CATALYSING A COMMON BLUE FUTURE IN THE WIO:

DEVELOPING A TRANSFORMATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVE TO CATALYSE AMBITION, ENHANCE
SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESLIENCE AND UNLOCK THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BLUE ECONOMY

Virtual Workshop 2, 11ᵗʰ May 2021, 11am to 5pm (EAT)

Meeting Report

Participants

Nairobi Convention Secretariat:	Tim Andrew, David Ouma, Evans Muthoka, Nathan Ouma, Rose Machaku
WIOMSA:	Arthur Tuda
WWF NMCi:	Santatra Razafindratsimba, Harifidy Ralison, Dresy Lovasoa
WWF DE:	Gabriel Odin
WWF International:	Sam Petersen
IUCN:	Thomas Sberna, Peter Manyara
Wetlands International:	Lilian Nyaega
GIZ:	Carol Mutiso, Yvonne Waweru, Robin Farrington
Conservation International	Jessica Donovan, Robert McNeil
Collective Leadership Institute	Dominic Stucker

About

The workshop took place on 11 May 2021 under the theme "*Catalysing a Common Blue Future in the WIO: Envisioning a Transformational Multi-Stakeholder Initiative to Catalyse Ambition, Enhance Socio-ecological Resilience and Unlock the Development of a Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean".* It brought together 20 participants from ten organizations from the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

The workshop was built on the first workshop held on the 21st of April 2021 that started a multi-stakeholder dialogue on co-creating a Multi-stakeholder Initiative (MSI) for the development of a sustainable blue economy and socio-ecological resilience in the WIO. It was designed with a focus on building consensus on issues that emerged from the first workshop and agreeing on concrete actions, responsibilities, working set up and next steps for developing the MSI.

This document has been developed by the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) team as a summary of the main conclusions from the workshop.

<u>**Objectives of the Workshop**</u>

The objectives of the workshop were to:

    a) Build consensus on a draft **purpose** and **functions** of the MSI
    b) Agree on **success factors** and **principles** for the co-creation of the MSI
    c) Agree on key **Action Areas** and organised ourselves into **Task Teams**
    d) Develop a short-term **road map** and agreed **next steps**

<u>**Opening**</u>

Robin Farrington (GIZ) opened the workshop and welcomed new participants. He highlighted that the workshop was designed to delve deeper into the discussions of the first MSI workshop with a view to agree on how participating organizations would engage each other, the structure for the MSI and how to link it to other regional, national and local engagements.

Tim Andrew (Nairobi Convention Secretariat) moderated a session on personal reflections from the last workshop. He highlighted that governance processes should develop in a manner that brings together different views of different stakeholders. He stated that the second MSI workshop provided an avenue to further brainstorm towards an end point: how different stakeholders will be mobilized and the step wise process to achieve this to manage the process without bringing too many stakeholders all at once. The participants were informed of a recent meeting between the Nairobi Convention, Africa Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C) on ocean governance. In this regard, the MSI could be a potential mechanism to bring a wider stakeholder base on ocean governance and the involvement of the RECS who are interested in Blue Economy. The key question would be how the MSI can contribute to other processes that different organizations are involved in, for example, the proposed Blue Economy Platform under the Nairobi Convention, engagement on ocean governance with the Regional Economic Bodies (RECs) and the WIO Alliance for Mangroves. The MSI offers an opportunity to break organizational silos to achieve the anticipated objectives.

Participants expressed their desire to maintain the momentum for the MSI stating that it has great potential to deliver on blue economy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the WIO.

The working sessions commenced after a recap of the key highlights of the first workshop by GIZ.

