

**Focal Points meeting of the Nairobi Convention**

*Nosy Be, Madagascar  
6-7 April 2018*

**FOCAL POINTS MEETING  
OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION,  
MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL  
ENVIRONMENT OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION  
(NAIROBI CONVENTION)**

## REPORT TO THE FOCAL POINTS

### Implementation of the Decisions of Conference of Parties

1. The Nairobi Convention holds a Conference of Contracting Parties (COPs) after two years to review the implementation of decisions of past COPs. The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention held the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP8) on 22-24 June 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles. The meeting was organized in two segments: experts meeting on 22 June 2015; and Heads of Delegation meeting on 23-24 June 2015. At the Heads of Delegation meeting, 15 decisions were adopted.
2. After COP8, the Secretariat organised one Bureau meeting in November 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles, and was attended by Bureau members from Seychelles, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, and South Africa. The Bureau provided guidance on the agreed COP8 decisions. The Secretariat requested the Republic of Kenya, the new Vice Chair for the Work Programme to support and contribute to the process of developing the new work programme 2018-2022. The components of the new Work Programme would be presented to the next Focal Points meeting.
3. The Secretariat organised three meetings of Focal Points to report on the implementation of the COP8 decisions and the Convention's Work Programme. The meetings were held on 23-24 March 2016 in Ebene, Mauritius, on 12 April 2017 in Flic en Flac, Mauritius, and on 17 November 2017 in Mahe, Seychelles.
4. The Ninth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention on August 2018 will be organized to take stock of the progress made from the projects and programmes that were implemented during the 2015-2017 period in the context of the 2013-2017 Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention, and to review decisions from the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP8) that was held in Mahe, Seychelles, on 22-24 June 2015, and identify new areas that may require decisions at the COP9 as reported below:

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

5. In Decision CP8/1.1, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to develop a new Work Programme for the period 2018-2022 in the remaining period of work programme for 2013-2017 for adoption at the Ninth Conference of Parties. The Work Programme 2013-2017 was a collaborative programme that built on the momentum that had been achieved in the previous Work Programme of 2008-2012. It focused on interlinked themes including assessments and capacity building; development and implementation of ecosystem based management including Marine Protected Areas (MPA) management; environmental governance including implementation of the protocol for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean from land based sources and activities (LBSA protocol); development of protocol on integrated coastal zone management to the Nairobi Convention (ICZM protocol); information and awareness; policy options on climate change; ports and harbours development; oil and gas; green economy; and partnerships for activities on description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).
6. The Work Programme 2013-2017 was designed as a collaborative programme with partners and several sources of funding. The Work Programme for the period 2015-2017 was implemented through the following summary of activities outlined below:
7. Implementation of UNEP Africa Marine and Coastal Programme with the support of Sweden and partners was extended to June 2016 to finalise activities. The programme facilitated countries to ratify and implement protocol on land-based sources of pollution.

8. The Work Programme is funded by governments, through the Eastern Africa Trust Fund, assessed contributions of the Contracting Parties to the Trust Fund that are outlined in Table 2 below as at 2 March 2018. Additional sources of funding include from donors and partners.

Country	Assessed Annual Contributions	Unpaid pledges for 2015 and prior years (USD)	Pledges for 2016 -2018	Amounts collected in 2015 (USD)	Amounts collected in 2016 (USD)	Amounts collected in 2017 (USD)	Amounts collected in 2018 (USD)	Unpaid pledges for 2018 and prior years (USD)
Comoros	15,100	362,500.00	45,300.00					407,800.00
Kenya	45,302	135,906.00	135,906.00	45,302.00				226,510.00
Madagascar	22,651	389,524.58	67,953.00			157,187.19		300,290.39
Mauritius	30,201	272,809.00	90,603.00	30,201.00	30,201.00	30,201.00		272,809.00
Mozambique	45,302	832,080.52	135,906.00				181,208.00	786,779.00
South Africa	37,500	37,500.00	112,500.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	37,500.00		37,500.00
Seychelles	15,100	15,100.12	45,300.00	15,100.00		45,300.00		-
Somalia	15,100	335,300.00	45,300.00					380,600.00
Tanzania	45,302	1,063,362.11	135,906.00			839,148.24		360,119.87
France	78,000	-	234,000.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	78,000.00		-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>349,558</b>	<b>3,444,082.33</b>	<b>1,048,674.00</b>	<b>206,103.00</b>	<b>145,701.00</b>	<b>1,187,336.43</b>	<b>181,208.00</b>	<b>2,772,408.26</b>

