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Area Based Planning Tools and Regional Cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean Meeting

Mahe, Seychelles 13 -14 October 2016

AREA BASED PLANNING TOOLS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MEETING, HELD AT MAHE, SEYCHELLES, 13-14 OCTOBER 2016

Report of the Meeting

A. Introduction

1. The meeting on Area Based Planning Tools and Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was held in Mahe, Seychelles on 13-14 October 2016 by the Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean region in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) as part of the implementation of the project on Sustainable fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). The session of the workshop that dealt with regional cooperation was organized by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in collaboration with Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
2. The Area Based Planning Tools meeting was held back to back with the meeting on the Partnership on Science to Policy Forum and was attended by 50 participants including the Focal Points of the Nairobi Convention, representatives of research institutions and universities, regional partners and non-governmental organisations.

B. Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was called to order by the Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Mr. Dixon Waruinge, who gave a brief opening statement noting that the meeting was a follow up to Decision CP8/10, urging the Contracting Parties to cooperate in improving the governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Mr. Waruinge stated that the meeting had been organized in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC as

part of the implementation of the project on Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in ABNJ.

4. Mr. Waruinge noted that the objective of the meeting was to test the applicability of area-based planning tools to ABNJ and to share lessons learned from regional experiences. He explained that the workshop would also discuss regional cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean pursuant to Decision CP8/1.2 that requested the Secretariat to take note of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and incorporate the relevant outcomes into the new work programme for 2018 – 2022. The objective of the regional cooperation session was to discuss available options to support regional and national actions in the implementation of SDGs with specific reference to SDG 14 on the marine and coastal environment.
5. In accordance with established practice the Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention, Seychelles, represented by the Chief Executive Officer of Seychelles National Parks Authority, Mr. Flavien Joubert chaired the meeting. Mr. Joubert gave brief opening remarks congratulating UNEP, the Nairobi Convention and partners for organizing the workshop. He noted that the workshop brought together diverse organizations with a diverse array of skills sets and different mechanisms in Area Based Planning. Mr. Joubert stated that the Government of Seychelles was particularly interested in Area Based Planning of adjacent waters because of the Joint Management Area Project that Seychelles is involved in together with Mauritius. The Chair wished the participants fruitful deliberations and hoped that participants would make use of the experiences shared in the workshops to demonstrate good practice in Areas Based Planning in their respective countries.

C. Organizational Matters: The Agenda

6. The chair led the meeting through the provisional agenda which was adopted by the meeting.

D. Session One: ABNJ Ocean Governance frameworks in Western Indian Ocean

i. *Aims and Objectives of the Workshop*

7. *Representative, WCMC*, noted that the objectives of the workshop were to present the current progress of the ABNJ Project and to provide an opportunity for the workshop participants to give feedback and ask questions to shape the course of the Project; to share experiences on Capacity in area-based planning (strengths and needs), and to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of regional engagements to support action towards attaining the SDGs.
8. She gave a brief overview of the project ‘*Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions*’. The 5-year project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and jointly implemented by FAO and UNEP with FAO being the lead implementing agency. The presenter noted that the project has 4 components related to i) improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems, ii) protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and iii) practicing improved area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems. Of relevance to the WIO region will be Component 4 which seeks to “Develop and test a methodology for area-based planning” (in the South East Pacific and the WIO Region) to demonstrate how ocean planning in ABNJ could become cross-sectoral, for instance in fisheries, mining, shipping and cable laying.
9. In the institutional mapping study under Component 4 that the deep-sea project is undertaking, the detailed benefits discussed by the presenter include: the development of Area-Based Planning knowledge and tool in ABNJ; developing capacity for engagement in area based planning processes; supporting countries in the pilot region in meeting long term development objectives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals through provision of cross sectoral and regional support; helping generate understanding of what area-based planning means in the context of the specific characteristics of each region; consideration of transboundary benefits of ABNJ planning; and fostering greater transparency and understanding of the current ABNJ situation.

ii. *Marine spatial planning with Stakeholders: challenges and solutions*

10. *Representative, L’Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)* intervention was based on the question “Is marine spatial planning (MSP) with stakeholders in clear or troubled waters?” The presenter discussed

the need for MSP, the definition of MSP (why MSP should be transparent, how MSP is a science based political process and the “who” of MSP, that is, the stakeholders). The presenter discussed the ideal of MSP as it should be and the reality of MSP (Is MSP in the region transparent? Does it take into account the stakeholders perceptions? Who are the MSP stakeholders in the region, how is MSP made operational?). The presenter focused on the Mozalink Project as an MSP Case Study. Mozalink project is funded by WIOMSA through its Marine and Coastal Science for Management programme (2014-2017) and is being implemented by a number of partners in the sub-region to link marine science, traditional knowledge and cultural perceptions of the sea in the Mozambique Channel to build tomorrow’s marine management using spatial simulation tools and educational games. The presenter finally discussed a tool/platform that the Mozalink project has developed - which uses maps and social media- to support MSP.

iii. Spatial Data Infrastructure, Services and Solutions to support marine management:

