



## Minutes for the Consortium of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region (WIO-C)

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021**

### Call to Order

The Meeting of the WIO-C was held virtually on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. It began at 1505 hr and was presided over by Mr. Ademola Ajasbe, with WIOMSA secretariat taking notes.

### Attendees

The meeting was attended by twenty WIO-C members and partners, including Birdlife International, Blue Ventures, CORDIO, FFI, IUCN, Nairobi Convention, TNC, Wetlands International, WCS, WIOMSA, WWF Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative

### Approval of Agenda

The chair presented the Agenda that was approved by members.

### Matter arising

Dr Julius Francis presented the matter arising and the status of agreed action and the further actions to follow:

Matter arising	Action	Follow up action
1. Mapping of projects/initiatives	For members of WIO-C to provide information on institution's interventions in the areas of potential synergies, an information sheet for mapping activities by institutions was circulated.  Only 7 members responded with information about conservation and management activities and their funding involved	Members who have not submitted the information urged to do so by 30th April 2021  Co-financing forms would be sent out for partners to fill and return as part of their co-financing to the Nairobi Convention Work-programme and the GEF funded projects.  The next steps in the organizational mapping process will be uploading the information into the Clearing

			House Mechanism & WIO-C website as an annual recurrent activity.
<b>2. Improvement of communication and information sharing:</b>	<b>of</b>	The Secretariat reported access to the WIO- C website given to Blue Ventures and WWF Madagascar.	Other members urged to provide updates about activities on the WIO-C webpage
<b>3. Development of joint projects</b>	<b>of</b>	No action taken in this regard.	The meeting came up with some actions for implementation
<b>4. Establishment of thematic working groups on (Marine Spatial Planning and a working group on resource mobilization)</b>	<b>of</b>	The Nairobi Convention established a Technical Working Group (TWG) on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).  There is no action yet on the Resource Mobilization Working Group.	

## Agenda & Discussion

- 1. Presentations by members** - The WIO-C members present gave brief presentations about their current activities. These presentations will be uploaded on the WIO-C webpage. The summary is also presented in the main meeting report accompanying these minutes.
- 2. Ideas for joint actions by the WIO-C partners-** *Facilitated by Nyawira Muthiga.* Four possible areas for joint action were suggested and discussed (more details in the main report)
  - The UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with a focus on the decline in ocean health
  - The CBD Aichi marine and coastal targets: the post-2020 framework
  - The Blue Economy and the high-level panel for a sustainable ocean economy
  - The African Ocean Governance strategy

After the discussion, members agreed as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Key points</b>	<b>Agreed actions and roles</b>
<b>The UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with a focus on the decline in ocean health</b>	Bring IOC- UNESCO on board into the discussions on how best the consortium can contribute towards concrete actions in support of the Ocean Science for Sustainability decade.	<b>WIOMSA</b> to lead on draft paper to be shared with members for input on possible actions under the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development  <b>Wetlands International</b> leading the restoration component.

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<b>On the CBD Aichi marine and coastal targets: post 2020 Framework,</b>	Discussion on Biodiversity framework is well advanced and little contribution can be made at this stage by WIO-C	Explore possible avenues WIO-C to contribute to the delivery of the agreed targets of the framework in a sustainable manner through collaboration with the Africa CSO Biodiversity Alliance.  <i>CORDIO</i> offered to take a lead in advancing these discussions and noted that possible actions within that framework include the submission of a science-policy paper on integrated targets for post 2020 which can be shared with members to kick off the discussion on what WIO-C can do in the post 2020 framework.
<b>The Blue Economy and the high-level panel for a sustainable ocean economy</b>	It was noted that already there are ongoing activities by the high-level panel for sustainable ocean economy	Determine how to advise countries in the region on how to fulfill the commitments made by the heads of state, and what role the WIO-C should play  Other areas where WIO-C can engaged include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing guidelines for the sustainable development of Blue Economy infrastructure in the region</li> <li>• raising the profile of the critical role that coastal communities play in the operationalization of the Blue Economy</li> <li>• highlighting the pivotal role of MPAs and LMMAs in conserving the blue natural capital in the region</li> </ul> <p><i>WCS</i> will develop the concept note for action on sustainable Ports and share for members' input</p> <p><i>IUCN</i> focusing on role of coastal communities and MPAs/LMMAs in operationalizing Blue Economy strategies.</p>

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## **Announcements**

### **WIO- C contribution to the outcomes of the Science to Policy Platform meeting and upcoming COP – Dr Jared Bosire (UNEP Nairobi Convention)**

- On the recently held WIO Science to Policy meeting – ongoing discussions between the NC and WIOMSA to produce proceedings of the meeting. Guidelines will be sent out to presenter of the format of the proceedings.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> COP meeting of the NC has been postponed and consultations are ongoing on the next possible dates. The Convention will work with the WIO-C to review the status of implementation of COP 9 decisions and prepare decisions of COP 10.

## **AOB**

- i. Further areas for joint action: concerns raised about coastal fisheries and their gears, including what is sustainable, what can we collectively do – BV, FFI and WWF Madagascar discussed policies to address a moratorium on destructive inshore trawling, a survey on destructive fishing practices and an artisanal fisheries platform, respectively. Further, CORDIO led a policy discussion paper at the Nairobi Convention Science to Policy Platform in collaboration with other members. It would be good to join forces as many WIO-C partners are working on aspects of sustainable coastal fisheries in their projects. It needs a concerted collective effort to really turn the tide on these issues which have huge ramifications for food security.
- ii. Further areas for joint action: The Nairobi Convention has had consultations with PMAESA, IMO, MTCC and Focal Points on sustainable port development as part implementation of COP 9 Decision on Ports. WIO-C will also play a very important role in this space.
- iii. Phenomenal progress has been made since the last WIO-C meeting in terms of number of large and well-funded projects. There is therefore an even greater need for good sharing of information and outputs to avoid duplication and replication. WIOMSA and UNEP should upscale the efforts to provide an online platform for information sharing on the WIO-C website.

## **Adjournment**

The chair closed the meeting at 1707 hours.