

# Regional Ocean Governance-The Road to a Regional Strategy

A Paper by NC Secretariat, WIOMSA and GIZ-WIOGI for the Science to Policy Forum for the Nairobi Convention

Virtual Meeting 26 April 2021



Implemented by



In cooperation with:



# WIOGI Project

- Objective - *Cooperation... at regional and national level for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity... is strengthened*
- 2020-2023; €3.4m
- Three components:
  - Strengthening regional policy dialogue
  - Enhancing the involvement of the private sector in regional governance
  - Establishing multi-stakeholder partnership for integrated coastal zone management (Mozambique)



In cooperation with:



# Mandate

## AMCEN

- 2015 Cairo Declaration
- AMCEN 2017 (Libreville)

## Nairobi Convention COP Decisions

- COP8/5
- COP9/6



## Progress Made in Development of Strategy

RECS Dialogue

- Partnership Meeting with RECs in the WIO in April 2019 Durban, South Africa

Analytical Dialogue

- Special Session at WIOMSA 11<sup>th</sup> Scientific Symposium in July 2019

Broad-Based Stakeholder Dialogue

- Workshop on Ocean Governance and Security



# Linking the Ocean Governance Strategy to regional and global processes

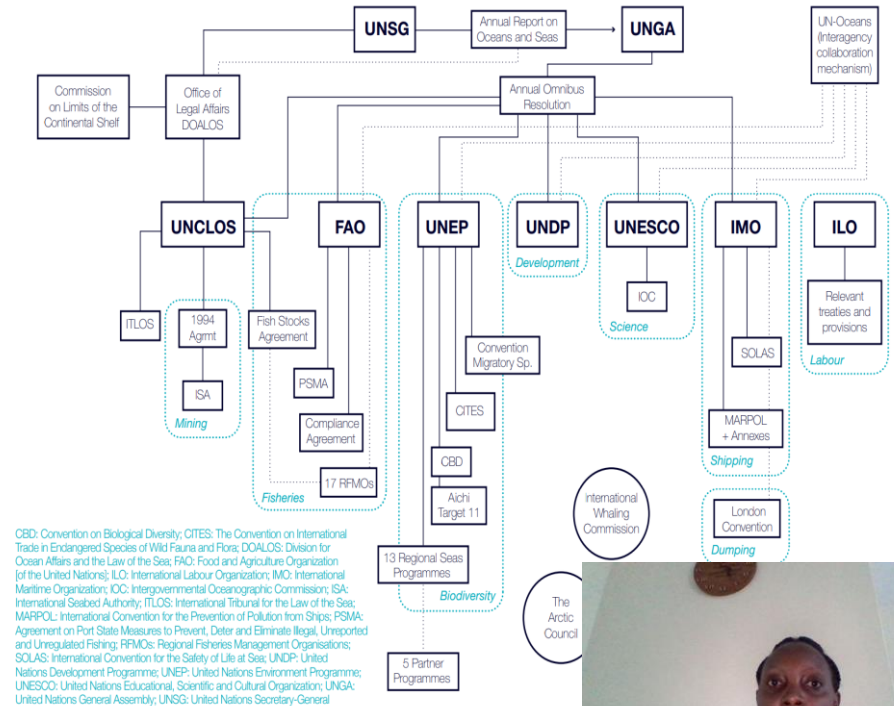
## International Ocean Governance

Ocean governance is framed by:

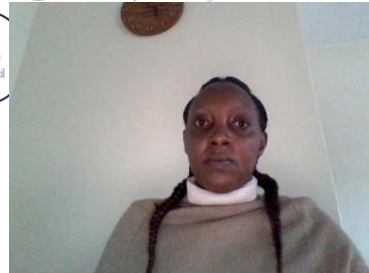
- (i) state's rights and obligations under international law, under regional agreements and national law;
- (ii) the related policies, plans and norms (e.g., Rio+20, AU policies);
- (iii) international codes, guidelines and approaches (e.g., the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and various International Maritime Organisation guidelines)

- Law of the Sea
- Maritime security
- Climate Change
- Marine pollution
- Fisheries
- Living natural resources
- Ocean Science and Knowledge

