supports the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

It is my hope that during the deliberations, today you will exchange ideas and, I hope, to come up with fresh approaches on how to take further action within the framework of the convention or individually as partner governments to overcome knowledge gaps and reconcile fast socio-economic growth with a sustainable growth pathway.

I wish you a successful meeting, and look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we, as a region can make the Blue Economy a reality in the WIO.

E. Statement by the Director of of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Ms. Mette Wilkie during the Opening of the COP 8 Expert Meeting

Focal Points to the Nairobi Convention,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honour and pleasure that I welcome you to the to the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Seychelles for the wonderful hospitality that has been accorded to us.

This Eighth Conference of Parties coincides with the 30th Anniversary of the Convention that was signed on 21 June 1985 here in Seychelles. As we mark the 30th Anniversary, I would like to commend the Contracting Parties for their achievements in the conservation of the marine and coastal environment in the last 30 years, and call upon them to discuss on future opportunities for oceans governance and sustainable management of ocean resources in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

The preparatory Blue Economy Workshop on 17-18 June discussed the importance of the Blue World (oceans and coasts) which provides us with a myriad of services that include provisional services such as food security; regulatory services such as climate regulation, nutrient cycling and storm protection; and aesthetic services. These in turn

underpin lives and livelihoods in different sectors such as tourism and fisheries. Next to marine fisheries, traditional economic sectors like shipping, power generation and manufacturing are often concentrated in coastal areas.

The economic value of the goods and services provided by the marine and coastal ecosystems in the WIO region is enormous and estimated at over US \$25 billion on an annual basis, excluding the Republic of South Africa, with fisheries and tourism being the two main direct contributors to the economies of the region. In 2014 the Republic of South Africa predicted that the oceans have the potential to contribute up to 177 billion rand (US\$ 14.8 billion) to the Gross Domestic Product and create over one million jobs by 2033 for South Africans.

As one of the 6 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Agreements administered by UNEP, the Nairobi Convention has made significant progress in the last 30 years in line with the priorities and needs of the Contracting Parties and assisted them to achieve sustainable socio-economic development for over 30 percent of the population that live within 100 km of the coastline that depend on the coastal and marine ecosystems for food, employment and income generation.

The WIO countries are leading the globe in innovative public policies and creative synergies needed to unlock investments for the Blue Economy for example Seychelles has Blue Economy, Mauritius-Ocean Economy and the Republic of South Africa has Operation PHAKISA. The governments of Seychelles, Mauritius and Mozambique have also established blue/ocean economy ministries or departments in recognition of the potential of the oceans economic sectors such as coastal tourism, marine transport and aquaculture to contribute to poverty eradication. Additionally, Africa Union's Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-Based Management Approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters recognizes the potential for the Blue Economy in job creation; enhanced science, technology and innovations and developed the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy as a tool to address Africa's maritime challenges for sustainable development. The Cairo Declaration of the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Environment also adopted Decision 15/1: *"Sustainably Harnessing Africa's Natural Capital in the Context of Agenda 2063"* that recognized regional seas programmes in Africa as regional platforms for the implementation of the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063.

Only recently, however, have we started to understand the economic importance of the ecological health of our seas. Ocean and coastal habitats, species, and ecosystems support natural capital and economic flows, together referred to as ecosystem services, which may rival global market output in terms of sheer economic value. Harmonizing traditional economic activity and ecosystem-dependent economic values is a challenge we must address. Because of the fluid nature of the ocean, coastal and marine industries cannot be isolated from the watersheds and ocean ecosystems in which they operate. Economic activities near the sea and even far away have damaged the integrity of oceans and coasts. Human impacts on coasts and oceans have destroyed 20 per cent of mangroves and now put more than 60 per cent of tropical coral reefs under immediate, direct threat. Today, more than 30 per cent of the world's fish stocks are overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion, and over 400 oxygen-poor "dead zones" exist in the world.

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region is recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot and is one of the least ecologically disturbed areas of the world. The high biodiversity in the WIO and its broad array of habitats, both in the coastal and marine environment, are however under increasing pressure from burgeoning coastal populations. Signs of overexploitation and unsustainable conversion of coastal habitats for use such as agriculture, aquaculture, port expansion and urban development are becoming increasingly obvious.

In response to these threats, the Nairobi Convention has prepared several assessment reports as an objective and scientific basis yardstick for ecosystem health in the WIO. The Regional Synthesis Report on the Status of Birds for the Western Indian Ocean Report compiles information on birds and highlights species and habitats that are most in need of conservation to guide decision-makers and conservationists. At the Seventh Conference of Parties that was held on 10-14 December 2012 in Maputo, Mozambique, the Contracting Parties agreed to support and actively contribute to the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, Including Socio-economic Aspects. I am happy to announce that the first Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean which provides descriptions of the WIO ecosystems and highlights threatened or degraded habitats Region shall be launched at this COP.

The decline in the ecological health and economic productivity of the world's oceans can be reversed by shifting to a greener, more sustainable economic paradigm in which human well-being and social equity are improved, while environmental risks and ecological scarcities are reduced. Technological advances now permit more profitable industrial output with fewer environmental impacts. Research shows that many ocean industries and businesses benefit directly from cleaner, more ecologically robust marine ecosystems. Market mechanisms and innovative agreements now exist to provide financial incentives for people to protect economically valuable marine ecosystem services that traditionally have fallen outside the market. Policies and collaborative solutions are emerging that internalizes the external costs of environmentally damaging practices and reward those who create external benefits through sound uses. Sustainable practices can improve the current and future economic, nutritional, cultural and societal value of oceans to people and guarantee these values far into the future. Sustainability for improved human well-being and social equity can lead to healthier and more economically productive oceans that can simultaneously benefit coastal communities and ocean-linked industries in the Nairobi Convention Area. The marine and coastal environments are more than just an economy—they are part of humanity's cultural and spiritual dimensions. A better understanding of the enormous economic losses being sustained and the enormous opportunities from investing and re-investing in marine ecosystems, will perhaps tip the balance from degradation and destruction to sustainable management for this generation and the ones to come.

Recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report of 2014 highlighted that ocean warming dominates the increase in energy stored in the climate system, accounting for more than 90% of the energy accumulated between 1971 and 2010 with only about 1% stored in the atmosphere. Since the beginning of the industrial era, oceanic uptake of CO₂ has resulted in acidification of the ocean; the pH of ocean surface water has decreased by 0.1 corresponding to a 26% increase in acidity. As a result, many marine species have shifted their geographic ranges, seasonal activities, migration patterns, abundances and species interactions in response to ongoing climate change.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for preparing a Draft Regional Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area. As the marine environments in the Western Indian Ocean region are shared transboundary resources, many countries will face relatively similar climate change impacts and challenges and the Strategy will harmonize the responses and create a synergy of efforts and buttress national adaptation and mitigation strategies.

I would also like to acknowledge the partnership between governments, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other partners that has invested over US \$234 million, in the last decade, to support projects on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in the Western Indian Ocean, who have embraced an ecosystems approach to management of the Marine and Coastal ecosystems. The GEF funded project Addressing Land-Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB) with a budget of US \$ 11.413 million, that was implemented by UNEP subsequently developed the project *Partnerships for the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land Based Sources and Activities (WIO-SAP)* that has been prepared and submitted to the GEF for consideration. The SAP brings to governments the much needed frame of reference for collaborative action to address the challenges of sustainable management of the shared coastal and marine resources of the Western Indian Ocean Region and will form an integral part of the Work Programme for the Nairobi Convention. For example, the findings of 'Resilient Coasts: Strengthening the resilience of coastal socio-ecological systems in the Western Indian Ocean' that was developed by the Nairobi Convention, IUCN, CORDIO, and WIOMSA with funding from the government of Sweden have been incorporated in the WIOSAP project. The Resilient Coasts Programme will strengthen adaptive capacities of local communities dependent on coastal and marine resources; enhance resilience of critical coastal ecosystems and habitats; influence coastal economic development to be more environmentally sustainable and socially equitable; and enhance effectiveness of local governance in managing and influencing improved coastal ecological and social systems.

In 2010 the Nairobi Convention was revised and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol) to the Nairobi Convention adopted. The LBSA Protocol provides a framework for Contracting Parties to address the principal source of pollution of marine and coastal environment, namely; pollution from substances and energy entering the marine environment by

run off from land, rivers, pipelines and other outfall structures and pollution from the atmosphere, generated from land-based activities. I would like to commend the Contracting Parties for the progress made on the ratification of the Protocol for the Protection of Coastal and Marine Environment from Land-based Sources and Activities in Eastern and Southern Africa (LBSA Protocol) to the Nairobi Convention.

