

## Establishment of Marine Transboundary Conservation Areas in WIO: From the Theory to Practice

Arthur Tuda *et al.*

WIOMSA

### Abstract

Transboundary conservation areas (TBCAs) are important spatial management strategies to protect ecosystems and ecological processes that often transcend national jurisdictions. TBCAs have been implemented to protect ecosystems, resources, and animal migrations that are either shared or occur in at least two countries. TBCAs, which have also been referred to as “peace parks” in certain contexts, have also been implemented to resolve territorial and boundary disputes among neighbouring countries. Whilst TBCAs offer a good solution to protect and manage shared or disputed areas, they also tend to be more difficult to plan and manage, because of the differences in the governance contexts in the countries involved. Moreover, it is also important to evaluate the governance context of potential TBCAs to identify barriers and pathways to planning and management. Understanding the governance context will also assist in designing management zones, developing shared management plans, and increasing cooperation amongst stakeholders and countries that are part of the TBCA. The paper outlines three scenarios that can support planning and implementation of TBCA. First, is a transboundary scenario that will develop a conservation plan that will have contiguous management zones across the Kenya and Tanzanian border to protect the entire extent and distribution of ecosystems and ecological process. The second scenario is pseudo-transboundary conservation; whereby contiguous management zones will be developed across the shared border but will require two separate plans and corresponding institutional arrangements and common policies and practices across both countries. Third is a decentralised scenario, where the planning and implementation of the TBCA is based on the lowest possible governance units (e.g., county, district) in the respective countries.

It is recommended that;

- Both governments to support the conservation planning exercises to be organised and led by WIOMSA by endorsing the planning process at all government levels
- Both governments to commit to achieving consensus when identifying the conservation and management objectives.
- Both governments to commit to carefully consider the suggested conservation plans, and will collectively and cooperatively decide on the best scenario to adopt for implementation.
- Both governments to support the development of the necessary policy frameworks and institutional arrangements, based on the agreed upon conservation plan.

*(Supported by the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania, Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA and other partners)*