SUMMARISED SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, SHOWING SECTORAL APPROACH AND PLETHORA OF ORGANISATIONS



Global Ocean Commission 2014



# African Ocean Governance Framework



- **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063** advocates regional cooperation and identifies the RECs as the fulcrum for cooperation, policy coherence and strategic alignment among their members
- **The 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS)** adopted in 2014 : “to foster increased wealth creation from Africa’s oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner

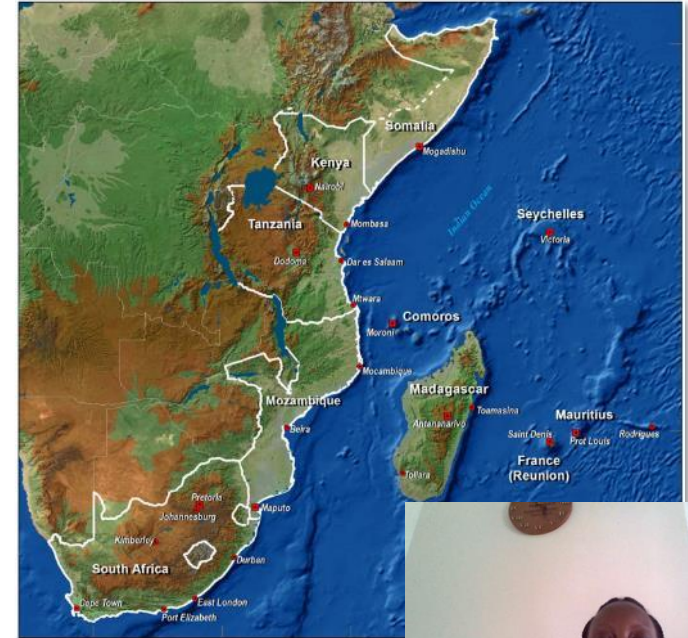
## ▪ Others:

- **Africa Mining Code** which influences development of offshore hydrocarbons; declarations and initiatives on the blue economy
- **The Revised African Maritime Transport Charter (1994, revised 2012)** and associate Plan of Action endorsed by an AU transport ministers in 2009
- **Abuja Declaration on sustainable fisheries (2005)**
- **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement**
- **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1968)**
- **The Decade of African Seas and Oceans (2015-2025)**
- Arrangements on maritime security- **the Lomé Declaration and the Djibouti Code of Conduct**
- Other processes related to a Economy e.g **Africa Blue E** launched by the AU in 2020



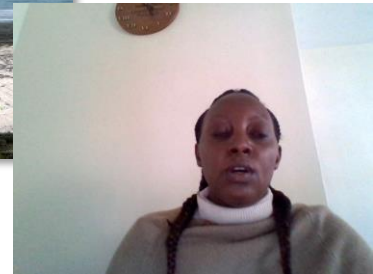
# Regional Ocean Governance Framework in the WIO

- **Nairobi Convention and its Protocols**
- **RECs:** SADC, IGAD, EAC, COMESA and the IOC have an important coordinating role on oceans and have policies which influence national ocean governance and coordination between countries.
- **Maritime security:** The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) established in 2009 has no formal membership or secretariat but engages with all WIO countries, the RECs, the IOC and the private (shipping) sector.
- **Fisheries:** Regional fisheries organisations in the region and non-AU countries fishing on the high seas and through access agreements with AU member countries
- **Private sector:** shipping, port authorities, tourism, trade, fisheries, offshore hydrocarbons, telecommunications (undersea cables)
- **NGOs:** Regional and national
- **Knowledge Management:** WIOMSA, Nairobi Convention CHM
- **External Actors:** International financial institutions, donors



# Current Situation in the WIO

- Diversity of membership of regional organisations
- Diversity of issues, sectors, and capabilities
- Capacity and resources deficit
- Poor enforcement and compliance
- Rapid deterioration in the ocean and coastal environment, economy and dependent populations; marine pollution
- Maritime security
- Maritime boundary disputes
- Rapid development of strategic corridors and maritime trade
- Activities in Areas (Biodiversity) Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Unequal distributional issues related to stresses on communities, effective knowledge management