I would like to thank the Contracting Parties, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, donors, the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C) and other stakeholders for their efforts to implement the activities under the Work Programme 2015-2017. In its biennial programme of work for 2016-2017, UNEP will aim to strengthen its support to multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, especially those for which it provides the secretariat, through strengthening the relationship with MEAs in terms of both administrative support and programmatic collaboration to enhance synergies and transparency and accountability through results-based planning, budgeting and reporting.

As we progress towards the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, it is my hope that the Contracting parties shall actively participate in the process and take note of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and harness the opportunities resulting from the post-2015 development agenda processes to promote the protection, management and development of the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we open the Eighth Session for 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, I wish you a successful conference with positive outcomes and a clear roadmap on the theme of "Conserving the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Western Indian Ocean for the next 30 Years" to achieve the vision of a '*Prosperous Western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans*'.

F. Statement by the UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, on the Opening of the 8th Conference of Parties on June 23, 2015

Seizing the Blue Economy Approach in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Your Excellency Didier Dogley, Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Republic of Seychelles;
Ministers of the Republic of Seychelles; Ambassadors;
Resident Heads of UN organizations;
Principal Secretaries;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today, to address the opening of this important convention in a year that is critical to humanity's sustainable development aspirations.

Please allow me to take a moment to thank the Government of Seychelles for hosting this gathering. As a Small Island Developing State, and therefore one of 52 nations at the forefront of the battle to adapt to climate change and adopt a new Blue Economy approach, there could perhaps be no more appropriate location for the discussions that will take place over the next few days.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Nairobi Convention is a regional convention, but what a region - covering over 8,000 kilometers of coastline from Somalia to South Africa and stretching thousands of kilometers out over sparkling waters to encompass Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Reunion. Within this region, over 60 million people live along the coast, many of them deriving their livelihoods from the ocean.

It is no mean task to manage such a massive area, and I would like to take the opportunity on this, the near-exact 30th anniversary of the convention's signing, to congratulate all the parties and the secretariat for their hard work on improving the conservation and sustainable management of the coastlines and oceans.

The convention has carried out many important tasks down the years: establishing key partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations and keeping coastal and marine environment issues on the policy agenda. In the last few years, all the countries in the region initiated the implementation of integrated coastal zone management, and Western Indian Ocean countries have formulated environmental impact assessment policies and legislation.

Partnerships with major international non-governmental organizations under the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean have established innovative marine and coastal programmes and projects that demonstrate real potential for sustainable community-based marine and coastal management, restoring habitats and fish stocks.

I applaud this work, which proves the commitment of all concerned. This commitment will need to be redoubled in the years to come, a sentiment reflected in the theme of this meeting, which looks forward to the next 30 years of conservation and sustainable growth.

An ecological haven facing growing threats

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The beautiful WIO region is one of the least ecologically disturbed areas of global ocean. It hosts thousands of species of fish, marine turtles, sharks, birds and corals, and diverse coastal forests, mangrove forests and sea grass beds.

However, these coastal and marine environments have started showing signs of degradation as a result of climate change and other human activities, threatening ecosystems and livelihoods.

In Kenya, for example, from 1985 to 2010, approximately 18 per cent of mangroves were lost - removing parts of a natural barrier to coastal storms and a haven of biodiversity. Or consider crustaceans, which make up a large proportion of the fisheries in the region. A 2011 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission found that most of the crustacean stocks in the region are fully exploited or overexploited.

Then we face urbanization pressures, most markedly in main centres such as Mombasa, Dar es Salaam, Maputo and Durban. Consequently, pollution in some key areas is degrading water and sediment quality, resulting in a loss of biological diversity, problems for human health and a reduction in fish stocks.

And we have likely yet to see the worst impacts.

With the exception of Kenya, it is estimated that by 2020, 50 per cent of the populations of the Western Indian Ocean's mainland countries will live within the coastal zone. Economic activities are also expected to intensify, particularly in the areas of maritime trade, mineral extraction from the coast, oil and gas exploration, coastal tourism and bio-prospecting. While these sectors present enormous economic opportunities, the potential impacts may reduce natural capital.

The vulnerability of Small Island Developing States

Then, of course, we have the specific climate challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as our gracious host today.

Climate change-induced sea-level rise in the world's 52 SIDS - estimated to be up to four times the global average - continues to be the most pressing threat to their environment and socio-economic development, with annual losses at the trillions of dollars due to increased vulnerability.

In all SIDS regions, coral reefs are impacted by rising sea surface temperatures. The global net loss of coral reef cover - around 34 million hectares over two decades - will cost the international economy an estimated US \$11.9 trillion, with SIDS especially impacted by the loss.

Climate change will also have a compounding effect on several socio-economic sectors in SIDS. For example, fisheries play a significant role in the economy, livelihoods and food security of SIDS, estimated at up to 12 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in some nations.

Yet climate change is expected to bring further negative impacts on fisheries, posing a clear challenge to meeting the nutritional needs of growing populations, damaging livelihoods and hampering the sustainable development agenda. Tourism will also be impacted, and I am sure I do not need to point out to the key roles fisheries and tourism play to many of the nations party to the Nairobi Convention.

The importance of SIDS and the need for a way forward was, thankfully, recognized last year in the Samoa Pathway - adopted by UN Member States, all of which recognized the need to support and invest in these nations so they can achieve sustainable development.

The Samoa Pathway recognizes that financing from all sources is critical for the sustainable development of SIDS. At the Samoa conference, nearly 300 partnerships between governments, businesses and civil society organizations from all over the world were registered to support SIDS, bringing the total value of these commitments to over USD \$1.9 billion.

I look forward to further developments in this area.

The Blue Economy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Samoa Pathway is, however, just one element of the wider approach required as we look at the development trajectory of the next thirty years. That approach is the Blue Economy, which UNEP highlighted as one of four themes for action that would make SIDS the economies of the future in its GEO SIDS Outlook - alongside technological leapfrogging, giving priority to island culture and reconnecting with nature.

The Blue Economy advocates the same outcome as the Green Economy, namely improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

There is no doubt that oceans drive economic growth and bring a host of benefits to society: approximately 350 million jobs are linked to oceans, the international trade in fish products spans 85 nations and involves an estimated \$102 billion per year, and about \$9 billion is made in ecotourism related to coral reefs.

Currently, the economic value of the goods and services provided by the marine and coastal ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region is estimated at over \$25 billion on an annual basis, excluding South Africa, with fisheries and tourism being the two main direct contributors to the economies of the region. In 2014, South Africa predicted that the oceans have the potential to contribute up to 177 billion rand to its economy (US\$ 14.8 billion) by 2033, as opposed to 54 billion rand in 2010, and create over one million jobs in the process.

This, however, is likely the tip of the iceberg, as much of the value of ecosystems is not captured in development planning or national accounts.

The ecological health and economic productivity of marine and coastal ecosystems can be boosted by shifting to a more sustainable economic paradigm that taps their natural potential - from generating renewable energy and promoting eco-tourism, to sustainable fisheries and transport.

For example, at a global level the potential economic gain from reducing fishing capacity to an optimal level and restoring fish stocks - currently 32 per cent of the global stocks are estimated to be overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion - is in the order of \$50 billion per year.

Then there is the renewable energy potential. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the technically exploitable potential for marine-based renewables, excluding offshore wind, could reach 7,400 EJ per year, exceeding current global energy needs. However, marine-based renewable energy represented less than 1 per cent of all renewable energy production in 2008. Marine-based renewable energy also carries significant potential for green job creation.

Taking advantage of this abundant source of natural energy would go a long way toward resolving one of the key vulnerabilities of SIDS - that of energy dependence. As of 2008, island states spent over US \$90 million daily for more than 900,000 barrels of oil. The high cost of imported energy causes a severe drain on limited financial resources, while fluctuating oil prices have serious repercussions on their national economies.

Progress being made

As the above examples show, the Blue Economy can be achieved while reducing the decline in the ecological health and economic productivity of the world's oceans by shifting to a greener, more sustainable economic paradigm in which human well-being and social equity are improved.

We are already seeing movement in this direction in the region.

The Government of Seychelles has adopted the Blue Economy Concept. Mauritius has the Ocean Economy and the Republic of South Africa has developed Operation PHAKISA to unlock the economic potential of the ocean in a sustainable manner.