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

9. In decision CP8/2.1, the Contracting Parties that have not ratified or acceded to the Amended Nairobi Convention were urged to expedite the process of ratification or accession. Further, in decision CP8/2 the Contracting Parties were urged to develop policies, make laws and standards as well as implement programmes in compliance with the Protocol on LBSA. Additionally, decision CP8/3 urged Contracting Parties, with the support of partners, to implement their action programmes on wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean Region.
10. The Secretariat supported the Republic of South Africa and Tanzania in the process of ratifying the Amended Nairobi Convention. Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles have ratified the LBSA Protocol. Further, in the Programme of Work on development and implementation of ecosystem based management including Marine Protected Areas (MPA) the ongoing development of Outlooks for Critical habitats and MPA in the Western Indian Ocean is commendable. The exercise, which began in June 2017, is part of the implementation of the WIO-SAP project.
11. The need to address marine litter in the Western Indian Ocean region is a response to the request made by Member States through Paragraph 11 of resolution 2/11 of UN Environment Assembly, which requested the Executive Director of UN Environment to provide assistance in the development of national or regional measures and action plans to address marine litter. The resolution also recognizes the need for capacity building, knowledge transfer, awareness raising and partnership to implement the activities. The UN Environment Global Programme of Action entered an agreement with the Institute of Marine Science, Zanzibar, Tanzania, in December 2017, to develop regional and national action plans on marine litter for the Western Indian Ocean, under the framework of the Nairobi Convention, to reduce marine litter and microplastics.
12. The Contracting Parties are urged to develop, harmonise, and strengthen policies, laws, standards, and institutional capacities, as well as implement programmes in compliance with the Protocol on LBSA. Further, the Contracting Parties, with the support of partners, are urged to implement their action programmes on waste water, and marine litter including microplastics in the WIO Region, and to create awareness on the impacts of microbeads on marine species and habitats including coral reefs and associated ecosystems and encourage the use of alternatives to microbeads. **Annex I** provides background document on microbeads

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

13. In decision CP8/3.1, the Contracting parties requested the Secretariat to review the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners and facilitate discussions to explore possible options for the effective management of marine and coastal environment and report back on the options at or before the next conference of parties.
14. Pursuant to Decision CP8/3.1, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat organized two negotiations meeting for the ICZM Protocol in March 2016 in Seychelles, and November 2016 in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The fourth negotiation meeting is scheduled to be held back to back with the Ninth Conference of Parties in August 2018. **Annex II** provides the 3<sup>rd</sup> negotiated draft Protocol and meeting report.

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

15. In decision CP8/4.1, the Contracting Parties were requested to collaborate with the Secretariat and implementing partners to finalize the review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes; and report back on the progress at the Ninth Conference of Parties.
16. An expert was contracted to review the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and to justify its need for amendment including Annex I on Protected Species of Wild Flora, Annex II on Species of Wild Fauna Requiring Special Protection, and Annex III on Harvestable Species of Wild Fauna Requiring Special Protection of the Protocol. The review was necessary to align it with the 1985 Nairobi Convention as amended in 2010; to entrench within it ecosystem approaches to management of marine and coastal resources; and to strengthen further the legal and policy basis for the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity in the WIO region. The review of the Protocol put into account relevant scientific information, current knowledge, practice and tools in natural resource management including marine ecosystem-based management and assessments from the 2015 Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region. **Annex III** provides the proposed amendments to the Protocol
17. Contracting Parties are urged to support the proposed amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes.

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

18. In decision CP8/5.1 Contracting Parties were urged to implement the Cairo Declaration of the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters and inform on progress at AMCEN sessions. Further decision CP8/5.2 requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Jeddah Convention, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to contribute to the development of an African strategy on ocean governance in the context of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063.
19. Pursuant to decision CP8/5.1 and CP8/5.2 the Secretariat in partnership with the Regional Office for Africa of the UN Environment Programme, Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Jeddah Convention collaborated to develop a regional ocean governance strategy for Africa. A review meeting for the Strategy is expected in the first half of 2018.