11. *CEO, GEOMATYS* delivered a presentation titled *SDI Services and Solutions for Marine Applications* stating that an SDI is a distributed geographical information system that uses standard services to provide interoperability between several actors across different countries. The presenter outlined the need for an SDI, how SDIs can be used in MSP (to produce electronic nautical charts, for real time vessel tracking, oceanographic data management, taxonomy index management and for distribution); the services provided by SDI tools and the benefits of SDIs.

iv. Area based Planning tools including Economic Valuation tools for MSP

12. *Chief, Ecosystem Services Economics Unit, Division of Environment Programme Implementation, (UNEP)* gave a presentation on the importance of valuation and accounting of natural capital in Marine Spatial Planning. He discussed the work that Ecosystem Unit is doing in the Valuation and Accounting of Natural Capital for Green Economy (VANTAGE) Programme and how this can be extended to the MSP arena. The talk covered the importance of an economic approach to ecosystems management, how valuation of natural capital is done; the lessons learnt from the VANTAGE Programme, and what how to use economic valuation appropriately.

v. ABNJ Governance in the WIO – possible scenarios.

13. *Representative, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)* presentation focused on the approaches that are being used to mitigate the threats and pressures on the ABNJ. These include: global approaches (the establishment of the Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Working Group in 2004; the opening of negotiation on BBNJs in 2016; and regional approaches (regional initiatives, Marine Protected Areas, fisheries closures). The presenter looked at the WIO situation in terms of the diverse activities carried out in the high seas, the multiple actors involved in conservation or usage of marine biodiversity and the lack of a strategy to manage the high seas. She outlined the working paper that IDDRI and IUCN developed on *Developing Area Based Management Tools in areas beyond national jurisdiction: Possible options for the Western Indian Ocean* which describes the approaches used in the WIO region and the lessons learnt from the regional initiatives. The presenter talked about the way forward for managing ABNJs, discussing recent developments in the area based planning arena and the 2017 activities of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) project.

vi. Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean

14. *Representative, UNEP-WCMC* presentation was pre-recorded and delivered via audio link to the workshop. The presenter presented the findings of a study titled *Governance of ABNJ for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, Institutional Mapping and Cross Sectoral Cooperation* in two regions; the South East Pacific and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). She outlined the background and objective of the study, the work carried out during the study, and the methodology used in the study. The presenter then covered the governance frameworks for ABNJ from a global perspective (UNCLOS and the ocean uses as well as examples of institutions related to ABNJs) and from the WIO region perspective (IOC, IOTC, Nairobi Convention, SWIOFC, SIODFA etc.). The presenter discussed key observations for the WIO, cooperation mechanisms and challenges associated with strengthening cooperation and identified elements of a potential future regional initiative for testing Area-Based Planning (ABP) tools in the WIO. The presenter concluded her talk on the need for creating opportunities for future cross-sectoral cooperation in ABP approaches.

vii. MSP application in the WIO region, Tools and their applicability

15. *Representative, CSIR, South Africa* presentation focused on the *Western Indian Ocean Approach for Incorporating Marine Spatial Planning in the Blue Economy*. He discussed the study that the Nairobi Convention has requested WIOMSA to carry out on the blue economy with the objective of surveying the ascendance of the “blue” or “ocean” economy in the WIO; elaborating on the relationship between the blue economy and MSP, integrated coastal management and others; reporting on the implementation and use of MSP in the WIO; regional, national and sub-national scaling of MSP, and integration with other management and planning process and policy drivers; making recommendations for the development of a project for the incremental implementation of projects and initiatives to coordinate MSP, share learning and experience and build capacity. The presenter discussed the existing policy frameworks/documents guiding Blue Economy implementation and in particular MSP. He also discussed examples of countries in the region that are advancing Blue/Ocean Economy and MSP initiatives in the WIO: South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles. The presenter concluded his presentation by providing initial recommendations on MSP and the Blue Economy.

viii. Connectivity and Transboundary Interactions-

16. *Representative, UNEP-WCMC* delivered a presentation on Marine Ecological and Physical Connectivity and its importance for marine planning processes. The presenter noted that initial work in this area was a first step in a wider study on connectivity that UNEP-WCMC is leading and that it represented some initial background information on the science behind connectivity. The speaker covered the following topics in the presentation: What is connectivity? Types of connectivity. Why is connectivity important? Area-based planning & connectivity.

ix. The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Process

17. *Representative IDDRI / UNEP-WCMC* delivered a presentation titled “*Negotiations for a new agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ*”. The presenter discussed the existing, planned and possible future activities in ABNJ. The timeline of global processes in relation to ABNJ include
- The formation of the BBNJ Working Group in 2004;
 - the 2011 Agreement on the ‘Package Deal’ where States recommended to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) during the 2011 meeting of the BBNJ Working Group that discussions under its umbrella focus on four elements: (i) Marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits (ii) Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (iii) Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) (iv) capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology
 - the 2012 Rio+20 commitment,
 - the 2 BBNJ meetings in 2014,
 - the 2015 final BBNJ Working Group meeting in January and UNGA in August/September,
 - the 2016 meetings of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) in March and in August/September. The August PrepCom deliberated on area based management tools for Marine Protected Areas (MPA), the need for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to contribute to BBNJ conservation and sustainable use, and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources.
18. The presenter further elaborated various developments that are of relevance to Area Based Planning from the 2011 package deal, including sharing benefits of marine genetic resources, measures such as area-based management tools for marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. In the 2014 BBNJ meeting there was a strong ‘coalition of the willing’ which is developing including the progressive involvement of developing states.