In Tanzania and Mozambique, projects to produce ethanol and biomass to fuel power generators are gaining support, while Seychelles has plans for renewable sources to contribute at least 15 per cent to power needs by 2030. The French island of Reunion is targeting 50 per cent renewable energy for local electricity needs by 2020, and a further goal of 100 per cent of all energy use by 2030. And in Mauritius, mangrove cover has increased by about 167 per cent due to restoration initiatives.

This is encouraging, but we still need to develop a greater understanding of the value of ocean and coastal resources, create valuation and accounting tools for this blue capital, and look at management options for sustainable economic growth.

Without the evidence of the benefits of blue capital, the desire to display short-term gains through partial indicators such as gross domestic product will win out over sustainable long-term growth based on functioning ecosystems. Bringing this evidence to the table is a key focus of UNEP's work, and I invite every nation to work with us to understand fully just how much the oceans and coastlines contribute to economies.

A global contribution

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we look to a future in which the world population will swell to over nine billion by 2050, simply hoping that the oceans can keep on giving is not a sensible strategy.

You have done so much already, but we must all strive to do more for the oceans in this year when the international community will finalize the Sustainable Development Goals and aim to reach a strong agreement on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The work of the Nairobi Convention will be critical to these global processes.

The vision of the convention is "a Prosperous Western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans" - a vision that is in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the goal to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Your Strategic Action Programme brings a frame of reference for collaborative action to address the challenges of sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources of the region, and your Climate Change Strategy responds to the call to undertake urgent actions to address climate change. Together, these actions can drive forward a blue economy and prevent climate change from undermining it - enabling coastal communities, economies and marine ecosystems to become more resilient and grow in a sustainable manner.

During these deliberations, you will exchange ideas and, I hope, come up with fresh approaches on how to take further action within and without the framework of the convention - be it consistent long-term policies, targeted financial support from governments to overcome technical barriers, or incentives such as grants, subsidies and tax credits to encourage private investment.

I wish you a successful meeting, and look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we, as a region and as a global community, can make the Blue Economy a reality.

G. Statement by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Seychelles on the Opening of the Conference of Parties

Ministers

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

Principal Secretaries

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Colleagues and friends,

All protocol observed.

I wish you a very good morning, Bonjour pour nos amis qui sont francophone and Bon Dia to the delegates from Mozambique.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our shores on behalf of the Government of Seychelles. I hope you will enjoy not only our beautiful islands but also our exceptional Creole hospitality. As a nation, we have always pride ourselves on our gracious welcoming spirit and our cuisine of multicultural origin, which has seduced many a visitor.

The eight Conference of Parties of the Nairobi Convention, here in Seychelles, is no ordinary COP. Our Convention turns 30 years old this year. It was here in Seychelles, that the convention was adopted 30 years ago. 30 years symbolizes maturity, experience and acquired wisdom; and with it a history of achievements. It is therefore a time to celebrate and reflect on everything that the western Indian Ocean means to us.

Back in 1985, when the WIO was still pristine, already leaders of the region together with a number of our historic partners had the foresight to create a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions to enable better management of our shared marine space. This mechanism has enabled us to harness resources and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups beyond our region and strengthen the limited capacities available within our countries.

Today with hindsight we must admit that without those bold and ambitious decisions that were taken then the western Indian Ocean will not be the healthy and productive marine space we know today. I therefore, at the outset, wish to salute all those who were instrumental in the creation and development of the Nairobi Convention. Their

commitments and achievements should inspire us to redouble our efforts to live up to the original spirit and vision of the Nairobi Convention.

The Western Indian Ocean is host to a wide range of biological and ecological significant areas. It is still teeming with life. It is home to one of the largest seagrass bed, thousands of productive coastline and many under water structures and seamounts. All these coupled with the currents of the Mozambique Channel renders the western Indian Ocean very rich in fauna, flora and marine resources.

An important blue capital, upon which the South and East Africa's coastal countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Madagascar can enjoy, sustained economic growth, if managed properly. As you know, the 8th Conference of Parties for the Nairobi Convention (COP 8) has been preceded by three workshops: the blue economy and the partnership meetings and the one on science and technology.

President James Michel has since 2012 ceaselessly advocated for the blue economy, which represents for Seychelles future economic growth and prosperity. In January 2015, the African Union Assembly under its Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want, adopted the Blue Economy as sustainable and equitable economic growth driven by oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and floodplains.

Seychelles co-organised with the United Arab Emirates the first blue economy international conference in Abu Dhabi in January 2015. The Seychelles Department of Blue economy, which was created in February 2015, is currently planning the second international conference, which will be held here in Seychelles early next year. To enable the implementation of the blue economy approach, Seychelles is in the process of completing a climate change adaptation debt swap initiative, which includes the development of a Marine Spatial Plan for its entire EEZ and a trust fund, which will finance the plan and the management of a large marine protected area covering 30% of the Seychelles Economic Exclusive Zone.

We welcome the inclusion of the blue economy meeting as part of the preparatory process of COP 8. With the adoption of the draft decisions I hope the blue economy approach will receive its rightful place in the work programme of the convention.

Partnerships remain an important issue which received much attention at last Friday's Partnership Meeting. There is no country in the region that possesses sufficient capacity to tackle the existing and emerging challenges in the Western Indian Ocean. Pollution, marine degradation, over-fishing and climate change amongst others, do not respect political boundaries.

It is critical for us to further strengthen and improve existing partnerships between states, multilateral organizations, civil society and private sector. It is also important for us to develop new strategies to harness other expertise, information and technology; we do not currently have access to.

I am happy to note that the Partnerships meeting concluded that major international non-governmental organizations under the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean have established innovative marine and coastal programmes and projects that demonstrate real potential for sustainable community-based marine and coastal management and restoring habitats.

I had the privilege to attend part of the science and policy meeting on Saturday. Much progress has been made in consolidating the nexus between science and policy. However, it is clear that more needs to be done to bridge the gap between science and policy.

Scientists and policy makers need to communicate more, if policies are to be based on sound science and effectively address issues on the ground.

2015 is a very important year with conferences and summits of critical importance.

The two most relevant ones for our Convention are the Summit on the Sustainable development Goals and the post 2015 agenda and the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The vision of the convention for 'a Prosperous Western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans' – supports the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the goal to sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

However, in the case of climate change this year, we are all looking towards Paris for a new binding agreement that will replace Kyoto protocol and hopefully save us from the brink of disaster.

All our efforts will have little meaning, if we continue to experience marine ecosystem destructions similar to the current massive coral bleaching, which is currently happening across the Indian Ocean. We, therefore, salute Pope Francis encyclical on ecology and climate change. Planet earth needs all the champions it can get. So let's hope other major religion leaders will follow his example.

The Western Indian Ocean presents all our countries with enormous opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development. It has the potential to supply us over generations with food, energy, medicine and various forms of livelihoods with the two conventional economic sectors i.e. tourism and fisheries being at the core of it. We have in the Nairobi Convention an excellent regional initiative which is delivering remarkable results. Let us at this COP 8 recommit to its vision and objectives.

Seychelles commits, and invite other parties to commit to a responsible implementation of the Nairobi Convention, which starts with sound knowledge and enhanced capabilities, and culminates in sound governance at the country level and at the regional level.

We invite countries to take into account the work that has been done by states and other partners and to be critical towards their application; we invite countries to share with others their experience in the context of moving the convention forward.

We share with these Western Indian Ocean region common goals and aspirations, all the time conscious of our differences in size and economic base.

We remain optimistic about the future of the region and hope that the same shared optimism shall drive the deliberations and the decisions we make over the next two days.

I wish you all, dear disguised delegates, a successful meeting. I thank the government of Norway and Sweden for their financial support and the Nairobi secretariat for their support in organizing this COP.

I thank you for your attention.

H. Statement by the Minister for Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Crafts of Comoros, Siti Kassim,

The Chair, Fellow Ministers, Colleagues

I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Seychelles for hosting the 8th Conference of Parties. I have only been in office for a few weeks but nonetheless I recognize the good work of the Nairobi Convention. I am delighted to be amongst you to discuss the challenges faced by SIDS in the region such as those of climate change. It has been a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas on the pathways to the Blue Economy and Comoros will be learning from regional examples of Seychelles, South Africa and Mauritius on the implementation of Blue Economy Policies. I would like to thank the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

I. Statement by the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management of Mauritius Hon. Jayeshwur Raj Dayal

Excellencies, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, Hon. Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Seychelles; Prof. Rolph Payet, former Minister of Environment, Seychelles and Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; representative of the Indian Ocean Commission, Ms Gina Bonne, Heads of Delegations for the 8th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention, from the Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

Mr. Nirmal Shah, the Consul of the Republic of Mauritius in Seychelles

All protocols observed

Ladies and gentlemen salutations to all of you

On behalf of the Government of Mauritius, under the legendary leadership of Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, who created the Ministry of Environment Mauritius and Honourable Prem Koonjoo, Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands.