Minutes

A. **Starting to define the MSI and Consensus Building**

The session was facilitated by Thomas Sberna (IUCN) and focused on starting to define a draft overarching purpose (high-level objective) and priority broad functions of the MSI. Two breakout groups held discussions and presented their results were as follows:

Group	Draft high-level objective / purpose	Draft functions
Group 1- "Our Blue Future" (Facilitator: Dominic Stucker)	An inclusive, diverse, and African-led collaboration ecosystem that catalyses innovative regional and national partnerships, dialogues, and collective action to pursue shared aspirations for a sustainable blue future for a prosperous and healthy Western Indian Ocean region for all... that helps revitalize the economy and local communities, ensure social equity, protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity, and mitigate climate change while building back from the Covid pandemic by leveraging our respective expertise, networks, and resources.	Provide a mechanism and process for multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership to: o leverage investments for a sustainable blue economy o encourage everyone to be a steward and work collectively o support actions to increase climate and ocean resilience and conserve biodiversity o share information and good practice o build necessary technical and collaboration capacity throughout
Group 2 (Facilitated by Thomas Sberna IUCN)	The discussions were modelled around the Green Green Wall, a pan-African initiative working together with multiple stakeholders including governments, civil society organizations and private sector to restore tackle poverty, desertification and land	- MSI to clearly respond to the economic, climate and biodiversity crisis - MSI to have economic, social and environmental targets

	degradation in the Sahel Region in 11 countries.
	
	Objectives of MSI
	High Level Goals, by 2030:
	  1. Create 10 Million Blue jobs
	  2. Climate Action (carbon sequestration from conserved/restored ecosytems, e.g. 300MT CO2e
	  3. Conserve biodiversity (mangroves, coastal and marine areas), e,g conserve and protect 2 million km2 of marine and coastal ecosystems
	
	Modus Operandi – overall objective
	Establish a network of sustainable, inclusive and productive seascapes in the WIO
	
	Specific Objectives:
	  1. Support the development of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy - Support blue entrepreneurship and value chains
	  2. Achieve net positive effect for nature by 2030 e.g zero net loss, or positive gain, for blue critical ecosystems (e.g. mangroves, corals, seagrasses…)
	  3. Achieve SDG 14 targets (or post-2020 ocean conservation taget, i.e. 30x30)
	  4. Possibility to also include objectives related to fisheresi (e.g.
		- Local coastal populations must be the key beneficiaries of the MSI as they are the most vulnerable
		- MSI should establish regional catalytic conditions to accelerate actions on the ground by also supporting on the seascape level initiatives (and in that sense, should build also on existing initiatives).

	stop fisheries collapse) and marine plastics (e.g. eliminate marine plastic pollution)	

Other issues that were highlighted at plenary were as highlighted below:

1. The need for meaningful engagement of the private sector is an important success factor for the MSI.
2. It is necessary to clearly define the structure of the MSI and its relationship with other initiatives in the region.
3. While concrete targets can likely only be set once the right partners are on board, the partners felt that it was important to already be able to communicate on high level objectives to keep up the momentum and then organically develop more concrete targets. It was also discussed that these will probably evolve themselves as new partners come on board

B. Key success factors and principles for MSI Co-creation and Consensus Building

The session was facilitated by Harifidy O. Ralison under which two breakout groups exchanged on external success factors and internal working principles for the preparatory phase of the MSI. The groups reported back on their findings as follows:

Group 1: External Success Factors for the Preparatory Phase of MSI (facilitated by Jessica Donovan-WCS)

The discussion highlighted the key external success factors for the preparatory phase of the MSI as:
  1. Clear shared broad vision as a group to explain to others, that can be later refined
  2. Ability to adapt or adjust as others come on board – not seen as rigid process
  3. Thorough understanding of challenges and priorities of others to tailor engagement and address a "gap"
  4. Articulating very clear need that resonates across the aspirations of multiple stakeholder groups – Put a positive spin on it… the opportunity and not just the risks (climate, food insecurity etc)
  5. Target/attract early/initial "champions" from other (non-NGO) stakeholder groups that can help form process from early on – i.e. "big hitters" to attract attention and engage at the highest levels; mobilise leadership from within and outside of government.
  6. Get a mandate for the group from governments via Nairobi Convention CoP
  7. Creating new catchy theme or name that people can easily subscribe to – that goes beyond what has been previously said (i.e. *our blue future*)
  8. Providing opportunities for good Public Relations (PR) at an early stage to hook people in, and creating the multiplier effect – where the whole is greater than the sum of all parts
  9. Keep it simple, especially early on… e.g. some simple aspirations all can work towards
  10. Alternative path to a common vision – clever marketing of "unique selling points"