E. Session Two: Capacity assessment

i. Capacity assessment for area based planning in ABNJ

19. *Representative, (GRID-Arendal)* delivered a presentation focused on the work that the “*Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions*” is doing in capacity assessment. The aim of the

assessment is to understand country and regional capacity issues related to area based planning in terms of governance, technical capacity, data and information systems; and to guide the co-development of future capacity development activities in ABNJ Deep Seas Project. Capacity in this sense refers to example of projects, transferable skills, marine governance, and area based planning in the ABNJ (GIS, MSP processes, stakeholder engagement, technical capacity, legal frameworks, leadership/champions, cross sectoral engagement and data information knowledge).

ii. Breakout group discussions

a. The WIO countries' perspectives on MSP

20. Participants were divided into 4 mixed country groups: Mauritius-Seychelles-South Africa, Tanzania-Mozambique, Kenya-Somali and Madagascar-Comoros. The groups discussed the following questions on the countries perspectives on MSP:
 - What do countries think of MSP?
 - What have their experiences with MSP been? Existing experiences with stakeholder engagement - has it worked well in your country? Any challenges? Has it happened?
 - Which are the main institutions that have experience in area based planning?, and
 - Which agencies are responsible for sectoral governance in the marine environment in your country? Examples of cross sectoral cooperation or transboundary cooperation?
21. The groups reported that most countries have some experience on aspects of spatial planning, not necessarily at the level of MSP, but sectoral. Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar all referred to spatial planning and zoning in the MPAs, in the management of the park, in the use of resources in the park but this is limited to the fisheries structures. Countries have Strategic Environmental Assessment policies for the entire coastline e.g. Mozambique and Kenya. All groups noted that spatial plans form a good basis to be integrated into Marine Spatial Plans or that there is necessary background experience in the region to move towards MSP in the WIO region.
22. MSP is a new concept in most countries, with different countries being at different stages of developing or adopting MSP: Mauritius MSP policy is still under discussion; a cabinet paper has been drawn. Seychelles has largely implemented MSP and there is political will to drive the process to completion. Development of MSP has taken a top-down approach in Seychelles with a focal point being appointed to lead the process. In South Africa, MSP process has been driven by the push towards an Ocean Economy. The process has data gaps and calls on science to provide information.
23. On MSP perceptions and stakeholder engagement the groups noted that MSP IN South Africa and all other countries primarily has been associated with conservation and the oil and gas exploration companies especially in Tanzania, Mozambique, La Réunion, and Mauritius. Countries reported mixed experiences on stakeholder engagement in the MSP process. South Africa noted that there has been a call to expand MPAs but so far with limited stakeholder engagement. Seychelles noted that stakeholder engagement in MSP has been very good; Kenya also noted that stakeholder engagement is good but that there are overlapping issues and complementing jurisdictions between actors that need to be resolved.
24. Most countries gave examples of cross sectoral and transboundary cooperation: the Protected Area Planning Framework in Kenya, the inter-ministerial collaboration through the Environmental Management Act of Tanzania; the proposed Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania; the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategies in Kenya and Tanzania; and the Joint Management Area Project between Seychelles and Mauritius. Comoros and Madagascar also reported good cross-sectoral communication.
25. Some of the challenges discussed across the four groups included: (i) lack of political will to drive MSP, (ii) lack of understanding of the benefits of MSP for the countries, (iii) data gaps on MSP, (iv) the need for a critical mass of people with knowledge of MSP to drive the process, (v) lack of capacity to implement MSP, and (vi) lack of a clear vision on the connectivity between implementation of SDG 14 and MSP in the region.