I am addressing you as Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, including the management of solid waste.

At the very outset, I should like to point out that the Republic of Mauritius includes the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia and any other island comprised in the State of Mauritius.

In view of the above, Mauritius would request the following wording be included in the Strategic Action Programme for the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems, before signature:

“The management boundary for the Western Indian Ocean LMEs does not include the entire EEZ of all the participating countries and/or the Extended Continental Shelf over which they have jurisdiction. It has been established without prejudice to the EEZ of the participating countries, as defined in their respective national legislations, and/or the Extended Continental Shelf over which they have jurisdiction.”

On this basis and subject to the inclusion of this wording, we confirm our full endorsement and support for this Strategic Action Programme and also confirm our intent to formally sign this SAP document at the Ministerial level (alongside our fellow participating countries) at an appropriate time and venue as part of the inception and launching of the UNDP-GEF Strategic Action Plan Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms project (SAPPHIRE) currently with GEF adoption into the GEF-5 work programme.

It is my great pleasure to address you on the occasion of the 8th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention. I send you greetings from the Government and people of Mauritius.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very outset, I wish to congratulate the Government of Seychelles for hosting the Conference of Parties preceded by the three important workshop meetings namely:

- (i) The Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy workshop
- (ii) Partnership meeting; and
- (iii) Science to Policy Meeting

The Conference of Parties and the events organized in the margin of the Conference is of critical importance for sustainable and meaningful development. The world today stands at a cross road. The future of our planet and the history of socio economic development will depend more than ever, on the policy options we make today in the face of herculean challenges like climate change and natural disasters.

The Conference of Parties in Seychelles underscores the magnitude of the global challenge coming ahead. I reiterate my appreciation to the Government of Seychelles and the UNEP in holding this Conference and ensuring its successful outcomes.

The Government of Mauritius attaches much importance to this Conference. Mauritius is represented at this Conference by myself as Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, Mr R Seenauth Divisional Environment Officer of My Ministry, and Mr N Subratty, Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mauritius as you all know is known as the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean. Its location in the middle of the Indian Ocean propelled this Small Island Developing State as a centre for trade since the 17th and 18th century where ships would stop for food and water.

The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest ocean and a lifeline of international trade and economy. It carries half of the world's container ships, one-third of the bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of the oil shipments and most of these transits through Port Louis, the Capital of Mauritius.

In its Government Programme 2015, Government commits itself to the development of the Blue Economy as a major pillar of economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. The development of the Blue Economy will inter alia focus on large scale development of the Port sector including a Regional Bunkering Hub. Preliminary consultations have already been initiated for the development of the Regional Bunkering Hub and the feasibility studies would shortly follow. I have already approved the EIA of the first project with my colleague, Honourable Minister of Finance.

Since its independence in 1968, Mauritius has made long strides in socio economic development. However, as all small island states, Mauritius is also faced with limited natural resources on land. On the other hand, we do have a vast expanse of sea as part of our Exclusive Economic Zone which amounts to 1.9 million km² and 396 000 km² of seabed and sub soil area under joint management with the Republic of Seychelles, which makes a total area of 2.3 million Km².

With such a vast expanse of Exclusive Economic Zone, the potential for economic development and wealth that this resource can generate, if developed in a sustainable way could take Mauritius to the level of a high-income country which is one of the goals of the Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Government is coming up with an array of strategic measures in developing the blue economy, such as:

- (i) Creation of a new Ministry on Ocean Economy since September last year.
- (ii) Promotion of research expedition in the quest for fossil fuel and other minerals that could be sustainably exploited.
- (iii) Development of a new legal framework and setting up of a unified regulatory body to license, supervise, monitor and regulate activities of ocean related economic operators
- (iv) Introduction of a new Fisheries and Marine Resources Bill to incorporate international norms and practices for modernising the fisheries sector
- (v) Introduction of a Marine Pollution Bill in line with the International Maritime Organisation Convention
- (vi) Seeking of technical co-operation and financial assistance from international organisations and donor countries to ensure that the new industry starts off on a sound foundation
- (vii) A Roadmap to realise the Ocean Economy vision has been prepared with focus on actions that will be taken in seven main clusters in the short, medium and long term. These initial clusters are:
 - 1. Seabed Exploration for Hydrocarbon & Minerals
 - 2. Fishing, Seafood Processing and Aquaculture
 - 3. Deep Ocean Water Applications (DOWA)
 - 4. Marine Services:
 - a) Marine Tourism and Leisure

- b) Marine ICT
- c) Marine Finance
- d) Marine Biotechnology
- e) Ship Registration
- 5. Seaport-related Activities
- 6. Marine Renewable Energies
- 7. Ocean Knowledge

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Mauritius, My Ministry is a coordinating ministry regarding environmental issues with the other ministries such as the ministries dealing with fisheries, wastewater, health, and local authorities. The first Environment Protection Act dates back to 1992 and since then it has been amended twice. It is presently being amended in view of emerging challenges. It provides for protection of the environment including the coastal and maritime zones through Environment Impact Assessment requirements for scheduled activities, enforcement of environmental laws, coordination mechanisms with stakeholders, standards and regulations, Spills and Environmental Emergencies amongst others. The Ministry developed a National Environment Policy in 2007 and National Environmental Strategies in 2008. Under the National Environment Action Programme several projects have been implemented including a National Sewerage Master Plan which aims to connect 80% of the population to the sewer system by 2033, a Solid Waste Master Plan, the National Development Strategies in 2005, and an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework in 2010 amongst other projects.

In view of climate change impacts, a new Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan will be devised and implemented along with a Climate Change Bill. A National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework for the Republic of Mauritius has been developed in 2012 and is being implemented.

With acceleration in sea level rise of 3.8mm/yr, impacts on coastal erosion and inundation would be high. In this respect my ministry has received a 3 year technical assistance from the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the period June 2012 to June 2015. It was found that 11 % of the coast is continuously eroding in the long term and the live coral cover has decreased from 51 % in 2000 to 27% in 2012. Remedial measures are envisaged in the short, medium and long term in view of cost implication.

In this spirit, we are among the first Small Island Developing State to have adopted a Carbon Calculator to manage our carbon footprint and ensure sustainable development through green renewable energies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that 75% of the world's population has oxygen to breathe because of the corals and planktons in the ocean. Unfortunately, because of unchecked fishing through dynamites in the 70's, our barrier reefs which were teaming with fish have suffered from severe damage. The Government of Mauritius is seriously envisaging reconstructing the reef ecosystem through coral plantation. You may wish to note that Mauritius has banned dynamite fishing from Mauritian waters.

Coastal conservation plans have been developed for 14 different sites where impacts of erosion were most acute. A demonstration project was carried out in 2013 at Grand Sable which is a coastal village in the east where wave overtopping and inundation were quite frequent. A flexible revetment using small pebbles was placed along 200 m of shoreline. Monitoring of the structure showed that same was quite stable, public use has increased and water quality has improved. In addition the public preferred the flexible revetment to armored rock revetment. We propose to replicate such structure at other appropriate sites.

The Final Reports are expected by the end of June 2015 and implementation of the recommendations which focus on provision of setback, coral reef, mangroves and seagrass beds restoration, proper beach maintenance measures amongst others would start soonest possible.

In addition, under budget from my ministry, every year some critical sites are targeted for coastal protection measures. For the past two years, four sites were rehabilitated through placement of rock revetment and five sites through

removal wire boxes (known as gabions) and replacement by flexible revetments through the use of small pebbles in a sloping manner.

I would like to point out that concerning the ratification of the amended Nairobi Convention and the Land Based Sources and Activities protocol to the Nairobi Convention, approval has just been received from the Government for same. The Government of Mauritius is fully committed to the Convention. We have been actively participating in the regional meetings held under the Convention and will continue to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you can see, sustainable and eco-friendly development ranks high on our agenda. One of my top priorities is to pave the way for a **cleaner, greener and safer Mauritius**.

In this context, my Ministry has also launched a massive tree planting campaign. You have surely read that a century ago, Mauritius was covered with a dense forest and, God Bless, we will attempt to reconstruct this pristine environment of ours by planting as many trees as possible more specifically with emphasis on endemic trees in the forthcoming years.

