



**NAIROBI CONVENTION PARTNERS' MEETING**

**30 and 31 AUGUST 2021**

**VIRTUAL**

**MEETING REPORT**

## BACKGROUND OF THE PARTNERS' MEETING

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention have in several of its Conference of Parties (COP) decisions, COP4, COP6, COP6, COP7, COP8 and COP9, called for the strengthening and enhancement of cooperation, collaboration, and support with partners. In response to the requests the Nairobi convention has continued to advance and strengthen its partnership with various NGOs, RECs, Regional Commissions, Fisheries Bodies, research, and academic institutions to support and facilitate sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in the region. To harness the benefits of information exchange, synergies and collaboration amongst the partners, the Nairobi convention has since established platforms such as the Forum of academic and research institutions (FARI) and the Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C). The partnerships have promoted collaborative research, provided science-based information for evidence-based decision-making, supported sustainable management of the marine and coastal resources of the WIO region, and supported implementation of various policies, strategic action programmes, projects, and activities.

At the March 2021 Science to Policy meeting, WIO-C, the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) and several other partners articulated various key emerging issues that are likely to inform governments on important policy interventions to address threats to the WIO marine environment and resources. The Covid-19 pandemic, together with climate change are risk factors influencing sustainable development and the exploitation of ocean resources with severe ramifications on the ocean economy.

The partners meeting- supported by the [ACP MEAs 3 programme](#)- was held on 30 and 31 August 2021. The purpose was to review Covid-19 recovery options and measures needed or planned to stem or avoid negative impacts on the marine environment in the near future. The meeting allowed for sharing of priority issues and highlighted possible policy interventions relevant to fisheries and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region.

## THE 2021 PARTNERS' MEETING

### Main Objective

The meeting themed '*Enhancing resilience and the health of the Western Indian Ocean: 2022-2024 Partnership Programme*' sought to chart a way for strengthened and targeted approach towards partnerships for regional protection of the coastal and marine environment, management, and development. As a result, the meeting focussed on partners' efforts in addressing existing and emerging regional issues in the Western Indian Ocean, implementation of projects, activities, and initiatives, and explored possible synergies and joint actions towards sustainable use of the Western Indian Ocean.

The specific objective of meeting was to highlight partners' responses and interventions to mitigate Covid-19 impacts on the marine and coastal environment at national and regional scale, with proposed actions and policy recommendations for the period 2022-2024.

## A Summary of the Outcome

Representatives of WIO-C members, representatives of regional economic communities (RECs), regional fisheries bodies, Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI), representative of regional commissions, representative of Nairobi Convention contacting parties, active regional projects in the WIO region, networks and associations attended the Nairobi Convention Partners Meeting on 30-31 August 2021 virtually via the KUDO platform. Eighty-nine participants attended the two-day meeting (See Annex 2 for list of participants).

Partners made twenty-four presentations, highlighting priority fisheries-environment related issues and impacts of COVID-19 crisis in the Nairobi Convention area.

In March 2020, World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic due to the rapid increase in cases across a growing number of countries. WHO urged governments to take measures to contain the spread of the virus. Many countries introduced controls to restrict peoples' internal movement, keep social distance, and some countries closed their borders entirely.

These measures affected normal operations for organizations, businesses, learning institutions, healthcare institutions, among others. COVID-19 pandemic on the coastal and marine environment, society and economy cut across all presentations. Direct impacts were on fisheries, tourism, agriculture, trade, ports and maritime transport, THE informal sector and mining, and in waste management.

Cases were highlighted of reduced income arising from market disruptions for sea products, food insecurity, job losses, reduced monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), weakened enforcement of environmental laws & regulations, and increasing medical waste entering the marine environment.

Recommendations by the partners are broadly summarised in the thematic areas below.

1. Promoting other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)
  - i. Mainstreaming locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) into the policy frameworks to improve marine area protection and small-scale fisheries (SSF) management
  - ii. Facilitating fisheries community councils, co-management committees and supporting establishment or expansion of LMMAs
  - iii. Support participatory management planning processes leading to the development and approval of by-laws and creation of local governance structures by beach management units (BMUs), demarcation of community conservation areas (CCAs), and linking of CCA representatives through a country-wide and regional networks for peer learning.
2. Enhancing partnerships for conservation of critical habitats and endangered species.
  - i. Management of MPAs in the areas identified as climate refugia in Western Indian Ocean.
  - ii. Enhance protection of shark and ray species in the WIO.