b. ABNJ / BBNJ Discussion

26. The 4 groups were asked to discuss the following questions on ABNJ/BBNJ:

- Governance: which agencies are responsible for sectoral governance in the marine environment in your country with ABNJ Focus? - E.g. International Seabed Authority (ISA), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Regional Fisheries Management Organisation/Arrangement (RFMO/A).
 - Who engages with the BBNJ process? What opportunities/challenges exist in engaging this process?
 - What skills and experience on area based planning that are transferable to ABNJ exist within your institute/country?
 - Who are they key people or institutes that should be engaged in the ABNJ GEF project? The summary of the discussions is presented in the sections below?
27. Regarding ABNJ, Madagascar and Comoros noted that that they cannot discuss the High Seas before having sorted out their EEZ delimitations. In general, there is delay in MSP initiatives with many different departments being administratively responsible for marine resources. The two countries noted that ABNJ issues are not reflected in the the Nairobi Convention's responsibility.
28. Tanzania and Mozambique felt that there is a need to articulate the issues on ABNJ to policy makers (e.g. migratory fish stocks and connectivity) and what countries stand to gain so that there is investment in ABNJs. Similar sentiments were brought up by South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles who noted that there is little involvement in ABNJ amongst policy makers, owing to limited understanding of the benefits of engaging in MSP. Mauritius and Seychelles are involved in ABNJ through the joint management of the extended continental shelf.
29. There was agreement across the groups that engagement in ABNJ issues has been sectoral, for example through the Directorate of Environment under the Prime Minister's Office in Somalia, the Fisheries department in Kenya which engages with the Regional Marine Fisheries Organizations (RMFO), institutions that conduct research in ABNJ, and through the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).
- c. Values Exercises:
30. Participants were asked to think of a marine protected area (MPA) that was special and three things that they valued about the place. The values that participants associated with the MPAs were collated in a word cloud document and participants were requested to consider those values in relation to ABNJ. The discussions are summarized below.
- The high seas/ABNJs account for about 70% of the oceans. Most of the oceans are beyond the national areas of jurisdiction; However most are focused on the management of EEZs.
 - There is a need to combine the management of resources within areas of national jurisdiction with those outside national jurisdictions due to issues of interconnectivity (migratory species), and activities that occur in EEZs and ABNJs (such as tourism, sea bed mining, recreational fishing, piracy, high seas environment crimes, mineral resources etc.). The link between EEZ and adjacent waters need to be made explicitly clear to countries for governance.
 - There is a need to support countries to manage ABNJs. This support could be in the form of capacity building and creation of awareness on issues of ABNJ. There is a need to start looking at ABNJ in terms of how countries can benefit from ABNJ e.g. mining concessions.

iii. Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean-

31. Representative, *UNEP-WCMC*, presentation focused on the Western Indian Ocean Data Manual. Noting that marine data is often fragmented and not accessible to non-experts, the Western Indian Ocean Data Manual provides an overview of global datasets of the region. The manual contains 103 datasets that reflect characteristics of biodiversity in 9 categories. The manual shows the distribution of cold water corals, hydrothermal vents, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA), and the extent of EEZ, among others. 95% of the ABNJ region in the Western Indian Ocean remains unexplored particularly because it is hard to access, leading to understudied deep sea habitats.
32. In the general discussion after the presentation, *UNEP-WCMC* was asked to consider obtaining data from regional databases for example the Biodiversity Project and the African Marine Atlas of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) Programme of IOC/UNESCO, Census of Marine Life, and the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2).

F. Session Three: Regional Engagement and Priorities in ABNJ

33. Representative, *UNEP-WCMC*, presentation on *Area Based Planning Tools* covered two principle areas: Challenges and Opportunities in Area-Based Planning Tools (Challenge 1: What exactly is an ABP tool? Challenge 2: ABNJ are ‘different’ but how? Challenge 3: Figuring out what spatial measures already exist in ABNJ) and creative and new approaches to area based planning in ABNJ. The presenter discussed the types of tools available: framework tools (MSP, ICM, single sector based tools such as fisheries closure areas, Areas of Particular Environmental Importance and MPA networks) and supporting tools (assessment tools and decisions support tools). Lastly, the presenter discussed the activities in ABNJ, horizon scanning (possible future uses of the high seas and potential actors in the future)

i. Group Discussions on Area Based Tools and ecosystem approach

34. Participants continued to work in the 4 groups identified in Session 2. The groups were requested to deliberate on the following issues on the experience with tools for area based planning (process tools - MSP / ICZM / Coastal Ecosystem Based Adaptation, assessment tools, decision support systems).

- In a process to choose a tool, how do we know which tool would be the right one?
- What features are you looking for in tools that you use?
- What have you found good in the tools that you have used?
- What have you found challenging about the tools that you have experience of?

A summary of those discussions is presented in the sections below.

35. **Group 1:** Mauritius has digital based tools - GIS, Mapping and modelling. There are discussions about developing data catalogues that will allow policy, decision makers and society to access information at a glance. Seychelles has a GIS section based in the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. Seychelles is receiving a lot of international support in the technical use and implementation of area based planning tools. For example, Seychelles Climate Change Trust implementation (SEYCat) has support from The Nature Conservancy and IOC of UNESCO. MSP support is being provided by the IOTC, the University of Flensburg, the Managed network of Environmental Researchers in the region (Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius), IORA (through BERI) etc. Nonetheless, the local capacity to use the tools to manage activities still remains low in Seychelles and needs strengthening. South Africa does Area Based Planning at the national level and uses a suite of decision support tools, algal blooms, ship tracking, and near shore modelling. France (La Réunion) has a similar experience to South Africa in the sense that there is sectoral integration and there is awareness of area based planning tools. MSP has been proposed as a way of dealing with a variety of disputes. However MSP and Blue Economy are not part of the legal framework in France yet.

