



CATALYSING A COMMON BLUE FUTURE IN THE WIO:

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

Virtual Workshop 3, 23rd June 2021, 11am to 1.30 pm (EAT)

Meeting Report

Participants

Nairobi Convention Secretariat:	Tim Andrew
WIOMSA:	Arthur Tuda
WWF NMCi:	Harifidy Ralison
WWF DE:	Gabriel Odin
WWF International:	Sam Petersen
IUCN:	Thomas Sberna
Wetlands International:	Lilian Nyaega
GIZ:	Carol Mutiso, Yvonne Waweru, Bento Pascoal, Robin Farrington
Conservation International	Shannon Murphy

About

The workshop took place on 23 June 2021 under the theme “*Catalysing a Common Blue Future in the WIO: Envisioning a Transformational Multi-Stakeholder Initiative to Catalyse Ambition, Enhance Socio-ecological Resilience and Unlock the Development of a Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean*”. It brought together twelve participants from nine organizations from the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

At the first and second workshops held in April and May 2021 respectively, the core group of the above actors have engaged in participatory dialogue to develop a common understanding of their aspirations for a blue and climate-resilient future in the WIO and shown commitment to collaborating to develop a Multi-Stakeholder Initiative (MSI). This workshop was designed with a focus on tracking progress of the two Task Teams that were set up in the second workshop and preliminary discussions on the process of developing the MSI, interim governance arrangements for the preparatory phase, resources for developing the initiative, and strategies for bringing more actors on board.

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

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- a) Review and agree on **draft concept** on the **purpose** and **functions** of the MSI;
- b) Agree on the **roadmap** for the preparatory phase of the MSI;
- c) Develop a short-term strategy for reaching out to other partners and agreed **next steps**.

MINUTES

Plenary 1 – Highlights from 2nd workshop; introduction of newcomers

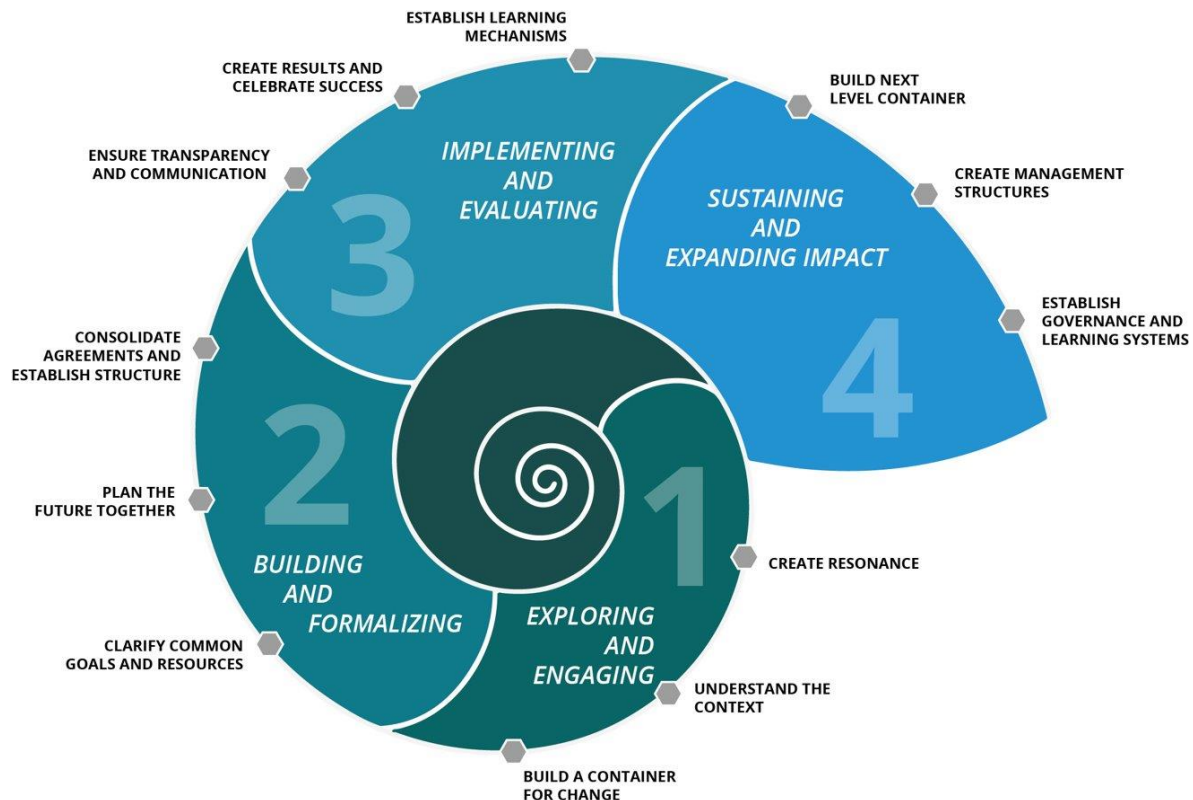
Tim Andrew opened the meeting by thanking the GIZ team for organizing past workshops and preparing meeting reports. He commended participants for developing the MSI pitch to the European Union (EU) within a very short time. He further stated that the MSI is a new and innovative approach in the WIO and the continent at large that could be a good example to other regions and also support the ongoing process of developing the Ocean Governance Strategy for Africa under the African Union (AU).