- iii. Initiate and implement projects aimed strengthening resilience and restoration of critical habitats including effective conservation and sustainable use of mangroves.
3. Building/enhancing the capacity of member States on maritime security-based agreements, protocols, and standard operating procedures (SOPs)
4. Tackling illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing
  - i. Fisheries socioeconomics and stock assessments and setting up of an observatory to map and collate all instances of IUU fishing in collaboration with national governments
5. Mainstreaming strategic interventions into COVID-19 recovery.
  - i. Building contingencies into project design for unplanned events
  - ii. Embracing flexible time and distributed capacity and operations work models
  - iii. Interventions on waste management, conservation initiatives, investments in alternative livelihoods to build resilience among coastal communities
  - iv. Rationalise the need for (and cost of) national and international travel
  - v. Increasing access to online data and data sharing and introducing virtual alternatives to social networking
  - vi. Increase data gathering on impact of COVID-19
6. Multi-stakeholder coordination and integration in Marine Spatial Planning, Ocean Governance and Blue Economy.
  - i. Advocates for partnerships to address regional initiatives for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)
  - ii. Feasibility for establishing a Western Indian Ocean Blue Economy Platform/regional multi-stakeholder initiative to support effective private sector partnerships in coastal and ocean stewardship
7. Strengthening partnership in the implementation of projects.

## CLOSING REMARKS

### Closing Statement – Timothy Andrew, Nairobi Convention Secretariat

8. Timothy Andrew acknowledged the active of all participants and appreciated partners for providing updates of what they were doing and planning to do, highlighting areas of collaboration and synergy. The meeting also allowed for sharing of common challenges amongst partners in implementing their programmes especially during COVID-19 period.



Deliberations and recommendations from the meeting by the partners will be considered during the focal points meeting scheduled for October 2021 and the policy-relevant recommendations will be taken forward to COP 10 scheduled for November 2021.

All the presentations and summary recommendations are accessible on the Nairobi Convention's Clearinghouse Mechanism, [HERE](#).



**DETAILED REPORT OF THE SESSIONS DURING THE PARTNERS' MEETING**

**30 and 31 AUGUST 2021**

## SESSION I: OPENING SESSION

### Opening remarks –Dixon Waruinge, Head of Nairobi Convention Secretariat

9. The meeting was called to order at 0930hrs (EAT) by Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. Mr. Waruinge welcomed all the participants to the virtual partners meeting and gave opening remarks. He stated that the responsibility of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) ecosystems lies with national governments that are also contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention. He mentioned that good governance of ocean and its associated ecosystems was a collective obligation to all contracting parties to the Convention, and partners and private sector players active in the region.
10. Waruinge acknowledged the role played by regional economic communities (RECs) – IGAD, IOC, SADC. The support RECs give to various governments is crucial in highlighting areas of concern in marine and coastal environment of WIO region. He also acknowledged the key stakeholders present in the meetings that collectively invest a lot of resources in the Western Indian Ocean to mitigate degradation of the coastal and marine environment. His remarks recalled the Science – Policy meeting that was held in March 2021 where scientists provided new information, highlighted how the information relates to new areas of Policy and the possible decisions for consideration by the governments.
11. Waruinge mentioned various interventions undertaken by the stakeholders including on marine litter, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, on protected areas management or ocean governance at country level. He stated the role of Nairobi Convention as a catalyst of what partnerships do highlighting catalytic projects such as the [WIOSAP](#), [SAPPHIRE](#), [NC-SWIOFC Partnership project](#), [ACP-MEAs 3](#) and [NoCaMO](#) as well as MoUs for collaborations with several other partners.
12. In his concluding remarks he stated the purpose of the partnership meeting in proposing new actions and the means of collaborations in the form of recommendations to Nairobi Convention conference of parties (COP). These would also form a collective work programme (2022-2024) to be presented during COP 10 scheduled for November 2021.