36. **Group 2:** Tanzania has TANSEA and ZANSEA which are open access tools for area based management. These are also multi-sectoral tools and they were developed through a widely inclusive stakeholder engagement process. Mozambique mentioned Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), GIS for mapping, disaster risk management tools, critical habitats sensitivity tools to designate MPAs e.g. Cape del Gado. Some of the challenges experienced in the use of Area Based Planning in Tanzania and Mozambique include underutilization and sustainability in terms of financing; lack of qualified personnel to use the tools and scale usage of tools including data ownership.

37. **Group 3:** Somali is in the process of setting up legal frameworks for Strategic Environmental Assessment. The tools that are in use in Kenya include Integrated Coastal Zone Management, assessment reports on the state of the environment or state of the coast reports; GIS as a basic tool, participatory mapping, local ecological knowledge, TDA (Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis) and MPAs. The choice of tools is dependent on the scale of the project: smaller scale projects go for EIAs and the bigger one Strategic Environmental Assessments. Some of the challenges discussed by the group include the loose interpretation of the laws, political interference, need for creation of awareness and synergies between the actors, lack of coordination between the actors, and conflicting mandates

38. **Group 4:** Both Comoros and Madagascar noted that there is a lot of experience in using area based tools (Comoros- Moheli Marine Park Zoning based on science and local knowledge- and in Madagascar -MSP will based on scientific research and every sector providing data on their sector, use of GIS). The group mentioned that it was an important criteria and there is a need to have a champion and for leaders to endorse area based planning. An example of a successful Area Based Tools in Madagascar is the octopus closures in

the South West that is being implemented by the community in collaboration with Blue Ventures, an NGO. Local knowledge and GIS were considered indispensable tools in area based planning. (It is the locals who know best where the fish, the dolphins and the dugongs are). The group also thought that genetically vulnerable species is an element that is lacking currently from ABP tools. The challenges mentioned by the group include: MPA or other ABP tool designation is a very lengthy. Public consultation for certain MPAs took 4 years and will take another 2 years. Secondly, lack of political will in area based planning. Decision makers feel that area based planning tools do not really concern them.

ii. General Discussions

39. The discussion highlighted capacity building needs in most countries in the use of area based planning tools and the sustainability of the tools beyond the funding period. The following capacity building needs were mentioned:

- Comoros: MSP is a new process therefore there is need for capacity building in all aspects of MSP.
- Kenya: the country has gone some way in building capacity in research in coastal and marine management – universities have courses on marine management, collaboration with outside countries, the research vessel Mtafiti is a big boost for research; nonetheless, there are still gaps to be filled.
- Madagascar: capacity building for data management, sectoral capacity building on useage of MSP tools, awareness training for decision makers on the importance of MSP tools;
- Mauritius: With the Ocean Economy being launched, Mauritius has done an analysis of capacity building needs and the University of Mauritius has developed curriculums to address these needs; GIS tools are being developed but funding is the one of the greatest hurdles in this.
- Mozambique: deep-sea research capacity building and multi-disciplinary pilot research on area based planning tools is required.
- Seychelles: lack of human capacities across all the activities, . training is needed for technicians, a means of retaining trained expertise; research capacity is limited in government offices;
- Somali: capacity building in all aspects of marine and coastal management.
- South Africa: there is a need for capacity building, there has been a rapid development of the Blue Economy and within that there was an analysis of capacity building needs for MSP (economic valuation, geographic skills, spatial planning skills etc.), need for well- resourced funding for research programmes particularly for ABNJ.
- Tanzania: in the spirit of ICM, there is a need for wider consultation in scoping, stock taking, developing architecture to shape institutional policies and legal frameworks around land based sources, coastal ecosystems, marine ecosystems EEZs outwards towards ABNJs. There is a need to look at what is being done, involving Planning Commissions in issues of MSP, Area Based Planning, in implementing SDG 14.

iii. Concluding thoughts on ABNJ

40. The head of the Nairobi Convention, noted that the discussions on capacity building needs and area based planning was useful feedback for the Deep-Sea Project and that outcome from ABNJ will be fed back into the Convention's mechanism for decision making.

41. Representative UNEP-WCMC thanked the workshop participants and reviewed the objectives of the workshop noting that these had been largely met.

Setting the scene for implementing SDG14

This session was organized by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in collaboration with Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), pursuant to *Decision CP8/1.2* that requested the Secretariat to take note of the Sustainable Development Goals, and incorporate the relevant outcomes into the new work programme for 2018-2022.

i. SDGs in the Nairobi Convention Area - From global commitments towards regional action: - Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat

G. His presentation focused on the Protocols of the Nairobi Convention and if these instruments lend themselves to SDGs implementation, how the Convention can implement the 17 SDGs and not just SDG14 and what would be the role of a regional organization (the Nairobi Convention) in the implementation of SDGs. The presenter looked at the Contracting Party decisions (**Decision CP8/1, Decision CP8/5 and Decision CP8/10**) in the context of SDGs and how these fall in line with the Nairobi Convention work program 2018-2022. He discussed the value of WIO Region and its Biodiversity- the value of the ocean/blue economy; and the means of creating a marine/ocean governance approach. Lastly, he talked about how to take an integrated approach in the implementation of all the SDGs through the various activities of the Convention.

ii. Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) - IDDRI, GIZ and IAAS delivered the presentation on supporting SDG implementation for the Ocean and Coasts.