### Decision CP8/6: Support to Implementation of Projects

20. In decision CP8/6.1 Contracting Parties, the Global Environment Facility and other partners were requested to support including: (a) transboundary marine protected area between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania as an example of a cross-border management system of marine protected areas; (b) Northern Mozambique Channel as a good example of integrated ocean management approach; (c) Partnerships for Implementing the Western Indian Ocean-Strategic Action Programme financed by the Global Environmental Facility; (d) Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the areas beyond national jurisdiction by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the United Nations Environment Programme; (e) Conservation and sustainable exploitation of seamount and hydrothermal vent ecosystems of the South West Indian Ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction and collaborate in the management of activities in their adjacent waters by International Union for Conservation of Nature; (f) Guiding environmental management in the context of a rapidly developing oil and gas industry in the Western Indian Ocean Region by GRID-Arendal.
21. Regarding decision CP8/6.1, implementing partners were requested to report on the progress on or before the next Conference of Parties. Further, in decision CP8/6.2, Contracting Parties were urged to develop and implement new transboundary initiatives for management of shared resources with the support from partners.
22. Pursuant to Decision CP8/6, the Secretariat and partners are executing the project on the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land based sources and activities (WIOSAP) project for the period 2016-2021. The FFEM (*Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial*) funded Project on “Integrated management of the marine and coastal resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel” is also a partnership project and is currently under review. **Annex IV** provides the Northern Mozambique Channel project document currently under review by FFEM.
23. Further partnership ocean governance frameworks have been established with Blue Solutions, UN Environment Programme–WCMC, IOC-UNESCO, WIOMSA and IUCN on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Nairobi Convention in partnership with IUCN presented to the WIO countries in November 2017 the results of the Seamounts project funded by FFEM, and the Marine Spatial Atlas for the Western Indian Ocean (MASPAWIO) project funded by the French Aid Agency (AFD). **Annex V** provides the report of the November 2017 MSP training.
24. Contracting Parties, with the support from partners, are urged to develop and implement new transboundary initiatives for management of shared resources.

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

25. In decision CP8/7.1, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare regional guidelines on environmental management for oil and gas development, based on best practices, for consideration by the Contracting Parties at the next session. Further, in decision CP8/7.2, Contracting Parties were urged to seek support of other countries and partners involved in oil and gas development such as GRID-Arendal, to conduct and implement a regionally coordinated strategic environmental assessment, of social and environmental sustainability of oil and gas in the Western Indian Ocean Region. In addition, decision CP8/7.3 requested Contracting Parties, with support of United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, to explore the development of Western Indian Ocean regional compliance monitoring initiatives for oil and gas.
26. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat in collaboration with WWF Madagascar organized a sub-regional capacity building training for Civil Society Organizations of the Northern Mozambique Channel on oil and gas in November 2016 focussing on integrated ocean management approach in the WIO region. Further, the Secretariat with the support of experts organized a workshop in

November 2016 in Zanzibar, Tanzania to develop a regional capacity building programme for oil and gas focussing on resource and data management, environmental and social safeguards and management, safety management, revenues management, and technology development and research. The proposed regional capacity building programme was presented and approved at the meeting of Focal Points held in April 2017 in Flic en Flac, Mauritius. In addition, in October 2017 in Zanzibar, Tanzania, the Secretariat in collaboration with the Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch of UN Environment Programme, and the Government of Norway's Oil for Development Programme organized a regional workshop on, managing emergency preparedness and response in the oil and gas sector. **Annex VI** provides the capacity building programme. **Annex VII** provides the report of the regional training on emergency preparedness.

