

First Meeting of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2020

Venue: TEAMS Virtual Meeting (11h00 – 13h00 EAT)

Report of the Meeting

MSP TWG Members

1. Mr. Mouchtadi Madi Bamdou (Comoros)
2. Mr. Soifa Ahamed Soilihi (Comoros)
3. Mr. Fabrice Bernard (France)
4. Mrs. Susan Otieno (Kenya)
5. Mr. Harrison Ong'anda (Kenya)
6. Mr. Fanomezantsoa Randrianarison (Madagascar)
7. Dr. John Bemiasa (Madagascar)
8. Dr. Rezah Badal (Mauritius)
9. Dr. Arshad Rawat (Mauritius)
10. Mr. Amit Jheengut (Mauritius)
11. Eng. Sofia Chambe (Mozambique)
12. Ms. Sidonia Muhorro (Mozambique)
13. Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles)
14. Ms. Helena Sims (Seychelles)
15. Dr. Amina Lula Sekaly (Somalia)
16. Mr. Dahir Farah Hussein (Somalia)
17. Ms. Nenekazi Jukuda (South Africa)
18. Mr. Potlako Khati (South Africa)
19. Dr. Saleh A.S. Yahya (Tanzania)
20. Eng. Siajali Pamba Zegge (Tanzania)

WIOMSA Secretariat

1. Dr. Arthur Tuda
2. Dr. Julius Francis

Nairobi Convention Secretariat

1. Dr. Jared Bosire
2. Ms. Sinkinesh Jimma
3. Dr. Timothy Andrew
4. Mr. Theuri Mwangi
5. Ms. Marlyn Omondi
6. Mr. Bonface Mutisya
7. Mr. William Obote

Introduction

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat, in collaboration with the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), has been working to establish the Western Indian Ocean Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group (WIO MSP TWG). This follows a recommendation from the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and other partners at the MSP meeting held in

March 2019 in Tanzania for the establishment of an MSP TWG, who should lead the development of a WIO regional MSP strategy.

21 experts have been nominated to the MSP TWG through the support of the national focal points from the ten Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention. The first meeting of the WIO MSP TWG was organized with the aim of operationalizing the working group through discussions on the Terms of Reference, expected outcomes of the working group, operational modalities and the contribution of the working group to the development of the WIO regional MSP strategy and other MSP related activities being implemented by the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with partners.

Opening Remarks and Adoption of the meeting agenda

- a) Tim Andrew, the Policy and Governance Officer of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, called the meeting to order at 11h05 and welcomed the experts nominated by the respective countries as members of the WIO MSP TWG to their first meeting of the TWG. He gave an introduction of colleagues from the Secretariat and WIOMSA who were present at the meeting, and invited nominated country experts to introduce themselves and give brief remarks on ongoing activities on MSP in their respective countries. The meeting was chaired by Tim.
- b) The agenda of the meeting was presented and was adopted by the meeting with no objections.

Summary of the Nairobi Convention and mandate of the Convention on MSP

- a) Jared Bosire made a presentation on the Nairobi Convention Work Programme and the Convention's mandate on MSP. The presentation highlighted the following:
 - i. The Nairobi Convention is one of the Regional Seas Programmes under UNEP and a regional framework and platform for collaboration between Contracting Parties of the Convention and partners, with the mandate to protect, manage and develop the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean.
 - ii. Partnerships of the Nairobi Convention that support in delivery of its Work Programme include those with national institutions and agencies, UN agencies, Regional Economic Communities and Commissions (RECs), the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) and other regional and international institutions working in the WIO region.
 - iii. Contribution to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14, on conserving and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
 - iv. The main activities of the Nairobi Convention work programme: (i) Assessments and Capacity development, (ii) Management, (iii) Coordination and legal aspects and (iv) Information and awareness.
 - v. Protocols of the Nairobi Convention: (i) Protocol concerning protected areas and wild fauna and flora in the Eastern African region, (ii) Protocol concerning cooperation in combating marine pollution in cases of emergency in the Eastern African Region, (iii) Protocol Concerning Land Based Sources and Activities (undergoing ratification process