42. PROG serves as a platform at the science, policy, society interface to facilitate dialogue processes for cross sectoral cooperation whose main areas of work are in conservation and sustainable use of the “high seas” (ABNJ); and implementation of Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals) for ocean and coasts. The presenter talked about the background of SDGs (Aichi Targets, millennium development goals, building on the Agenda 21 (Rio 1992) and in particular the inclusion of the oceans as an integral part of sustainable development goals particularly how the region can take an ocean centric approach to attain SDGs, especially SDG 14. The presenter discussed the levels of implementation of the SDG targets from a regional perspective (regional indicators and assessments; harmonization/coordination of national Integrated Ocean Policies and Sustainable Development Strategies, reflection of regional priorities through joint action plans and programmes of measures, cross-cutting regional reviews (as contributions to Global Thematic Reviews under the HLPF). The presented looked at why PROG is working with the WIO region on SDGs (it is a biodiversity hotspot, its facing increasing pressure, there are countries of the WIO that are pioneers for overall SDG implementation and blue economy initiatives, there is a regional pioneer (Nairobi Convention) and existing sectoral governance mechanisms and established regional networks and science/policy forums).

43. Lastly, the presentation looked the objectives of the session – an analysis of the SDG implementation process for oceans and coasts at the national and regional level, including mapping of relevant stakeholders; exploration of national and regional priorities, possible gaps and needs to support SDG implementation; and support the development of possible options/ implementation strategies for harmonized SDG implementation and strengthening of capacities.

iii. Conserving and sustainably using the oceans Seas and marine resources for sustainable development: Existing good practice and ongoing initiatives-Executive Secretary, WIOMSA

44. His presentation focused on the following key issues: the on-going regional initiatives that support the implementation of SDG 14 (key targets, the corresponding indicators specific ongoing or planned regional initiatives that are addressing the implementation of the targets); the challenges for implementing SDG 14 targets at the regional level; the possible options/opportunities for addressing the challenges. The presenter looked at key questions that the region needs to consider in the implementation of the SDG targets: the adequacy of awareness on SDGs ; how or if SDGs are informing regional programmes and policies; how the region contextualizes the SDGs and which institution/framework will lead the process; whether the targets and indicators are in line with regional vision; whether a regional monitoring framework will improve national reporting and how such a framework can be developed; whether the countries of the region are monitoring targets and indicators and what the baseline is. The presenter concluded his intervention by considering the opportunities that exist for implementing SDG 14 targets.

H. Towards SDG 14 implementation– experiences in the WIO

i. Interventions by Contracting Parties and observers on national approaches and strategies for SDG 14 and ocean-related SDGs

45. Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and Sustainable Development Goals: Director, KMFRI, went through the 17 SDGs, noting the activities that KMFRI is implementing that could lead to the attainment of these goals (for instance KMFRI’s work in aquaculture, mariculture, and value addition to attain SDG 2 on no hunger and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities; KMFRI provides data on aquatic polluted sites on the target to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from *pollution-related diseases* for SDG 3 on good health and well-being, its work on ecosystem restoration and carbon trading to attain Goal 13 on climate action, to mention a few of KMFRI’s activities). A representative from Kenya Wildlife Service added some contributions on how the Climate Change Act 2016, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the National Oceans and Fisheries Policy and the Fisheries Management 2016 are implementing the SDG goals.
46. The Focal Point of Nairobi Convention for Mozambique, talked about Mozambique’s priorities, needs, possible gaps and creating enabling environment with respect to the implementation and follow-up and review of SDG14 and ocean-related SDGs. Some of the needs and gaps identified include: capacity building and training, ownership and domestication the MSP process at the national level, scientific evidence to support the ABNJ resource management initiatives, in cooperation with the Mozambique Channel Countries; learning from other countries experiences such as Seychelles, Mauritius and South Africa on their Blue Economy implementation process as way to adopt, institutionalize and implement the Blue Economy, based on the MSP tools; and strengthening the inter-sectoral collaboration and cooperation, including at the WIO Region countries and intergovernmental organizations. The presenter also discussed the possible added value of regional cooperation in implementation and follow-up and review of SDG 14 and related SDGs in the 2030 Agenda.
47. The representative of the Focal Point of the Nairobi Convention for Tanzania, discussed Tanzania’s national perspectives related to SDG 14 priorities set during the post 2015 National Consultation Dialogues (The future we want). The presenter discussed the pillars of sustainable development goals: altogether 10 key goals emerged from the nationwide consultations process and four key issues linked to SDG 14, eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and inequality. Lastly, the presenter talked about the support needed to implement SDG goals (support in integrating SDG 14 into Contracting Parties development plans, development of institutional framework to implement SDG 14 and strengthening the legal and regulatory framework).
48. The Focal Point of the Nairobi Convention noted that for Somali, intervention was on supporting Somali to attain Agenda 2030. He expressed the interest of Somali to collaborate with Contracting Parties to attain SDG 14 and ocean related SDGs.
49. The focal point of Madagascar shared the ongoing projects that are contributing to the attainment of SDG 14 (pollution and the contingency planning process, expansion of MPAs under the Sydney promise, science to policy, achievement of AICHI targets etc.)
50. Mauritius was present in New York at the signing of the SDG goals. The country has existing indicators from the millennium development goals that have been carried over to monitor the implementation of SDG goals. There has been a National Steering Committee set up in Mauritius to look at how each sector is going to achieve the targets and the committee is already doing surveys on monitoring and establishing standards for reporting on achievement of targets as per the New York commitments. Mauritius has identified 163 indicators that are already being published by the National Statistics office and the Ministry of Environment and 64 being published by other institutions, there are still 14 indicators to be identified by the Country for which SDG 14 accounts for 10. From an implementation committee, there is a Planning and Steering Committee that will coordinate the various departments in the implementation of SDGs.
51. Seychelles shared experiences on the road map for the Blue Economy that is being developed in collaboration with the Common Wealth. The Blue Economy department sits in the Ministry of Finance in Seychelles. The approach that the country is taking is an ocean based economy seeing that Seychelles is a small island state and also considering that the country is vulnerable to climate change. The Seychelles Blue Economy Road Map is closely aligned to the SDG implementation. The road map applies a cross-sectoral approach. There are 4 goals: economic diversification, jobs and shared prosperity, food security and ecological integrity (again in the tradition of sustainable development). There are a number of innovative