Carol Mutiso presented the main highlights of the meeting report of the 2nd MSI Workshop.

Shannon Murphy from Conservation International (CI) was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Plenary 2 – Reporting Back from Task Team 1

Task Team 1 members reported that they developed a pitch on the MSI that was presented to the EU for consideration in the upcoming funding cycle on Regional Blue Economy. With regard to MSI organizational development and process, a presentation prepared by the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI) was made which proposes a four-part process for developing the MSI based on CLI's Dialogic Change Model as below:



According to the Model, the MSI is currently in Phase 1 of Exploring and Engaging and enlivening the Transformation Network. The Core Team should hence focus on laying a strong Phase 1 foundation, including diversifying the team before formalizing goals, plans, and structures in Phase 2. In that regard, it was proposed that over the coming 6-9 months the core team should:

- a) **Create resonance**
 - deepen our narrative and vision with current and new members to create resonance
- b) **Understand the context**
 - Relevance and potential impact: Map actor landscape across sectors, countries, mandates
 - Appreciate expertise: More fully understand current and new members' strengths
- c) **Build a container for change**
 - Diversify Core Team; Continue to engage in regular exchanges that draw out collective intelligence and foster connection and ownership

- Innovative purpose: Develop a theory of change for our emerging network and build collaboration capacity for ensuring its implementation

Plenary 3- Reporting Back from Task Team 2

Task Team 2 reported that Thomas Sberna (IUCN) presented the pitch developed by Task Team 1 to the EU and were awaiting feedback. In addition, the team reported that outreach has not been possible since some participants have not volunteered to be part of task teams. A request was made to re-organize current task teams to ensure that all participants/organizations are represented. The team also recommended to have more meetings to finish the assigned tasks.

IUCN reported that it would prioritize the setting up of seascapes in the region and had engaged former President for Seychelles James Michel to become a Special IUCN Advisor.

Presentation: Paper on Seascape Approach

This slot was introduced to the agenda to provide an avenue to make presentations on different approaches which could be considered as part of the MSI. Shannon Murphy from CI made a presentation on the Seascape Approach based on her paper published in 2021 titled '*Fifteen years of lessons from the Seascape approach: A framework for improving ocean management at scale*'. She highlighted that the seascape approach aims to build coalitions among governments, communities and the private sector to improve ocean management. The Seascape program of CI has been implemented in eight countries and has been instrumental in improving management in four seascapes: a) Abrolhos Seascape in Brazil; b) Bird's Headscape in Indonesia; c) Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador; and d) Sulu-Sulawesi Seacape in the Phillipines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

With regard to the WIO, she stated that CI and IUCN are working on setting up a project in South Central Mozambique.