- by countries) and (iv) Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (awaiting adoption of the agreed text of the Protocol at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries).
- vi. Importance of the WIO region in terms of biodiversity, fisheries resources, critical areas for conservation, support to coastal communities and their livelihoods and contribution to the national economies of the WIO countries through fisheries, tourism, oil and gas industries, among others.
 - vii. Threats to the WIO region's coastal and marine resources, including biodiversity and habitat loss, illegal fishing, overfishing, pollution from land-based sources, climate change impacts, inadequate governance, unsustainable development of infrastructure and new opportunities.
 - viii. Trends in biodiversity loss, including the loss of species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine biomes and the importance of sustainable interventions at a scale that matters to minimize biodiversity loss and its impacts on livelihoods and economies of the region. These interventions include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50%, protecting 30% of land and sea, reducing impacts from consumption and production by 50%, doubling sustainable fisheries management, sustaining the flow of major rivers, reducing deforestation by 50%, and eliminating poaching.
 - ix. Integrated planning and management considering the current momentum on Blue Economy in the WIO region and country investments in the Blue Economy, which can provide opportunities for sustainable development.
 - x. Importance of MSP as a planning tool for influencing the pathway for Blue Economy development in the WIO region.
 - xi. The mandate of the Nairobi Convention on MSP from the Conference of Parties (COP) Decisions, including Decisions CP8/10 on Blue and Ocean Economy, CP.9/2 on the Work Programme of 2018-2022 and CP.9/10 on Marine Spatial Planning for the Blue and Ocean economy.
 - xii. Recommendations from the regional MSP meeting held in March 2019, including (i) the establishment of a regional MSP technical working group, (ii) conducting regional and national legal/policy gap analysis in relation to MSP, (iii) the development of a regional MSP strategy for the WIO region and (iv) promoting shared learning among countries of the WIO region who are at different levels in MSP practice.
 - xiii. Process of establishment of the MSP technical working group (TWG), including the development of the Terms of Reference for the TWG in collaboration with the Contracting Parties and WIOMSA and the request to the Contracting Parties to nominate two national experts to the technical working group.
 - xiv. Regional task forces established under the Nairobi Convention include: Coral Reef Task Force, Critical Habitats Task Force, Water Quality Task Force, River Flows Task Force, Marine Litter and Microplastics TWG, and MSP TWG.
 - xv. Priority Actions requiring the contribution of the MSP TWG include (i) supporting the development of the regional MSP strategy being led by the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa, (ii) supporting capacity building initiatives on MSP in the region and (iii) contributing to Cumulative Impact Assessment work, in which the Nairobi Convention is collaborating with the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SwAM) to inform MSP-related initiatives in the WIO region.

Summary of projects executed under the Nairobi Convention and their deliverables related to MSP

- a) Tim Andrew provided a summary of the projects executed under the Nairobi Convention and their support to MSP work in the region as follows:
- i. Project on Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) – the project will support the strengthening of capacity on MSP, selected national demonstration projects on MSP, and the functioning of the MSP TWG and development of WIO MSP strategy, with a focus on inshore areas.
 - ii. The Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project – the project will support the strengthening of capacity on MSP and the functioning of the MSP TWG and development of the WIO MSP strategy, with a focus on offshore areas.
 - iii. Partnership project on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries capacity building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (EU- MEAs) – the project will support the functioning of the MSP TWG and the development of the WIO MSP strategy.
 - iv. Partnership Project for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue growth in the WIO - executed in collaboration with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), the project will support MSP for policy-making and integrated management in small-scale, artisanal fisheries, as well as associated area management approaches. It will further support capacity development on MSP with specific reference to local practitioners, community based organizations and key stakeholders.
 - v. Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NoCaMo) project – the project will support the development of a roadmap for MSP in the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) region which will be integrated into the development of the WIO MSP strategy.
 - vi. The projects will be working in synergy with one another for greater impact and to broaden the impact of work supported in the region in collaboration with the Contracting Parties and partners.

Review and adoption of the Terms of Reference for the MSP Technical Working Group

- a) Arthur Tuda presented the Terms of Reference for the MSP TWG, highlighting:
- i. The broad goals and rationale for establishment of the TWG, i.e. to: i) provide a regional forum for information sharing and exchange; ii) support capacity building on MSP at the regional level as appropriate; iii) synthesize information on MSP from different sources, which includes engaging stakeholders and participatory approaches; and iv) produce peer-reviewed publications, decision support tools, and other knowledge products in relation to MSP.
 - ii. The specific activities for the MSP TWG, including:
 - a) Assessing the current status of MSP knowledge and practice in the WIO region by reviewing the literature to assess the policy landscape, institutional frameworks, and progress on the implementation on MSP at the national level, including initiatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in support of the implementation of MSP at the national and regional levels. The review is envisioned to identify progress made and major gaps and/or limitations to MSP

knowledge, policy and practice to help countries progress. The results of the review will be a Regional Status Report on MSP in a peer-reviewed journal.