In this quest, all stakeholders including the private sector, NGO's, community would be called upon to take an active role in environmental protection and management. The school population is rallying behind our initiative at the national, regional and global level. You will all concur with me that we can no longer think of an environment development model that excludes the active participation and engagement of one and all. Together, we are all responsible to care for our Mother Earth and we should honour her with gratitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude I would like to thank Tanzania for chairing the Convention meetings these two years, the Secretariat for arrangements made for the meetings, WIOMSA and Birdlife International for assisting the Convention in the preparation of regional reports.

Thank you for your attention.

J. Statement by the Minister of State Minister for Environmental Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister Somali, Mr. Buri Mahamed Hamza

The Somali coastline is the longest in Africa covering a distance of 3,333 Km. Ecologically, the Somali coast harbors one of the most important large marine ecosystems in the Indian Ocean known as the Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem. The abundance of phytoplankton and zooplankton suggests that Somalia has some of the continent's major fishing stocks, mainly due to strong upwelling phenomena. This encourages migration of fish and also the localized growth. This is asserted in the Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Notwithstanding Somalia's potential in terms of the physical as well the biological features of its coastal and marine environments, there are, however, issues of concern.

As outlined by the Executive Director of UNEP in his Report, the Western Indian Ocean is becoming increasingly under pressure from exploitation of marine and coastal resources. In the case of Somalia, the coastal population of Somalia relies on subsistence fishing. Deep sea fishing is dominated by international fishing. The overexploitation of Somalia's marine resources by foreigners has affected coastal livelihoods, and as result has generated anger and resentment, and this is one of the reasons that have led to the genesis of piracy in Somalia. If we want to bring about a lasting solution to this problem, we must address the root causes that spark this phenomenon.

The Somali Government does not currently have the capacity to control foreign fishing incursions into the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is the reason why our territorial waters are largely open to foreign fishing vessels. This is again why our youth have resorted to piracy to counter this theft from the part of foreign vessels.

We are afraid the overexploitation of our marine and coastal resources will continue unabated because of the lack of capacity for effective control and surveillance, and because of the fact that we get no help whatsoever from the international partners. For instance, the Contracting Parties, in their Decision CP7/18, requested the Secretariat and partners to facilitate development and implementation of programmes and projects in support of Somalia's efforts to improve its management of the marine and coastal environment. According to the Report of the Executive Director, the Secretariat prepared and submitted a concept to JICA, but no funding was secured for the projects.

It is believed that the foreign vessels dump wastes into the Somali territorial waters without being held to account. We must nevertheless admit that we have failed to develop legislations for coastal and marine environmental management, planning and development. This failure is due to the fact that Somalia has succumbed to a crisis that has lasted for a prolonged period of time. We are, as you are all aware of, recovering from this dilemma, and have embarked on the very important tasks of bailing the country out of its, inter alia, environmental predicaments.

We will with the help of the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant UN Agencies undertake a Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment. This Assessment will also include the appraisal of the state of the marine and coastal environment. The result of this Assessment will help make informed environmental decision making processes.

Following the PCEA, we will ensure that we have the policies and the strategies needed to address the obligations of the Nairobi Convention. This is of course in addition to the implementation of all other Conventions that we have acceded to.

As to the issues related to the pollution that results from ships, dumping of wastes into the Somali territorial waters, and the pollution from land-based sources, Somalia has not unfortunately been able to keep pace with the development that has taken place in other countries that overlook the Western Indian Ocean. However, we are currently undertaking the necessary to ensure that these issues are seriously addressed.

We should make it clear to the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention that the countries that are Parties to this Convention cannot be regarded as being monolithic in terms of their capacity, in terms of the resources at their disposal, and in terms of the challenges faced as regards the implementation of the different provisions of the Convention.

It is therefore imperatively essential that the diversity that there is taken into account. The Secretariat is required to give a particular attention to the countries that are fragile and that have been affected by protracted crises.

Because Somalia has the longest coast in Africa – 3333- long – it will take note of the recommendations from the Blue Economy Workshops. It will support the Blue Economy as a model to unlock the full potentials in the ocean sectors.

Somalia will encourage interactions between the scientists, civil society, private sector, and policy and decision makers. It will urge the private sector to internalize the social and environmental costs of the externalities that are generated as a result of their unregulated activities. They will be requested to comply with the corporate social responsibility. (Give examples of the plastic wastes)

We are requesting the Contracting Parties to again urge the Secretariat to “facilitate development and implementation of programmes and projects in support of Somalia's efforts to improve its management of the marine and coastal environment.”

K. Statement from the Head of Delegation from France

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du corps diplomatique et des organisations internationales, chers collègues chefs de délégation, distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je souhaite remercier chaleureusement le gouvernement des Seychelles pour l'accueil fantastique que nous avons reçu depuis notre arrivée et pour l'organisation sans faille de cette 8^{ème} conférence des Parties. Cette COP marque les 30 ans de la convention de Nairobi. Pour la délégation française, elle marquera notre premier séjour aux Seychelles, et croyez-moi, nous espérons que ce ne sera pas le dernier.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je tiens à préciser que l'ensemble de la délégation française vient directement de Paris, car c'est bien la France dans son intégralité et en tant que République Française qui siège ici et qui représente l'ensemble de ses territoires d'outre mer. Nous sommes ici dans un esprit de coopération régionale et il importe qu'à ce titre, ce soit bien toute une région qui collabore, ce qui signifie l'ensemble de ses territoires sous souveraineté, car la souveraineté ne se conteste pas dans cette enceinte. Ce qui importe dans cette enceinte, ce sont les buts de développement et de protection des océans que nous nous sommes fixés.

Et il est clair que nous avons beaucoup de travail devant nous. Nous l'avons vu lors des ateliers techniques et lors des réunions préparatoires, les défis dans la région sont immenses, pour protéger cet environnement marin dont nous sommes tous fiers. Les enfants nous l'ont rappelé encore ce matin, l'océan est notre futur. Il est la source de la vie, il continue à nous faire vivre, à nous nourrir et à contribuer à notre développement. C'est pourquoi il est de notre devoir de le protéger. De protéger son environnement, ses habitats ses ressources et sa biodiversité. C'est en protégeant les océans que nous protégerons les hommes et les femmes qui en vivent, c'est-à-dire l'ensemble de l'humanité, car nous sommes tous concernés.

Je remercie donc encore une fois les Seychelles d'avoir créé les conditions favorables pour la tenue de cette COP et le PNUE de se battre de manière continue pour la réussite des programmes de mer régionales. Je ne doute pas que nous aurons des travaux fructueux et la France s'y emploiera activement, comme elle l'a fait dès l'origine.

Je vous remercie.

L. Statement from the Head of Delegation of Kenya, the Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Richard Lesiyampe

I recognize the Chair, Minister, Heads of Departments and thank the Government and People of Seychelles for the warm welcome and for hosting the COP. I would also like to thank the Nairobi Convention Secretariat.

The Presence of the Kenyan delegation at the COP demonstrates Kenya's commitment to the Nairobi Convention.

The presence of partners and Contracting Parties at the meeting is an expression of the commitment to conserving and protecting of the Indian Ocean Ecosystem.

The Government of Kenya recommends significant investment in Research and is particularly interested in the outcomes of the Science and Policy workshop and supports the development of a science policy nexus. The outcomes of Science must be translated into actionable items.

The Government of Kenya is passionate about the creation of Wealth and transforming the lives of our people while ensuring sustainable management of marine resources.

Blue Economy is the next frontier a very innovative initiate and Countries of the region must work together in implementing the principles of Blue Economy.

The government of Kenya would like to thank all delegates and the Contracting Parties for electing Kenya as the Vice Chair of the Bureau in charge of the Work Program of the Nairobi Convention for the next 2 years and to host the next Conference of Parties.

The Government of Kenya welcomes you to Mombasa, Kenya's second largest city, along the Coast of Kenya. Thank you for your attention.

M. Statement from the Head of Delegation, Madagascar

Mesdames et Messieurs Les Ministres
Monsieur le Secrétaire de la Convention de Nairobi
Chers Points Focaux de la Convention de Nairobi
Chers Membres Partenaires de la Convention de Nairobi
Représentants des organisations régionales et internationales,
Honorables invités,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je voudrais saisir cette opportunité pour remercier et féliciter Le Gouvernement de Seychelles d'avoir eu le privilège d'accueillir cette Conférence des Parties.

Mes félicitations vont aussi au Gouvernement de la Tanzanie pour sa Présidence de la septième Conférence des Parties qui s'était tenue à Maputo, Mozambique en Décembre 2012.