# Governance Challenges

The main governance issue in the WIO is:

*the lack of common principles, common criteria and common evidentiary standards for conservation measures between different sectoral organisations and processes hinders broader efforts for comprehensive management and sustainable use of the marine environment*





# Stakeholder Consensus on Regional Ocean Governance

The 3 Nairobi Convention dialogues revealed a broad stakeholder consensus in:

- A shared long-term vision on the broad objectives of regional ocean governance

*The vision is for a peaceful, politically stable region; an environmentally healthy ocean; and a blue economy based on the protection and conservation of natural resources that delivers sustainable benefits with due regard to equity and wellbeing of people*

- The need for enhanced policy alignment and cooperation within and between WIO countries
- The need for inclusive and enhanced cooperation among regional organisations
  - *Enhanced cooperation within and between countries*
  - *Enhanced cooperation between regional institutions and organisations*

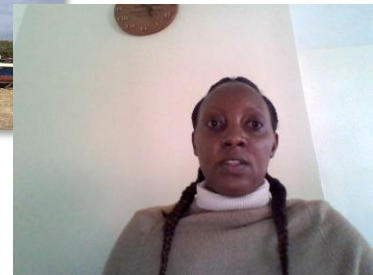


# Options for the Development of the Strategy

The options were informed by three main factors:

- a recognition of the diversity of national, sectoral and thematic objectives across the region
- the nature, role and membership of the existing institutions that facilitate regional cooperation
- the 'open' nature of the WIO as a loosely defined area, interconnected both environmentally and economically to adjacent seas and regions

*The process of developing an Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO should provide an integrated framework to improve strategic alignment, coordination, and cooperation among actors and stakeholders and to promote integrated and harmonised implementation of sectoral policies with the aim of addressing common environmental, economic, and social challenges*



# Options for the development of the Strategy

Three Options that could be considered:

- **Establish a joint REC ocean governance task force**
  - 2019 Nairobi Convention/ RECs dialogue proposed the establishment of a Core Group to advance the cooperation agenda
  - Enable the inclusion of blue economy and maritime security stakeholders as a valuable starting point
  - Option received broad support
- **Structure an adaptable open dialogue, or ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach**
  - a loose structure to the dialogue on cooperation for the entire 'ecosystem' of institutions engaged in ocean governance
  - inclusive of all key stakeholders and facilitate their cooperation to the extent that each institution is capable
- **Dialogue clusters**
  - four (or more) clusters or pillars that would provide a space for information exchange, sharing of lessons learned, and development of policy and strategic advice for governments, RECs and the AU through multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral analyses, reviews or discussion papers



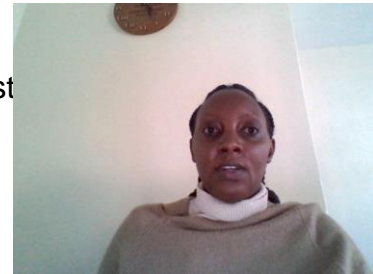
## Conclusions and Recommendations

The following way forward could be considered with support from various regional structures, initiatives and projects:

- Request the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to facilitate, together with partners, continued dialogue with the RECs in the WIO and other stakeholders on the establishment of a regional Ocean Governance Taskforce or Coordinating Structure, and develop a roadmap towards Strategy development;
- Building on previous COP decisions around Ocean Governance, request the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to facilitate a process led by the RECS to develop a regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO by March 2022

### **It is recommended that the above processes should:**

- Align ocean governance engagement with RECs to their Blue Economy Strategy and Policy development processes and continental processes under the AU
- Align support for this process among regional structures, initiatives and projects including Regional Fisheries Bodies in the WIO
- Link discussions around ABNJ/BBNJ connectivity and related area-based management to national EEZs, into the ocean governance dialogues
- Link discussions around private sector engagement to the ocean governance dialogues
- Strive to draw the environmental and fisheries sectors within the WIO closer together in an Ecosystem Approach to enhance regional ocean governance





**Thank you!**