### Opening statement-Jacqueline Uku, President of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

13. Dr. Jacqueline Uku, President of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) gave her opening statement representing the secretariat of the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C).
14. She highlighted notable impacts of COVID-19 on human life including on food and nutrition, poverty as well as the global economic downsizing but urged the partners to look at what opportunities that the epidemic has presented. She noted the role of WIOMSA as a secretariat of WIO-C and thus assist in mobilising actions that are relevant to all partners. She further emphasised on the importance of the partners meeting in crafting a viable and strong work programme for the coming period. Dr. Uku reflected on some of the SDG 14 targets considering the issues coming in during COVID 19 pandemic.

15. Referring to SDG 14.1 on reduction of marine pollution she noted that while there may have been a reduction of waste pollution from hotels, ports and landing points for fisheries, there has been a rise in marine debris from COVID discards such as masks, Personal protection equipment and medical wastes. She highlighted the opportunity for scientists to continue raising awareness of what else can be done to deal with marine debris or being innovative to come up with biodegradable waste. She also indicated the opportunity to set programmes to measure or monitor nutrient and pollution flows during COVID-19 times, which have direct impacts on ocean acidification.
16. Regarding SDG 14.4 that looks at regulation of harvesting, overfishing and IUU issues, she noted that due to COVID lockdowns, enforcement and surveillance in the ocean may have reduced because surveillance efforts rely on government support, which would decline as priorities change with focus given to the support of health systems. She encouraged partners to look at areas that deal with overharvesting and overfishing and develop systems that can withstand current and future shocks and continue to provide safeguards for the environment.
17. Regarding SDG 14.5 on conservation at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, she urged partners to be creative in complementing governments efforts which are mainly around managing and running MPAs. She gave an example of partners supporting dialogues on LMMAs and Co-management as a tool to achieving the target.
18. On SDG14.6 which focuses on provision of certain forms of fishery subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing and a call to eliminate IUU based subsidies, she noted that it is worth investing in beneficial subsidies and programmes that can lead towards enhancing the growth of fish stocks through conservation, monitoring of catch rates, and leading to a maximum sustainable long-term benefit. She acknowledged that partners had programmes to assist communities address SDG14.6 and will continue building up on past and present initiatives.
19. Related to SDG 14A on scientific knowledge, research capacity, the transfer of marine technology, she acknowledged that marine education and knowledge generation are key to supporting work in the marine sector. She noted the very low enrolments or almost no students coming into the marine fisheries and environmental courses at university level in Kenya. She indicated the decline could be attributed to i) lack of awareness in such careers and ii) students opting to take technical courses considering the monetary gain aspect. She noted that universities are cutting out courses that are very critical to the survival of the sector, thus eroding succession and emergence of young marine scientists to take on the legacy that partners have created. She called on the universities present at the partners meeting platform to give guidance on what ocean practitioners can do better to make ocean science attractive. She further indicated the need to focus on programmes that enhance the marine literacy levels at community level and within Schools to promote appreciation of marine resources throughout the society.
20. Regarding SDG 14B on providing access to small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, she called on ensuring inclusivity of communities in the design and implementation of partners programmes. This bearing in mind that communities are the custodians of the resources and have experienced the most drastic COVID-19 impacts due to



loss of incomes. She highlighted the opportunity for partners to provide more profitable markets to the fisher communities and upping the age matrix of fishers to include the youths for succession.

21. On Ocean policy SDG 14C that looks at the implementation of UNCLOS and other international processes she noted the need to process the science into Policy. She highlighted the role of the IPCC and IPBES in ensuring that dialogues are well articulated to policymakers to make them more aware. She challenged partners to consider what the region can take up from the IPCC & IPBES example, that can lead to tackling climate change related issues, Ocean Health and Human well-being. She encouraged partners to be more inclusive of the other strategies as SDG 14 is closely related to SDGs that Focus on poverty, gender, and climate change.
22. She reflected on SDG17 on strengthening the means of implementation of global partnerships citing the Global Ocean Science report that indicated that partnerships are key for the advancement of ocean science. She highlighted notable modes of partnership in strengthening networks of ocean scientists and growing partnerships. She called on partners to chart a more sustainable and equitable way forward in the ocean decade.