27. During the Regional Workshop on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and assessment of the state of marine environment including socioeconomic aspects (Regular Process) held in December 2017 in Zanzibar, Tanzania, the role of ports and harbours was further re-emphasised. The Secretariat, Ports Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) held discussions on the need for greater consideration of sustainable development of ports and harbours in the WIO region. A follow-up consultative meeting in February 2018 identified areas in which Nairobi Convention, PMAESA, WIOMSA and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) could collaborate. The WIOSAP project under the Nairobi Convention does prioritize actions on ports and harbours and other maritime based activities and seeks to develop Strategic Environmental Assessment for development of the oil and gas industry in the WIO region. **Annex VIII** provides report of the Regional Workshop on the Regular Process.
28. In addition, the FFEM funded Project on "Integrated management of the marine and coastal resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel" is currently under review and is expected to commence from June 2018 (**Annex IV**). It will focus on the conservation of Northern Mozambique Channel's biodiversity especially coral reefs and associated ecosystems through effective spatial management of marine uses, in particular from the oil and gas sector to secure a sustainable future for coastal communities and economies.
29. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat is requested, in collaboration with partners, to prepare regional guidelines, environmental norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation and build capacity on environmental management for oil and gas development, including sensitivity mapping, pollution prevention, disaster risk management, and resource management, based on international best practices and report at the next Conference of Parties.
30. Contracting Parties are requested to support partnerships in oil and gas development and to conduct and implement a regionally coordinated strategic environmental and social assessment of oil and gas industry, with a keen interest on the regional impacts based on the cumulative input from each country in the Western Indian Ocean Region. These assessments will also include an audit on compliance by the regulating authorities in the ports and harbours. Contracting Parties, with support of UN Environment Programme and other partners, are also urged to develop and establish a Regional Coordination Centre for Marine Pollution Emergency for the Western Indian Ocean for monitoring of development activities in oil and gas and to advocate for mitigation measures.

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

31. In decision CP8/8.1, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to expedite the finalisation of the climate change strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area and circulate the draft strategy for comments by the Contracting Parties by 30 September 2015 and further urged the Contracting Parties to submit their comments by 30 November 2015 for adoption by the Bureau by 31st December 2015. Further, in decision CP8/8.2, Contracting Parties were urged to integrate relevant recommendations of the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area into their national climate change strategies and develop policies, programmes and projects on climatic variability and climate change.

32. Pursuant to this decision, the Draft Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area developed by the Secretariat with the support of WIOMSA was adopted at the meeting of the Bureau held in November 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles. The Nairobi Convention Regional Climate Change Strategy was published in 2016. The Climate Change Strategy guides actions under defined adaptation priorities in the WIO Region such as in policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various regional programs related to climate adaptation. **Annex IX** provides the regional climate change strategy.
33. Further, the ongoing WIOSAP project will support the development of marine spatial plans and vulnerability assessments to mitigate habitat loss and climate change impacts including in the Northern Mozambique Channel. **Annex X** provides a paper on incorporating Marine spatial planning of the Western Indian Ocean Blue Economy.
34. The Secretariat has prepared a concept note on Western Indian Ocean resilience to Climate Change to support implementation of the Climate Change Strategy for submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Contracting Parties are requested to provide letters of no objection to support the application for funding from GCF. **Annex XI** provides the Concept note on Transition to a Resilient Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean Region.
35. Contracting Parties are urged to integrate relevant recommendations of the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention into their respective strategies, and policies, and mobilise resources for implementing programmes and projects to enhance resilience of communities, livelihoods, and coastal and marine ecosystems. Further, Contracting Parties are urged to build partnerships to address the impacts of ocean acidification including developing capacities and enhancing scientific cooperation.

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

36. In decision CP 8/9.1, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, to finalize the Regional Status Report on Sharks and Rays in the Western Indian Ocean and circulate the report to all Contracting Parties for review and submit the final report with findings for consideration at the Ninth Conference of Parties. Further in decision CP8/9.2, Contracting Parties were urged to build partnerships to strengthen the enforcement capacity for reducing or eliminating illegal exploitation and trade in threatened and endangered marine species. In addition, in decision CP8/9.3, Contracting Parties range states were urged to effectively implement the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia, enhance marine turtle conservation and establish sites of importance for marine turtles in the Western Indian Ocean.
37. Pursuant to this decision, the Indian Ocean Commission Biodiversity Programme in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention, Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC) organized a regional technical workshop in April 2017 in Quatre Bornes, Mauritius on sharks and rays of the South West Indian Ocean to review the status of sharks and rays and develop a roadmap for conservation and management. The report of the review meeting was presented to the Focal Points in April 2017 in Flic en Flac, Mauritius. **Annex XII** provides the report on the status of sharks and rays meeting.