activities that Seychelles is implementing through the Blue Economy Road Map for resource mobilisation to be used for ocean governance and blue economy implementation. Among these includes debt swap for adaptation and conservation that is financing the development of MSP for the whole of Seychelles' EEZ (designating 30 % of the EEZ as marine protected areas). The Blue Bond Initiative (to put in place management plans for artisanal fisheries). Both of these initiatives (MSP and Blue Bond Initiative) are being developed through a single governance mechanism that is integrating a spatial tool (MSP) and the other being a non-spatial mechanism (fisheries management). The synergies created between the two processes promote regional actions and priorities in maritime security, IUUs, trade, ABNJs, and the tools needed to implement and report: information, access to info, monitoring and reporting).

52. The Focal point of Comoros discussed the activities and measures that Comoros is using to address the SDG goals. Comoros applies an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Approach for the Protection of the Marine Ecosystem. The speaker discussed the issue of conservation of endangered species, prevention of illegal exploitation of marine turtles. He also talked about fostering regional cooperation in marine scientific research, oil spill contingency planning, solid waste management and recycling of waste, reforestation projects and the establishment an observatory for marine turtles.

ii. *Group Discussions*

53. Participants were divided into 2 groups to discuss 3 issues:

- what can Regional Bodies such as the Nairobi Convention do to support SDG implementation
- What potential gaps in SDG implementation exist and what possible options are there for closing gaps.

A short summary of these discussions is presented in the sections below.

54. What Regional Bodies can do to support SDG Implementation:

- Creation of a platform for cooperation with other regional organizations for implementation SDGs such as with the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment in the region
- Creation of joint frameworks for data monitoring and assessment
- Facilitate regional integration
- The regional platform could define common priorities and for exchanging best practices which would be less costly and would allow for harmonisation of policies.
- The platform could also be used to transfer ideas to regional stakeholders on the New York SDG Process.

55. What are the potential gaps in SDG Implementation?

- Lack of capacity to interpret and measure and report on indicators at country levels.
- Limited linkages to global processes such as ABNJ (inadequate communication between the regional ministries of foreign affairs and institutions who are dealing with ABNJ in the region).
- Lack of technical expertise in the implementation of goals.
- Limited access to data.
- Difficulty in transforming indicators across sectors (e.g. fisheries, marine protection) in order to do global reporting).

56. Possible options for closing the gaps

- Capacity building, including provision of financial resources for capacity building.
- Need to build capacity on interpreting and measuring indicators as well as reporting on SDGs at a national level, on coordinating actions at a national level, enhance capacities in marine science.

- The Nairobi Convention could assist countries to link to global processes such as ABNJ, the New York Process.
- Enhancing the transformation/aligning of the existing national plans or strategies on MDGs into SDGs.
- Mainstream funding mechanisms across sectors.
- The Nairobi Convention can foster the development of expert coastal groups.
- The Convention can host a regional centre for data sharing on marine information (clearing house mechanism).
- Reviving of the regional centre for oil spill response.
- Use existing mechanisms/structures for joint management frameworks e.g. the Nairobi Convention's projects (WIO-SAP, SAPPHIRE, JAM- all have indicators that countries could take advantage of to set common regional indicators to be assessed), SWIOFC, IOTC

I. Wrap up Session

57. The representative, UNEP-WCMC, gave brief closing remarks stating that SDGs are very important and regional action will be important within this context. She gave an overview of the Area Based Planning workshop which discussed area based planning tools with a focus on MSP. The workshop discussed the importance of area based tools, how they can support planning in the EEZs and how they can be scaled up to management of the ABNJ. She mentioned the challenges in using MSP tools and how they have been used in the region and how this affects the Blue Economy framework.
58. The representative of IASS thanked the participants for the lively exchange and noted that they had gained valuable insight over the 2 days of the workshop and that they were looking forward to the continuation of their collaboration in the region in the common fields of interest. The representative of IDDRI thanked participants for their active participation in the workshop.