- b) Identify, compile, and collate country-level spatial priorities and goals pertaining to marine use, which can be formulated into spatial planning objectives that can guide MSP at the national level and if possible, at the regional level.
 - c) Facilitate the Contracting Parties in implementing the global and regional ocean governance strategies pertaining to MSP at the country level, including the ongoing global discussions of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which has a focus on area-based management tools.
 - d) Facilitate the development of a regional vision and strategy on MSP within the context of the Nairobi Convention, together with WIOMSA and other interested partners.
 - e) Facilitate the building of a constituency on MSP among formal and informal stakeholders, including governments; management authorities; the private sector; and communities, and encourage dialogue amongst them.
 - f) Facilitate and support the identification of capacity building needs and the implementation of training activities related to MSP for different categories of stakeholders.
 - g) Facilitate and support the development of relevant environmental education and awareness raising programmes related to MSP.
 - h) Provide advice on the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks related to MSP to the Contracting Parties through the Science to Policy Platform and COPs.
 - i) Provide state-of-the-art science to support policy developments on MSP in the region through the Science to Policy Platform of the Convention and other appropriate fora.
 - j) Provide technical support to the Contracting Parties in the implementation of MSP-related interventions on a case by case basis.
 - k) Undertake quality assurance of outputs related to MSP produced through the support of both the Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA and other interested partners.
 - l) Establish potentially mutually beneficial linkages (and/or partnerships) as necessary with relevant leading institutions, professional networks, working groups, and research centers/groups internationally in respect to MSP.
- b) Comments following the presentation were as follows:
- i. Clarification was requested with regards to the responsibility of the TWG on *'identifying, compiling and collating country-level spatial priorities and goals pertaining to marine use, which can be formulated into spatial planning objectives that can guide MSP for the different countries and if possible, at the regional level.'* Considering the fact that countries have different priorities at the national level, how would the collation of all the different priorities to have a common goal at regional level be carried out? It was mentioned that the process of prioritization, including how the country priorities would be considered, would be part of the discussions with Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in the strategy development process. The MSP TWG will be engaged in informing the strategy development and the strategy is expected to promote progress in MSP among countries that are in the early

- stages of development of their MSP process and provide opportunities for shared learning among the countries on approaches and success stories from countries that are at advanced stages of MSP development.
- ii. The MSP strategy development should take an approach that will ensure that focus on the national priorities by respective countries is not compromised in the development of regional priorities. Since countries may have different national priorities on MSP, they may thus only be able to converge in common areas of priorities identified for the region and adopt these based on their national contexts.
 - c) The TORs were adopted by the MSP TWG with no objections from the meeting.

Development of an MSP strategy for the WIO region: Key Partnerships

- a) Tim Andrew informed the meeting that the Nairobi Convention was partnering with NMU in South Africa in the development of the MSP strategy and NMU would be leading in the process. NMU will work closely with the MSP TWG in the development of the strategy and will be reaching out to TWG and other country experts to engage on the status of national level MSP processes. The TWG experts were requested to provide the necessary input to NMU to inform the process of development of the strategy in order to ensure that the strategy developed is of high quality, useful and acceptable to the region.
- b) Tim further informed the participants that SwAM of Sweden is working in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention to compile data from the region under the WioSym Project. The work will involve carrying out an analysis to look at the contribution of different sectors to the MSP process in terms of cumulative impact of the different sectors and how they could inform holistic spatial planning. SwAM is planning to hold a webinar from 10h00 to 12h00 on 15 September 2020 and will reach out to the MSP TWG members to contribute to the webinar beforehand.

Appointment of Chair and Vice- Chair of the Technical Working Group.

- a) Theuri Mwangi outlined guidelines for consideration for selection of the chair and vice-chair for the MSP TWG as follows:
 - i. Ensuring that the appropriate gender considerations are made in the selection process
 - ii. Ensuring that there is representation of both mainland and island states in the selection process
 - iii. The chair and vice chair will contribute to policy and technical discussions on MSP at the regional level and therefore should be actively and practically engaged in MSP at the national level in line with requirements of MSP in strategic planning and management, implementation, legal and spatial analysis, monitoring, evaluation and communication.
- b) The meeting agreed on the following next steps in the selection of the chair and vice-chair for the MSP TWG:
 - i. The selection of the chair and vice chair will be carried out either by email or at the next meeting of the MSP TWG to allow the experts time for further consideration of the working group members in order to propose candidates.
 - ii. The CVs of the experts in the MSP TWG will be shared within the group for consideration of suitable candidates to nominate based on the criteria or other means provided by the Secretariat.

- iii. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat will hold internal discussions and propose a mechanism and criteria for the profiling and nomination of suitable candidates for the chair and vice-chair positions and share with members.
 - iv. The TORs for the chair and vice-chair should be developed by the Secretariat and should detail roles and responsibilities of the leadership of the working group and the working group procedures, including the terms of office of the leadership and the procedure for election of subsequent chairs and vice chairs once the terms of office for these positions have elapsed.
- c) It was proposed the terms of office for the chair and vice-chair for the working group be at least 2 years to allow for the leadership to have impact and ensure good momentum for the working group. The MSP TWG is expected to last beyond the current projects of the Nairobi Convention and will be embedded as a structure within the Nairobi Convention and membership may change as necessary.
 - d) The Secretariat will consider inputs from the meeting, prepare the requested information, and circulate to the MSP TWG members within two weeks.

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- a) The Secretariat was requested to circulate the presentations made during the meeting to the MSP TWG members along with the report of the meeting.
- b) The Secretariat was requested to provide more information on the WioSym project and the expected contribution of the MSP TWG to the project. It was noted that SwaM would be reaching out to members with this information prior to the planned Webinar in September.

Concluding Remarks

- a) Jared Bosire thanked the members of the MSP TWG for their participation in the meeting, noting the importance of the working group in promoting shared learning on MSP in the region at the policy level and in practice and in influencing the agenda on MSP at the regional level. The regional strategy for MSP will provide an example of what countries could consider in the development of their national MSP processes and adopt these based on their national contexts and priorities.
- b) There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 13h15.