#### **Decision CP8/10: Blue and Ocean Economy**

38. In decision CP8/10.1 Contracting Parties were urged to apply blue or ocean economy approaches as pathways for sustained economic growth, food security, poverty eradication, job creation and environmental sustainability. Further in decision CP8/10.2, Contracting Parties welcomed blue and ocean economy initiatives undertaken by Seychelles with blue economy, Mauritius with ocean economy and South Africa with ocean economy Operation Phakisa and were encouraged to consider developing and implementing similar initiatives, as appropriate. Also in decision CP8/10.3, Contracting Parties were invited to consider for implementation, as appropriate, the key

messages and action points agreed at the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on the Blue Economy held in Antananarivo 2-5 March 2015. In addition, in decision CP8/10.4, Contracting Parties were urged to cooperate in improving the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction, by building on existing regional institutions including the Nairobi Convention and developing area based management tools such as marine spatial planning to promote the blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

39. Pursuant to this decision, the “Western Indian Ocean Approach for Incorporating Marine Spatial Planning in the Blue Economy” strategy was finalised in August 2016 (**Annex X**). The Secretariat in collaboration with UN Environment Programme–WCMC organized a workshop in October 2016 in Mahe, Seychelles on ocean governance frameworks in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Further, in November 2017, the Secretariat in collaboration with Blue Solutions, UN Environment Programme-WCMC, IOC-UNESCO, WIOMSA and IUCN held a three-day training workshop to consider marine spatial planning and area-based management tools in the ABNJ and marine protected areas. A follow-up training on the same will be held in the second half of 2018 in Madagascar. **Annex XIII** provides the report of the October 2016 ocean governance frameworks in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. **Annex V** provides the report of the November 2017 training on marine spatial planning.
40. Contracting Parties are urged to continue to apply blue or ocean economy approaches in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 14 as pathways for sustained incomes and economic benefits from natural blue capital including fisheries, tourism, oil and gas development, offshore renewable energy, and other maritime activities.
41. Contracting Parties, within the framework of UNCLOS, are also urged to cooperate with existing regional institutions including the Nairobi Convention and to consider a decision on ocean governance and conservation of marine biodiversity in adjacent areas beyond national jurisdiction, and to build and develop area based management tools such as marine spatial planning to promote blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

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

42. In decision CP8/11.1 Contracting Parties were urged to consider the findings of the Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region in their decision-making processes. Further, in decision CP8/11.2, Contracting Parties welcomed the national reports presented by the countries and were requested to fulfil their obligations under the Article 17 and 23 of the Convention, to prepare national state of coast reports periodically, as a contribution to the Regional state of coast report. In addition, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a Regional State of Coast Report every five years for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
43. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat prepared from the Regional State of the Coast Report in the Western Indian Ocean a Summary for Policy Makers in June 2016 highlighting key messages from the Regional State of Coast report. **Annex XIV** provides the Summary for Policy Makers of Regional State of the Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean
44. A joint workshop of the Nairobi Convention Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process), covering the region of the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the ROPME/RECOFI area (Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment/Regional Commission for Fisheries) was held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, from 14 to 15 December 2017. The workshop urged Member States to produce periodic reports on implementation of international treaties/obligations, to assist the on-going work of the Regular Process. Significant networking was needed to ensure experts from the region were aware of the work of the Regular Process. The need to create synergies and link national and regional processes was highlighted to make optimal use of available resources. The important role of National Focal Points was also emphasized, including



in the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts. **Annex VIII** provides the report of the meeting on the Regular Process.

45. Cognisant of the Regional State of the Coast Report, Contracting Parties are urged to engage in the production of management and decision support tools and products such as outlooks on thematic issues including marine protected areas, climate change, environmental Policy, disaster planning and management, national economic performance. Further, the Secretariat, jointly with the Contracting Parties, is urged to prepare a Regional State of Coast Report every five years for consideration by the Conference of the Parties that may contribute to the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of Marine Environment Including Socio-Economic Aspects.