Bien évidemment, ces remerciements s'adressent aussi, à tous les Etats membres de la Convention de Nairobi, et à l'équipe du Secrétariat de ladite Convention, ainsi qu'aux membres du Comité d'organisation de cette Conférence. Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Madagascar est la 4ème plus Grande Ile au monde avec une superficie de 592.000km² et de plus de 5300 km linéaire de cote. Cette grande île dispose d'une richesse à dominante capital naturel, avec une diversification permettant le développement de nombreuses filières : conservation de la biodiversité marine et côtière et de leurs écosystèmes, pêche, aquaculture, industries extractives, tourisme, énergie renouvelable, bioprospection, médecines. Toutes fois, ce capital naturel connaît un début d'épuisement : une situation susceptible de pénaliser les générations futures

En vue de réaliser la vision de développement du Président de la République de Madagascar de bâtir une « Nation moderne et prospère », la valorisation du capital naturel du pays notamment ses richesses maritimes et côtières constitue une pierre angulaire du Programme National de Développement.

Dans cette perspective, la gestion de nos richesses et la promotion de l'Economie bleue occupent une place importante dans le Programme Général de l'Etat.

En outre, la mise en place par le Gouvernement malagasy d'une Direction Générale de la Mer au sein du Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Ecologie, de la Mer et des Forêts, marque ainsi la concrétisation sur le plan interne de ce choix de la « Valorisation du Capital naturel et le renforcement de la résilience aux risques de catastrophes », comme pilier de la politique de développement durable de Madagascar. Elle marque également le choix en faveur d'une gestion intégrée des océans dans le cadre d'une politique nationale des océans, visant à assurer une cohérence de toutes les activités conduites dans l'espace maritime.

A ce sujet, nous voudrions signaler que le mois de mars 2015, nous avons eu le privilège de recevoir la 19ème Conférence Intergouvernemental des Experts de l'UNECA dont le thème est : « Valoriser l'économie bleue pour le développement de l'Afrique de l'Est ». L'accueil de cette réunion a été pour nous une manière de jouer un rôle significatif à la réalisation de cette vision présidentielle.

Pour Madagascar, la Convention de Nairobi est une assistance cruciale en vue d'atteindre les objectifs qu'il s'est assignés.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

N. The Statement for the Head of Delegation, Mozambique, the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development

- Excellencies Ministries of Environment, General and Climate Change
- Excellencies Ministries of Comoros, Mauritius and Somalia
- Dear Permanent Secretaries
- Dear Officers, Parties, Colleges and
- All protocol observed

I would like to transmit the apologize of the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, who could not manage to join us due to conflicting agenda.

The delegation of Mozambique would like to use this opportunity to thank the Government of Seychelles and the secretariat for wonderful organization of the CP8 of Nairobi Convention.

Mozambique is committed to support the implementation of the Programme of work of the WIO Region under the Nairobi Convention and other Environmental Programmes of Work including the WIO-SAP as contribution for poverty alleviation, environmental and ecosystem services protection, blue economy, among others.

Our countries, in the WIO continue facing environmental challenges, such as sea rising, pollution, climate change impacts, what lead the acceleration of environmental degradation.

Because of these problems, this year of 2015, Mozambique was seriously affected by huge flooding what destroyed many infrastructures in Central and Northern provinces. As result, all the government priorities were reset in order to support reconstruction of the infrastructures, such as roads, bridges, water supply, provide seed for our population to restart their lives.

Dear Delegates

Although, having all these challenges, we Mozambicans are maintaining our commitments to continue putting the environment in top of our priorities in line with other priorities of our country and the world, in line with science.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the Unit Republic of Tanzania for leadership shown in the last two years our Nairobi Convention Bureau and, wish to the Seychelles a good luck in the work for the next two years. Our thanks extent to the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention for coordinating in good manner the Nairobi convention.

Finally, before I Conclude, I would like to use this opportunity to salute one of our Mozambican delegation member, Ms. Lucinda Mangue, for her birthday today.

Thank you very much! See you in Mombasa.

O. Statement from the Head of Delegation, South Africa

Chairperson of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention;
Honourable Ministers;
Heads of International Organisations and our Partners;
The Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention,
The Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention

Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me and the delegation of South Africa to express our sincere gratitude and to congratulate the Government of Seychelles for hosting this successful COP, as well as the Secretariat for creating a conducive environment for constructive deliberations that we have witnessed thus far. The combined oceans and coasts jurisdiction of our countries is huge, and represents a development node or area that is potentially very significant to all our people and economies.

It is therefore very relevant that this COP, like the Abidjan Convention COP we hosted in South Africa in 2014, had a clear focus on exploring further the concept of the Blue Economy. We as the Parties to the Convention, as well as our partners, need to examine how we should embrace and effectively implement the concept of the “Blue Economy”. We are in agreement that our oceans and coasts must be seen for the potential they have to grow the prosperity of our nations and well-being of our people.

To provide further context to this, there has also been significant recent developments at the African Union. There is a realisation and acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution of oceans and coasts to the development of the Continent. At the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2014, the Heads of State formally acknowledged that Africa’s oceans are essential to the sustainable development of the Continent and that they should play a critical role in shaping Africa’s Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This should be seen in the context of Africa’s own long-term sustainable development aspirations, as encapsulated in Agenda 2063, which has specifically recognised the potential contribution of the oceans economy to the development of Africa. Furthermore, the recent AU Assembly meeting of Heads of State took a decision declaring 2015-2025 as the “Decade of African Seas and Oceans” and adopted the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM-2050). They also called for increased cooperation amongst AU Member States to manage the maritime domain and enhance trans-border and sub-regional cooperation of the marine environment.

Chairperson,

While South Africa is making considerable strides with regards to effective management of our ocean resources, we recognise that regional integration is important. This convention and others like, the Abidjan and other Regional Seas Conventions, affords each one of the contracting partners an opportunity to build synergies for the optimal and sustainable use of our ocean space, which has tremendous potential to enhance our respective economies.

It is therefore pleasing to learn that there was general consensus during the technical meetings last week, that oceans are critical to both the economy and life support systems in our region. It is also significant that it was noted that while the primary implementation of Blue Economy activities is at a national level, with each country defining their pathway towards implementation, it was recognized that it is important to continue to work together as a region. In conclusion, I want to emphasise that alone one can go fast, but together we can go very far. Let us take our shared vision and aspirations for Africa’s Oceans and Coasts further!

I thank you.

P. Statement from the Convention of Biological Diversity

Intervention made by Jihyun Lee, CBD Secretariat

Thank you Honorable Chair
Honorable Ministers
Distinguished Delegates and partners
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, first of all I would like to express our heart-felt thanks to the Government of Seychelles for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful island with warmest hospitality. Our thanks also go to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for inviting CBD Secretariat to be part of this historic moment of 30 years anniversary of the Nairobi Convention.

I would like to also extend CBD Secretariat's sincere congratulations to Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties and Secretariat, and WIOMSA, for Launching Regional State of the Coast Report for Western Indian Ocean region, which we have witnessed last night.

We are very impressed by its comprehensive range of scope as well as the depth of scientific information covered by this report. We believe that this report will provide a very important foundation to help countries realize Blue Economy in Western Indian Ocean supported by sustainable and healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, and achieve the globally committed vision in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which reads: "by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

In relation to this important Report, I wish to inform Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates of another important scientific achievement for Western Indian Ocean that has been facilitated through the collaboration by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat on CBD's EBSA process.

As you may know, CBD's process on identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) has covered about 70% of world oceans and seas in past 4 years through the organization of 11 regional workshops around the world, of which 3rd workshop held in this region.

CBD COP 12, held in October last year, in the Republic of Korea, welcomed the results of Southern Indian Ocean regional workshop on EBSAs, convened by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, hosted by the Government of Mauritius, in July 2012.

Upon the request of COP 12, the results are now included in the CBD global EBSA repository, and also submitted to UN General Assembly and its relevant processes.

This workshop described 34 ecologically or biologically significant marine and coastal areas for this region, based on more than 100 GIS layers of scientific data and information. The workshop report in more than 300 pages will be transformed into reader-friendly booklet to build global awareness of these important marine areas in this region.

CBD Secretariat is very grateful to Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention for supporting our close collaboration with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and various partners, like WIOMSA, in facilitating capacity building and sharing experiences on marine spatial planning, building on this scientific foundation.

In particular we would like to express our great thanks to the Government of Madagascar for their decision to host the CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative Capacity Building Regional Workshop for East Africa, from 16 to 20 November this year, which will be funded by French MPA Agency and Japan Biodiversity Fund.

This workshop will focus on marine spatial planning through cross sectoral and integrated management approaches, and also facilitate building technical partnerships and identifying financial opportunities for developing on-ground implementation projects.