Feedback raised in plenary on the presentation includes:

- a) The scale of the seascape approach- whether it fits in the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach in the WIO and if it can be applied in a transboundary context at the regional level as boundaries are not only ecological but also political and economic.
- b) With regard to applicability in the WIO, the Northern Mozambique Initiative has applied nested seascapes in the region. WIOMSA and IUCN also have seed funding to establish the Tanga-Pemba Seascape, Kilifi Seascape, Northern Western Madagascar Seascape and in the Seychelles.
- c) Current IPCC and IPBES reports make the case for multi-functional scapes. It would be useful to incorporate the land (terrestrial scope) and biodiversity hotspots in establishing the feasibility for the WIO.
- d) Experiences on seascapes could be shared in the broader MSI platform and leverage MSI on delivery and implementation.

Plenary 4 – Agreeing on Draft Concept and Roadmap of MSI

The aim of the session was to discuss and agree on draft MSI concept, roadmap and initial mapping of resources.

It was agreed that the concept developed by Task Team 1 should be refined and improved on and used as preliminary communication material to actors that are not part of the core group as the MSI is built. Suggestions made to refine the concept by the next meeting were:

- a) Include historical aspects of the MSI;
- b) Provide background information on existing mechanisms in the region e.g Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C);
- c) Develop a one-page Executive Summary on what the MSI is about, what is hindering blue economy and the three approaches and six challenges highlighted in the concept;
- d) The concept is a living document that will evolve as the MSI develops. It was proposed to include a date in each version to keep track of different versions that will be developed.

It was also suggested that Task Team 2 should prepare a short pitch in presentation friendly format e.g. PowerPoint presentation to be used in engaging other stakeholders. It was suggested that the presentation should indicate that the MSI is still under development at this stage and not all answers might be there, but the group is progressively working towards a final concept.

The discussion on initial mapping of resources was started. It was stated that this would become clearer as the MSI develops. Some initial suggestions made include:

- 15-20 Million Euros by IUCN which will only be committed on Seascapes approach
- Grant from NORAD to support Sustainable Blue Economy by WWF could be aligned to the MSI.
- CORDIO on Transboundary Protected Area between Kenya and Tanzania

A suggestion was made to map all current projects by the core group organizations that align with the approaches proposed in the MSI. It was also proposed to look into an organization that could fund the operationalization of the MSI in the short term.

It was agreed that a clear workplan and budget should be developed to enable the dedication of funds for highlighted activities. This would enable participants and potential partners to know what has been funded and funding gaps that need to be addressed.

Plenary 5 – Immediate next steps, responsibilities and timelines

The aim of this session was to discuss strategies for getting other actors on board at the preparatory phase and preliminary discussions on MSI structure and governance.

- a) Expanding the Core Team**

- With regard to including other stakeholders, it was highlighted that focus should be on strengthening the core team and making use of current expertise. The six challenges highlighted in the concept could help to identify who needs to be brought on board.
- It was suggested that criteria for new stakeholders should first be developed by Task Team 2. Gaps in the current set-up should be identified to support this.
- Tim Andrew informed participants that CLI is supporting a parallel training of a core group of twenty-five representatives including RECs in developing the Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO that could be linked early on with the MSI once the criteria is developed.

b) Preliminary discussions on MSI structure and governance

GIZ presented a set of questions that could be considered in developing the interim MSI governance structure as below:

- What is the process of MSI development?
- How will decisions be made?
- By who (or who will be mandated to make which decisions)?
- How will we ensure multi-stakeholder representation/governance as soon as possible to be able to make more substantial decisions?
- What decisions can be made before this multi-stakeholder structure is in place? (This needs to be clarified so we can agree the extent to which we can design this initiative now, vs waiting until others are brought on board)
- Clarify respective roles in a bit more detail e.g. working group lead, task teams

Participants highlighted that a formal structure would not be needed at this stage until the MSI is defined further. In this regard, it was agreed that there is need to clearly define the value-added of the MSI (for example funding, scaling, accelerating or bringing people together) before the governance structure is put in place.

Next Steps

- a) Task Teams were requested to put realistic timeframes to the tasks. GIZ was requested to inform the Task Teams on what needs to be done and by when and the members of each team.
- b) A Microsoft Teams Folder for each Task Team should be created for easier communication and follow-up of the tasks. This platform was said to be a good fit since most organizations already use MS Teams.
- c) It was suggested that future meetings should last for two and a half hours.
- d) GIZ to send out a poll for the date of the next meeting. Once agreed upon the dates should be send out early enough to ensure everyone blocks the slots early enough.