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

46. Decision CP8/12.1 urged Contracting Parties to promote science to policy interface to enhance informed decision making. Further in decision CP8/12.2, Contracting Parties agreed to establish a dialogue platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and action and to mandate the forum of the Heads of National Academic and Research Institutions to act as the technical and advisory body of the platform. In addition, in decision CP8/12.3, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop terms of reference, mode of operation and composition of the platform and transmit them to the Contracting Parties for subsequent approval by the Bureau.
47. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat organised a meeting on the Partnerships on Science-policy Forum in Mahe, Seychelles in October 2016 to identify the structure, terms of reference, mode of operation, and composition of the platform. The Science-Policy platform is made up of the science pillar and the policy pillar, and FARI takes a lead role in the science pillar. The platform will provide an opportunity for policy makers and practitioners to articulate their data and information needs, catalyse research priorities, enhance the understanding of scientists on the regions' decision making processes, improve the contribution of scientists to policy, and foster dialogue and build trust between policy/decision-makers and the scientific community. The meeting also reviewed the terms of reference for the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) and its role in relation to the platform. **Annex XV** provides report of the Science-Policy meeting.
48. Further, the Secretariat organized follow-up FARI meetings in April 2017 in Flic en Flac, Mauritius, and in December 2017 in Zanzibar to identify the role of FARI in the Science-Policy platform and in the implementation of WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects to enhance the science-policy interface in decision-making. FARI will promote the science agenda and policy interface in the Western Indian Ocean, and provide the access and support required in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The proposed work programme for FARI centres around informed policy for decision making on development, identifying emerging issues to present at the Conference of Parties (COP), and to provide a science perspective to COP decisions. **Annex XVI** provides the report of the April 2017 FARI meeting. **Annex XVII** provides terms of reference for FARI and report of the December 2017.
49. Leadership dialogues targeting senior government officials from relevant ministries and parastatals in Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Seychelles were held in Mombasa, Kenya (July 2017), and in Tanga, Tanzania (October 2017). The leadership dialogue in Seychelles is planned for 11-13 April 2018. The purpose of leadership dialogues is to equip senior policy makers with leadership skills for better advocacy on the use of integrated approaches in the management of oceans. **Annex XVIII** provides the reports of the leadership training in Kenya and Tanzania.
50. Contracting Parties are urged to promote science to policy interface and the Secretariat to convene regular dialogues (annual or biennial) between scientists, policy and decision makers, civil society, and private sector to provide knowledge and generate solutions to address current and emerging

threats to the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean to enhance informed decision making.

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

51. Decision CP8/13.1 urged Contracting Parties, with support of the Secretariat, to continue engaging and cooperating with existing partners for the development and implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties and the work programme of the Nairobi Convention. Decision CP8/13.2 sought to establish additional partnerships, including with regional economic communities, such as the East Africa Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Southern Africa Development Community, Indian Ocean Commission and United Nations agencies; Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, South West Indian Fisheries Commission on sustainable fisheries management; West Indian Ocean Challenge on matters of environmental assessment, Food and Agricultural Organisation, Convention on Migratory Species and CITES on conservation and trade of sharks and rays; ecologically or biologically significant marine areas as well as sustainable ocean initiative on capacity building of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Decision CP8/13.3 invited all Contracting Parties and request the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and other partners on capacity building, implementation and sharing of experiences on integrated marine spatial planning in support of blue economy. Decision CP8/13.4 requested the Secretariat to establish a partnership with United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action on matters of marine litter, waste and waste water for the West Indian Ocean Region and to report to the Conference of Parties at the next session. Decision CP8/13.5 encouraged collaboration and communication between Contracting Parties and civil society, private sector, non-governmental organisations, local governments and municipal authorities in the implementation of the work programme of Nairobi Convention for increased impact and commitment so as to harness the benefits of synergies and collaboration, such as in the work of the coral reef task force of the Nairobi Convention in 2015-2016 in preparing the regional status of coral reef report for the Western Indian Ocean. Decision CP8/13.6 called on joint programming between Contracting Parties, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNECA, partners, civil society and private sector for implementation of priority areas and mobilisation of resources.
52. Pursuant to Decision CP8/13, a Scoping Meeting on Collaboration between Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies in Southwest Indian Ocean was held in June 2016. In November 2017, the GEF, IOC, UNDP, UNEP, FAO organized a global meeting in South Africa on “Building International Partnership to enhance Science-Based Ecosystem approaches in support of Regional Ocean Governance in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The goal of the meeting was to enhance cross-sectoral, science based ecosystem approaches in support of regional ocean governance in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by strengthening collaboration among Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programmes, Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations). **Annex XIX** provides the report of the Scoping Meeting on Collaboration between Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies.
53. A Regional Partnership for Implementing SDG14 in the Western Indian Ocean was registered at the June 2017 UN Ocean Conference. The partnership aims to reduce marine pollution, demonstrate and enhance ocean governance and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems. **Annex XX** provides the regional partnership commitment and repository.
54. The Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC have drafted an MOU that seeks to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives regarding the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity in the Western Indian Ocean. The partnership between the Nairobi Convention and the SWIOFC will support programs that advance better sectoral management and improved inter-sectoral coordination that should lead to improved