I look forward to your guidance and support for our continued collaboration and partnerships. Thank you for your attention.

Q. Statement from UNDOALOS

Thank you Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to participate in this meeting on behalf of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the law of the sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations. The Division was very pleased to be invited at this eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention including for the opportunity to report on some of the developments on oceans and the law of the sea within the context of the United Nations and the General Assembly in particular.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

The forthcoming release of the World Ocean Assessment

As you may remember, following a recommendation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish in 2004 a Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects (Regular Process).

The Member States appointed 22 experts in the Group of Experts to prepare the first Assessment, including experts from Member States of the Nairobi Convention. They also nominated more than 600 experts for inclusion in the Pool of Experts, coming from more than 50 countries, representing the five regional groups within the United Nations. The Group of Experts also received notable technical and scientific support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to inform you that the first World Ocean Assessment output of the Regular Process will be presented to Member States in September accompanied with a summary for decision makers. The WOA as it is called, will look at the current state of the marine environment, including social and economic aspects. The Assessment is the first of its kind, in the sense that it integrates assessments of impacts from a number of individual stressors and considers the overall impact of multiple processes and activities overlapping in time and space.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

I would be remised in not mentioning that the World Oceans Assessment also drew from work done at the regional level, including through workshops organized within the context of the Nairobi and also Abidjan Conventions.

In this regard, I wish to congratulate again all of those who participated in the workshop on the publication and launch yesterday of the Western Indian Ocean report on the state of the marine environment. We believe that the publication of the report is very timely and constitutes an important milestone for the region but also as is the ambitious of the WOA, it provides a baseline of information that the region can rely on and continue to build on for conservation and other management measures.

The World Ocean Assessment is aimed at raising awareness of the central role of the oceans in sustainable development. In more than 50 chapters, the Assessment will provide an invaluable and authoritative source of information on the state of the global marine environment including socioeconomic aspects, both current and foreseeable, for the benefit of Member States of the United Nations and other stakeholders. The World Ocean Assessment will provide invaluable information on marine biological diversity and other components of the marine environment. It will not include any analysis of policies, but will provide a basis for policy-makers to take decisions on the management of human activities affecting the marine environment. Indeed, by carrying out the Assessment, the Regular Process is expected to aim at strengthening the science-policy interface for the sustainable use, management and conservation of the oceans and seas, as well as of their resources and biodiversity.

The preparation of the first World Ocean Assessment is currently at a very advanced stage, with draft chapters completed and being revised on the basis of comments by Member States, intergovernmental organizations and peer reviewers. The draft Assessment was sent to Member States and peer reviewers earlier this year for comments.

The entire Assessment will be considered by the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, at its sixth meeting, from 8 to 11 September 2015. The summary of the Assessment will be issued as a document of the United Nations General Assembly for its final approval at its seventieth session.

At the meeting in September, the Member States will also consider recommendations accompanying the Assessment. The General Assembly will also need to decide on the launching of the second cycle of the Regular Process.

Marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

The General Assembly, in 2004, established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the Working Group).

At its January meeting this year, the Working Group completed its work and the General Assembly has just adopted last week resolution 69/292 on the development of international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. To that end, the General Assembly also established a preparatory committee, to make substantive recommendations to the Assembly on the elements of a draft text of such an instrument.

The Preparatory Committee will start its work in 2016 and by the end of 2017 report to the General Assembly on its progress. Before the end of its seventy-second session, the Assembly would decide on the convening and on the starting date of an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the preparatory committee and to elaborate the text of an international legally-binding instrument.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates,

The Preparatory Committee will consider the following issues as a package: marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas and environmental impact assessments; and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

I wish to highlight in particular that the General Assembly also decided that the process of developing a new instrument should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies.

I would also like to mention that the General Assembly resolution provides for the establishment of a voluntary trust fund to assist developing countries in particular least developed, land-locked countries and Small Island developing States. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs has been identified to provide support to the preparatory committee.

And finally Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

I would suggest that the developments I just reported on are very pertinent to the ongoing discussions about blue economy and the development of a sustainable oceans based economy. And in this regard the Division looks forward to the active participation of Member States of the Nairobi Convention in the meetings of the Regular Process in September and in the newly established Preparatory Committee on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

R. Statement from the FAO

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

We have noted with interest and satisfaction the progress made in the business of the Nairobi Convention and also extremely happy to see elements of fisheries and living marine resources in the Work Programme of the Convention. There are significant synergies between FAO's work in the Western Indian Ocean region, the Work Programme of the Convention and that of the Convention's other partners. In particular, I would like to recall the activities of the following projects that FAO is either implementing or is a partner of: EAF-Nansen, Smartfish, and the Deep Sea Fisheries project which is a component of the ABNJ (Areas beyond National Jurisdiction) programme. There are also IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. In the Partnerships and the Science to Policy workshops participants were informed about the work of the EAF-Nansen, the important data and information that are available through the project and in particular the elements of the new phase of the project which is being expanded to include many issues that are of relevance to the Work Programme of the Convention. Pollution, oil and gas and climate variability and change are notable examples.

These FAO projects and programmes will continue to collaborate with the Nairobi Convention as much as possible.
Thank you Chairman

IV: ADOPTED DECISIONS FOR COP 8

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 (Nairobi Convention),

Noting with appreciation the Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the efforts of the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties to implement the Work Programme for 2013 to 2017;

Noting the need to strengthen and optimize the Secretariat functions and coordination; and delivery of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and programmes of work;

Noting the ongoing process by the Contracting Parties and partners in the development of a protocol on integrated coastal zone management, the difficulties experienced in the definition, principles, frameworks and resource constraints that is delaying the conclusion of the process;

Recognizing the existence of other conventions and acknowledging their work which contributes to the protection and conservation of the marine environment;

Noting also the outcomes of various global and regional meetings and processes, including the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment held in Cairo, 2-6 March 2015, Agenda 2063, Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050, the progress in the Development of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the outcomes of the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 12th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/292 on development of an instrument on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

Acknowledging the adoption of the Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (Amended Nairobi Convention) and the Protocol for the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol) during the sixth Conference of Parties as well as subsequent efforts to ratify and implement the Amended Convention and Protocol and lauding Mozambique for ratifying the LBSA Protocol;

Recalling also past decisions of the Contracting Parties endorsing ecosystem approaches to coastal and marine management; in particular CP5/2 on protection of ecosystems and endangered species, CP5/3 on assessment and

monitoring activities and CP7/6 on Small Island Developing States, and in this regard appreciating the progress made in advancing ecosystem based marine and coastal management approaches;

Noting the work of the Convention for Biological Diversity in the identification and description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas as a tool for ecosystem-based management and establishment of areas that are important for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Western Indian Ocean Region;

Aware of the potential for economic growth from oil and gas as well as the need for regional and national environmental safeguards;

Noting the progress made in the advancement of the blue or ocean economy pathways by the Contracting Parties,

Recognizing the work of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on blue economy and the outcome of the meeting held in Madagascar on 3-5 March 2015, on the theme “harnessing the blue economy for the development of Eastern Africa.”

Acknowledging the collaboration of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, national governments and partners in the preparation of the State of Coast Report as a contribution to the World Oceans Assessment and other assessment processes;

Taking note of the information on the status of endangered species contained in the State of Coast Report, and other reports, as a basis for updating the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region;

Recalling decision CP.1/5 on financial matters approving the financial rules for the management of the Eastern African Trust Fund as provided for under Article 21 of the Nairobi Convention;

Acknowledging the work of Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, World Wide Fund for Nature, Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Indian Ocean Commission, the Wildlife Conservation Society, GRID-Arendal, the Governments of Sweden and Norway and other partners in the development and implementation of the work of the Convention and in the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the West Indian Ocean Region;

Acknowledging the work, financial and technical contributions made by the partners in supporting the Contracting Parties to develop and implement programmes and activities;

Appreciating the continued support provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Nairobi Convention;

Decide

Decision CP8/1: Preparation of a New Work Programme for the Nairobi Convention, 2018-2022

To *request* the Secretariat in the remaining period of work programme for 2013-2017, to develop a new Work Programme for the period 2018-2022 for adoption at the Ninth Conference of Parties;

To *request the* Secretariat to take note of the outcomes of the ongoing Post 2015 Development Agenda process and the expected Sustainable Development Goals, and incorporate the relevant outcomes into the new work programme for 2018-2022, especially those relating to sustainable management of marine and coastal environment.