Group 2: Internal Principles

The group discussion on internal principles facilitated by Dominic Stucker used an online pinboard and the Collective Leadership Compass tool to co-develop a chart for the internal principles that should be taken into consideration by all stakeholders during the preparatory phase of the MSI. This is outlined in the table below:

Compass dimension	Proposed principles
Future possibilities (human competence to take responsibility and shape reality towards a sustainable future)	- Clear workplan with measurable and tangible actions - Time management and proper planning - Clear structured roles and responsibilities among members. This is maximize the utilisation of various competencies of MSI members - Focus on overall goal and objective - Clear goals of the MSI
Engagement (human competence to create step by step engagement for effective and meaningful collaboration)	- Include a diversity of actors - Be action oriented - Engagement rules - Collective action and commitment - Action-oriented
Innovation (human competence to foster creativity)	- Find innovative solutions together - Be open minded - Use available technologies
Humanity (accessing our humanity in ourselves and in others, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, cultivating reflection)	- Build trust and relationships - Build on successes and appreciative approach - Transparency and accountability. Maintain transparency through regular meetings - Open communication
Collective intelligence (inviting diverse perspectives, experiences, and viewpoints for better solutions, fostering structured dialogue, valuing contributions and ensuring iterative learning)	- Draw on diverse competencies of participants - Be humble to find solutions together - Time management and consensus - Proper communication mechanisms which is coordinated towards governments and externals
Wholeness (competence to see a larger picture and stay connected to the common good by opening up to seeing the bigger picture of a situation)	- Be pragmatic and build on existing initiatives - Focus on bigger picture - Clear understanding of complementary among the partners.

Other issues that emerged at the reporting back plenary are as follows:

- The discussions from the two MSI workshops should be taken as early stage conversations that create the basis of a broad concept for collaboration of participating organizations.
- The journey for collaboration, co-visioning and co-creating the MSI should be translated into a zero draft concept to highlight key roles of each organization and its contributions, and used to invite other key actors and groups from government and the private sector.
- SDG 17 'strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development' could be considered as the mandate for MSI

C. Agreeing on Action Areas and Task Teams and develop Roadmap and Milestones

Participants discussed and identified five key Action Areas that are of high priority for the preparation phase of the MSI and volunteered their involvement in five Task Teams as appropriate. At the breakout sessions, task teams developed a roadmap and milestones for the next three months. The Action Areas and Master Roadmap are presented below:

Action Areas

	Action Area	Task Team	Broad Description
1.	MSI organizational development (Content, process and architecture of the MSI	Task Team 1	Developing a draft zero concept - Benchmarking with other existing initiatives - Coordination between different actors - Identifying a suitable host - Assessment of capacity needs (collaboration, cross sectoral working capacity etc)
2.	Outreach (Stakeholder engagement for champions)	Task Team 2	Communication to invite other key stakeholders for discussions and support on the MSI
3.	Resource Mobilization	Task Team 3	Securing high level support –fundraising
4.	Identifying and developing opportunities on the ground for partnerships	Task Team 4	Creating momentum on different target groups for more action
5.	Communication	Task Team 5	Developing Communication materials and key messages

Draft Roadmap and Milestones

Task Team 1 Organizational development – process architecture, developing fundamental elements and coordination		Volunteers	Deadline
1.	Consolidate outputs from 2 workshops into <u>provisional</u> broad vision, high-level objective and set of functions - concept. Consolidate principles of collaboration (embryonic governance) and "external" success factors	Fidy (WWF NMCi) Robin (WIOGI) Dominic (CLI)	20/05/2021
2.	Sketch out rough phases of entire development of the MSI – overarching roadmap with major milestones		31/05/2021
3.	Consolidating "master roadmap" for the preparatory phase with milestones to help support planning, coordination and progress monitoring of the different task teams		(10/06/2021 – requires inputs of other task teams)
4.	Plan roles, responsibilities, resources and commitments to ensure processes are implemented (e.g. secure communications support for the presentation of messages)		15/06/2021
5.	Develop appropriate coordination mechanism, decision making structure and operating rhythm (tools, internal communication channels + regular interactions)		30/6/2021
6.	Undertake capacity assessment – what capacities are needed to develop the MSI? Are capacities for collaboration sufficient? What capacity development measures need to be put in place, and what skills need to be externally sourced?		Could Collective Leadership Institute assume this role as an independent body? Link NCS work on capacities in the region)
Task Team 2 Outreach (Stakeholder engagement for champions)		Volunteers	Deadlines
1.	Map out **key** (criteria for selection of Key stakeholders) stakeholders that could be invited to join	Tim (NCS) Drewsy (WWF NMCi) Peter (IUCN)	
2.	Prepare communication for potential stakeholders (under #5), communicate		