uptake of management tools such as marine spatial planning, and ecosystem based approaches, to mitigate the adverse impacts of human activities on the marine and coastal environment in the region. A concept note on “Strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC in ocean governance in the Western Indian Ocean Region in support of SDG 14 and SDGs 1 and 5” was presented and approved by the Nairobi Convention Focal Points in November 2017. As part of the planning process, a joint preparatory meeting between the Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC was held in Maputo on 15 February 2018 to firm up the terms of reference to develop the cooperation programme, and to frame the timeline for the development phase of the programme. **Annex XXI** provides the draft MOU and **Annex XXII** provides the concept note.

55. The proposed marine Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania is to mainstream ecosystem management and strengthen capacity for restoring ecosystem health and conserving biodiversity at the local, national and trans-boundary level in the two countries. In August 2016, the partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Biodiversity Programme seeks to strengthening the capacity for restoring ecosystem health, as well as piloting ecosystem-oriented approaches into spatial planning, water management, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and protected area management in Kenya and Tanzania. **Annex XXIII** provides the TBCA project paper.
56. Contracting Parties, with support of the Secretariat, are urged to continue engaging and cooperating with existing partners and establish additional partnerships for the development and implementation of the decisions of the Conference of Parties and the work programme of the Nairobi Convention.

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

57. In Decision CP8/14.1 Contracting Parties were urged to take note of the report on optimizing secretariat functions, coordination and delivery of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and programme of work. In this regard, decision CP8/14.2 requested the Secretariat to prepare and circulate to the Contracting Parties by 31 December 2015, an analysis of the report on the strengthening the operational functioning of the secretariat, including, inter alia, the financial implications of the options contained in the report, proposals for secondment of staff by contracting parties and partners, proposals for utilizing the existing capacities of national institutions to advance the work of the Convention, and to submit the report to the next Conference of Parties. Further, in decision CP8/14.3, the Secretariat was requested in the immediate term, to approach Contracting Parties and other partners, in a position to do so, to support the effective implementation of the Nairobi Convention programme of work by, inter alia, providing staff and staffing resources within the provisions of the UN regulations.
58. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat finalized the analysis of the report on the strengthening the operational functioning of the secretariat, including, inter alia, the financial implications of the options contained in the report, proposals for secondment of staff by contracting parties and partners, proposals for utilizing the existing capacities of national institutions to advance the work of the Convention. **Annex XXIV** the report on operational functioning of the secretariat
59. Contracting Parties are urged to take note of the analysis report on optimizing secretariat functions, coordination and delivery of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and programme of work, and consider the options therein such as direct support to the Secretariat through non-staff personnel, decentralised support through regional activity or technical collaborating centres, networked support through advisory bodies, and partnerships, and their respective financial implications, to support the effective implementation of the Nairobi Convention programme of work.

#### **Decision CP8/15: Financial matters**

60. In decision CP8/15.1 Contracting Parties who have made their assessed contributions to the Trust Fund were commended and all Contracting Parties were urged to continue to make their contributions in a timely manner. Further, in decision CP8/15.2, the Secretariat was requested to prepare, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, for approval by the Bureau, a framework of options for settlement of arrears and to further urge Contracting Parties that are in arrears to use this framework to communicate their preferred settlement plan to the Secretariat. Also, in decision CP8/15.3, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a status report on the progress in the settlement of arrears by the Contracting Parties every six months and present the report to the Bureau. Additionally, decision CP8/15.4 requested Contracting Parties and partners in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions into the QAW *trust fund (to be corrected)* to support effective implementation of the work programme of the Convention.
61. The Secretariat in response to decision CP8/15.1 sent invoices to all the Contracting Parties during 2016, 2017, and early 2018.