Decision CP8/2: Ratification, Accession and Implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities

To *urge* Contracting Parties that have not ratified or acceded to the Amended Nairobi Convention to expedite the process of ratification or accession;

To *urge* Contracting Parties to develop policies, make laws and standards as well as implement programmes in compliance with the Protocol on LBSA;

To *urge* Contracting Parties, with the support of partners, to implement their action programmes on waste water in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Decision CP8/3: Development of a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management

To *request* the Secretariat to review the current status of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners and facilitate discussions to explore other possible options for the effective management of marine and coastal environment and report back on the options at or before the next conference of parties.

Decision CP8/4: Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora Eastern African Region

To request the Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Secretariat and implementing partners to finalize the review of the protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes; and report back on the progress at the Ninth Conference of Parties.

Decision CP8/5: Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050

To *urge* Contracting Parties to implement the Cairo Declaration of the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters and inform on progress at AMCEN sessions;

To *request* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Jeddah Convention, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to contribute to the development of an African strategy on ocean governance in the context of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063.

Decision CP8/6: Support to Implementation of Projects

1. To *request* Contracting Parties, the Global Environment Facility and other partners, as appropriate, to support projects on:

Transboundary marine protected area between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania as an example of a cross-border management system of marine protected areas,

Northern Mozambique Channel as a good example of integrated ocean management approach,

Partnerships for Implementing the Western Indian Ocean-Strategic Action Programme financed by the Global Environmental Facility,

Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the areas beyond national jurisdiction by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Conservation and sustainable exploitation of seamount and hydrothermal vent ecosystems of the South West Indian Ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction and collaborate in the management of activities in their adjacent waters by International Union for Conservation of Nature,

Guiding environmental management in the context of a rapidly developing oil and gas industry in the Western Indian Ocean Region by GRID-Arendal,

And *request* implementing partners to report on the progress on or before the next Conference of Parties;

To *urge* the Contracting Parties, with the support from partners, to develop and implement new transboundary initiatives for management of shared resources.

Decision CP8/7: Environment Management for Oil and Gas development

To *request* the Secretariat to prepare regional guidelines on environmental management for oil and gas development, based on best practices, for consideration by the Contracting Parties at the next session;

To *urge* Contracting Parties to seek support of other countries and partners involved in oil and gas development such as GRID-Arendal, to conduct and implement a regionally coordinated strategic environmental assessment, of social and environmental sustainability of oil and gas in the Western Indian Ocean Region;

To *request* Contracting Parties, with support of United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, to explore the development of Western Indian Ocean regional compliance monitoring initiatives for oil and gas.

Decision CP8/8: *Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation*

To *request* the Secretariat to expedite the finalisation of the climate change strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area and circulate the draft strategy for comments by the Contracting Parties by 30 September 2015 and further urge the Contracting Parties to submit their comments by 30 November 2015 for adoption by the Bureau by 31st December 2015;

To *urge* Contracting Parties to integrate relevant recommendations of the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area into their national climate change strategies and develop policies, programmes and projects on climatic variability and climate change.

Decision CP8/9: *Threatened and Endangered Marine Species*

To *urge* the Secretariat, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, to finalize the Regional Status Report on Sharks and Rays in the Western Indian Ocean and circulate the report to all Contracting Parties for review and submit the final report with findings for consideration at the next Conference of Parties;

To *urge* the Contracting Parties to build partnerships with partners to strengthen the enforcement capacity for reducing or eliminating illegal exploitation and trade in threatened and endangered marine species;

To *urge* Contracting Parties to effectively implement the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia, enhance marine turtle conservation and establish sites of importance for marine turtles in the Western Indian Ocean.

Decision CP8/10: *Blue and Ocean Economy*

To *urge* Contracting Parties to apply blue or ocean economy approaches as pathways for sustained economic growth, food security, poverty eradication, job creation and environmental sustainability;

To *welcome* blue and ocean economy initiatives undertaken by Seychelles with blue economy, Mauritius with ocean economy and South Africa with ocean economy Operation Phakisa and to encourage other Contracting Parties to consider developing and implementing similar initiatives, as appropriate;

To *invite* the Contracting Parties to consider for implementation, as appropriate, the key messages and action points agreed at the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on the Blue Economy held in Antananarivo 2-5 March 2015;

To *urge* Contracting Parties to cooperate in improving the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction, building on existing regional institutions including the Nairobi Convention and developing area based management tools such as marine spatial planning to promote the blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Decision CP8/11: *National and Regional State of Coast Reports*

To *urge* Contracting Parties to consider the findings of the Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region in their decision-making processes;

To *welcome* the national reports presented by the Contracting Parties and to *request* Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Article 17 and 23 of the Convention, to prepare national state of coast reports periodically, as a contribution to the Regional state of coast report;

To *request* the Secretariat, jointly with the Contracting Parties, to prepare a Regional State of Coast Report every five years for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Decision CP8/12: *Establishment of a Platform for Science to Policy Dialogue*

To *urge* Contracting Parties to promote science to policy interface in order to enhance informed decision making;

To *agree* to establish a dialogue platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and action and to mandate the forum of the Heads of National Academic and Research Institutions to act as the technical and advisory body of the platform;

To *request* the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop terms of reference, mode of operation and composition of the platform and transmit them to the Contracting Parties for subsequent approval by the Bureau.

Decision CP8/13: *Enhancing Cooperation, Collaboration and Support with Partners*

To *urge* Contracting Parties, with support of the Secretariat, to continue engaging and cooperating with existing partners for the development and implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties and the work programme of the Nairobi Convention;

To *agree* to establish additional partnerships, including with regional economic communities, such as the East Africa Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Southern Africa Development Community, Indian Ocean Commission and United Nations agencies; Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, South West Indian Fisheries Commission on sustainable fisheries management; West Indian Ocean Challenge on matters of environmental assessment, Food and Agricultural Organisation, Convention on Migratory Species and CITES on conservation and trade of sharks and rays; ecologically or biologically significant marine areas as well as sustainable ocean initiative on capacity building of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

To *invite* all Contracting Parties and request the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and other partners on capacity building, implementation and sharing of experiences on integrated marine spatial planning in support of blue economy;

To *request* the Secretariat to establish a partnership with United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action on matters of marine litter, waste and waste water for the West Indian Ocean Region and to report to the Conference of Parties at the next session;

To *encourage* collaboration and communication between Contracting Parties and civil society, private sector, non-governmental organisations, local governments and municipal authorities in the implementation of the work programme of Nairobi Convention for increased impact and commitment so as to harness the benefits of synergies and collaboration, such as in the work of the coral reef task force of the Nairobi Convention in 2015-2016 in preparing the regional status of coral reef report for the Western Indian Ocean;

To *agree* to promote joint programming between Contracting Parties, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNECA, partners, civil society and private sector for implementation of priority areas and mobilisation of resources;

To *request* Contracting Parties to partner with the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean for increased science based information sharing.

Decision CP8/14: Strengthening the Operational Functioning of the Secretariat

To *urge* Contracting Parties to take note of the report on optimizing secretariat functions, coordination and delivery of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and programme of work;

To *request* the Secretariat to prepare and circulate to the Contracting Parties by 31 December 2015, an analysis of the report on the strengthening the operational functioning of the secretariat, including, inter alia, the financial implications of the options contained in the report, proposals for secondment of staff by contracting parties and partners, proposals for utilizing the existing capacities of national institutions to advance the work of the Convention, and to submit the report to the next Conference of Parties;

To *request* the Secretariat, in the immediate term, to approach Contracting Parties and other partners, in a position to do so, to support the effective implementation of the Nairobi Convention programme of work by, inter alia, providing staff and staffing resources within the provisions of the UN regulations.

Decision CP8/15: Financial matters

To *commend* the Contracting Parties who have made their assessed contributions to the Trust Fund and to urge all Contracting Parties to continue to make their contributions in a timely manner;

To *request* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, for approval by the Bureau, a framework of options for settlement of arrears and to further urge Contracting Parties that are in arrears to use this framework to communicate their preferred settlement plan to the Secretariat;

To *request* the Secretariat to prepare a status report on the progress in the settlement of arrears by the Contracting Parties every six months and present the report to the Bureau;

To *request* Contracting Parties and partners in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions into the QAW trust fund¹ to support effective implementation of the work programme of the Convention;

To *request* the Secretariat to present at the next Conference of Parties a proposal on how to enhance the effectiveness of the QAW trust fund and reporting on its progress and status;

To *request* the Secretariat to prepare updated Financial Procedures to the Nairobi Convention, taking into account the UN financial regulations and to present the proposal at the next conference of parties.

¹QAW is reference given to a trust fund created by UNEP to receive voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and other partners in support of the programme of work for Nairobi Convention