	with Action area 5 regarding reaching out to potential stakeholders	Lilian (Wetlands International) Thomas (IUCN)	
3.	Report back to core group prior to extending invitation to other key stakeholders.		
4.	Prepare an outreach strategy Representation of key stakeholders e.g. govts, private sector, local communities - Expanding the diversity of the core team - Raising profile about the MSI, gain more momentum within the region		
5.	Identifying potential champions for the MSI at different levels. (e.g. heads of state, NC parties, etc)		
6.	Webinars with key stakeholder groups in a step wise sector by sector approach.		
7.	Map out a process towards a supporting decision at the 10th COP of the Nairobi Convention		
Task Team 3	**Resource Mobilization**	Volunteers	Deadlines
1.	Map existing resources among represented organizations	Arthur (WIOMSA) Thomas (IUCN)	
2.	Securing high-level ambassador to be the face and convener of the MSI (e.gl President James Michel)		
3.	Organise key events to raise the profile of the initiative and use these as a way to attract support		
4.	Secure anchors private sector partners to raise the profile of the initiative as a way to leverage private investment into the blue economy in the region		
5.	Present the initiative to the RECs to secure their support and work with them in attracting key Ministries others than Environment.		
6.	Scoping of actions the respective organizations can address		
Task Team 4		**Volunteers**	**Deadlines**

Identifying and developing opportunities on the ground for partnerships			
		Gabriel (WWF DE) Carol (WIOGI)	
Task Team 5 Communication		**Volunteers**	**Deadline**
1.	Develop attractive phrase and name for MSI together with all	Yvonne (WIOGI) Thomas (IUCN)	2 months
2.	Short video on MSI inviting others – potentially presented as a call to join a movement		12 months
3.	Logo (use organizational logos?)		12 months
4.	Develop Communication Strategy e.g Social Media -once concept is agreed on		12 months

D. Overlaps and synergies in roadmap; coordination mechanisms

After discussion in plenary, it was agreed that it was more efficient to have two tasks teams as there were several overlaps in the Action Areas. The following proposals were made:

a) Action Area 1 - MSI organizational development (Content, process and architecture of the MSI) and Action Area 5 (Communication) to be merged with subgroups created as appropriate;
b) Action Area 2 - Outreach (Stakeholder engagement for champions) and Action Area 3 (Resource Mobilization) to be merged with subgroups created as appropriate;
c) Action Area 4 (Identifying and developing opportunities on the ground for partnerships) to be put on hold for the preparatory phase and be taken up at a later stage.

Participants agreed on the roles and responsibilities for the two task teams as follows:

Task Team [1]	Coordinator
Action Area 1 (MSI organizational development (Content, process and architecture of the MSI) and **Action Area 5** (Communication)	- WIOGI (GIZ and Nairobi Convention Secretariat) - (CLI-facilitation/co-ordination)
Action Area 2 Outreach (Stakeholder engagement for champions) and **Action Area 3** (Resource Mobilization)	- IUCN and Nairobi Convention Secretariat to coordinate

[1] Specific members as per Roadmap

	- WIOMSA and WWF NMCi to play a participatory role

*WWF Germany stated that it would clarify its role after the meeting

E. Immediate next steps, responsibilities and timelines

1. The WIOGI team to finalize meeting report and consolidate the Master Roadmap (as above) and share with participants

2. Collective Leadership Institute to send questionnaire (based on the Collective Leadership Compass) to participants

3. Task teams to meet before the next meeting to develop more detailed roadmap based on the draft master roadmap

4. Thomas (IUCN) to find more details on upcoming EU funding on Blue Economy and provide an update at the next meeting

F. Closing

Thomas Sberna (IUCN) closed the meeting and requested participants to maintain the momentum. The next meeting shall be held on 15th June 2021