J. Any Other Business and Closing Remarks

59. The Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat thanked UNEP-WCMC, IASS, GIZ, IDDRI for the partnership, regional partners such as the IOC (USD 9,201) for the support towards the conference package and also sponsored (tickets and accommodation) 4 participants from Mauritius, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania, WIOMSA(USD 10,600) for supporting participants to attend the meeting, the Government of Seychelles for hosting the meeting and participants for attending and contributing actively in the discussion.
60. There being no other business, the meeting was officially closed on 14 October 2016 at 18:00 hours.

Area Based Planning tools and Regional Cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean meeting

Mahe, Seychelles, 13-14 October, 2016

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Thursday 13 October 2016

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee and Registration	
9:00 – 9:15	1. Opening of the meeting	Dixon Waruinge (Nairobi Convention Secretariat)
	2. Organizational matters	Chair of the Bureau (Seychelles)
	3. Opening Remarks	
<i>Session One: ABNJ Ocean Governance frameworks in Western Indian Ocean</i>		
9:15 – 9:25	Aims and Objectives of the Workshop	Ruth Fletcher (UNEP-WCMC)
9:25-9:40	Marine spatial planning with Stakeholders: challenges and solutions	Erwann LAGABRIELLE (IRD) and Vincent Heurteaux (CEO of GEOMATYS)
9:40-9:55	Spatial Data Infrastructures, Services and Solutions to support marine management	
9:55 – 10:20	Area based Planning tools including Economic Valuation tools for MSP	Pushpam Kumar (UNEP/ESEU)
10:20 - 10:40	ABNJ Governance in the WIO – possible scenarios	Julien Rochette (IDDRI)
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:20	Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean	Ruth Fletcher (UNEP WCMC)
11:20 – 11:45	MSP application in the WIO region, Tools and their applicability	Louis Celliers, CSIR, South Africa
12:00 – 12:20	Connectivity and Transboundary Interactions	Juliette Martin UNEP-WCMC
12:20 – 12:40	The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Process	Glenn Wright IDDRI / UNEP-WCMC
12:40-1:00	Questions and Discussion	
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	
<i>Session Two: Capacity assessment</i>		
2.00 – 2.20	Introduction to Capacity assessment for area based planning in ABNJ	Miles Macmillan – Lawler (GRID-Arendal)
2:20-3:30	Breakout group discussion: The WIO countries' perspectives on MSP	
3:30 – 3:50	Coffee Break	
3:50 – 4:40	Breakout group discussion: Area Based Planning and ABNJ/BBNJ	

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
4:40 – 5:00	Groups' reports back	
Friday 14 October 2016		
9:00 – 9:15	Recapitulation of the previous day	Miles Macmillan – Lawler (GRID-Arendal)
9:15-10:00	Open discussion: Values and Capacity Assessment	
10:00– 10:20	Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean	Juliette Martin UNEP WCMC
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee Break	
<i>Session Three: Regional Engagement and Priorities in ABNJ</i>		
10:40 -11:00	Area Based Planning Tools	Ruth Fletcher UNEP-WCMC
10:40 – 11:30	Group Discussion: ABP tools and Ecosystem Approach	
11:30-11:45	Group Discussion: Capacity building needs for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Data Knowledge	
11:45-12:45	Open discussion: Capacity Assessment	
12:45-1:00	Questions	
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	
<i>Session Four: Setting the scene for implementing SDG14</i>		
2:00 – 2:20	SDGs in the Nairobi Convention Area - From global commitments towards regional action	Nairobi Convention
2:20 – 2:30	Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG)	IDDRI, GIZ and IAAS
	Conserving and sustainably using the oceans Seas and marine resources for sustainable development: Existing good practice and ongoing initiatives	Julius Francis, WIOMSA
<i>Session five: Towards SDG 14 implementation– experiences in the WIO</i>		
2:30 – 3:20	Interventions by Contracting Parties and observers on national approaches and strategies for SDG 14 and ocean- related SDGs	Contracting Parties
3:20 – 3:45	Coffee Break	
3:45 – 4:45	Group discussion: Exploring national and regional priorities, gaps and needs for implementing SDG14 in the WIO	PROG (IDDRI/IASS-Potsdam)
4:45 - 5:00	Reporting back and discussion	
5:00 – 5:15	Wrap up Session	Ruth Fletcher (UNEP-WCMC) / IAAS & IDDRI
5:15 - 5:30	Any Other Business and Closing Remarks	Dixon Waruinge (Nairobi Convention Secretariat) / Chair of Bureau (Seychelles)

Partnership meeting on 11-12 October 2016; to be held back to back with the Area Based Planning tools meeting on 13-14 October 2016, Mahe, Seychelles

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