#### **Opening remarks – Ahmed Hersi Regional Coordinator, Intergovernmental Authority on development**

23. Mr. Ahmed Hersi commended partners for making time to discuss matters of concern as it relates to ocean governance in the western Indian Ocean which requires the joint and seamless collaboration between Member States, regional organisations, and international partnerships to realise full benefits of the ocean resources. He emphasized the need for safe and secure environment from piracy and criminalities. He informed partners that within the framework of the Regional economic communities (RECs), there are both strategies and policies at regional level with some member states and as well as continental tools like the AIMS strategy.
24. He acknowledged the interaction with Nairobi Convention, the international partners, Regional economic communities in finding appropriate responses to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the marine and coastal environment and communities. He was optimistic that the meeting would general proposals in form of policy recommendations to enhance RECs operational framework towards sound Ocean governance in the Western Indian Ocean region.

#### **Opening remarks-Agnes Muthumbi (University of Nairobi), Chair, Forum for Academic and Research institutions (FARI)**

25. Ms. Agnes Muthumbi acknowledged the partnership between Nairobi Convention and the research and academic institutions which provide an opportunity to use research for policy development. She reiterated that due to limited financial resources students are enrolling for courses that would make economic value and thus indicated the need to make marine courses more appealing. Packaging courses in such a way that blue economy aspects are clearly spelled out will enable students to establish their career in marine related courses.

## SESSIONS II & III: SUMMARY REPORT OF EACH PARTNER

### Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ahmed Hersi

26. The presentation noted that the region's population risks of environmental disasters (drought and floods the plague of locust) and extreme poverty are exacerbating threats to peace and security. Specific examples of impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic include decline in remittances from overseas (case of Somalia), potential relapse to conflict for some countries with weak institutional arrangements (South Sudan), weakened governments' capacity to deliver core functions, unemployment, and reduction in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). IGAD recommended i) building/enhancing the capacity member States on maritime security-based agreements, protocols and standard operating procedures (SOP's) ii) strict observance of the pandemic prevention measures in port infrastructures and in coastal areas iii) enhancing regional approaches iv) facilitating ongoing peacebuilding and state building

### The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), Mika Odido

27. The presentation noted the recommendations from Sixth Session of IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-V) around establishment of Regional Planning Group for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, extension of the mandate of the IOCAFRICA Strategic Planning Group, and strengthening collaboration with the African Union Commission. The challenges of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and recommendations are informed by the ongoing Regional Gap Analysis (with WIOMSA), establishment of regional decade implementation committee and global level initiatives including call for nominations to the decade advisory board. The IOCAFRICA work programme for 2021-2023 focuses on ocean observations, data and information management, capacity development for marine science and technology, and ocean literacy.

### Indian Ocean Commission, Ginna Bonne

28. The presentation provided impacts on Covid-19 pandemic in the islands including impacts on the environment, society and economy such as limited access to local contacts, reduced revenues, high operational costs and challenges in waste management, and reduced MCS activities. The priority areas of intervention and actions by OIC would be in four thematic areas: (i) capacity development through technical training, on job training and science, research and innovation, (ii) marine and coastal resources on improving science for decision making, Implementation of the Blue Economy framework through the various programmes of the Commission, improving scientific knowledge (practitioners, academia, scientist etc), improve the nexus between health and environment, and rehabilitation of the coastal and marine ecosystems, (iii) climate change around impact of climate change and environment on human and animal health, eco-fish programme and coastal resilience programme such as Nature Base Solutions, and (iv) addressing marine pollution.

### Nairobi Convention - SAPPHERE Partnerships, Tim Andrew

29. The focus of SAPPHERE is on improving ocean governance in the WIO, with partnerships having been created including collaboration with SwAM on MSP, Marine Regions Forum, links with other GEF supported LMEs and UN Regional Seas programmes, collaboration with WIOGI and

members of the WIO-C) on regional Ocean Governance Strategy and a WIO Multi-Stakeholder Initiative (MSI) and Partnerships with national focal institutions and the appointed project Focal Points.

### **Institute of Marine Sciences - University of Dar es Salaam, Ntahondi Nyandwi**

30. IMS operational programmes include teaching, research and technical support. The challenges and impacts of COVID-19 delayed project implementation and unplanned budgets for protective measures and interventions such as no-cost extensions, reduced activities on physical meetings, and changed mode of operations. IMS Recommended programme revisions, investing in improved telecommunications infrastructure and a review to allow for flexible project timelines

### **Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Nina Wambiji**

31. The Main sectors affected by COVID-19 in the coastal areas of Kenya are fisheries, tourism, agriculture, trade, ports and maritime transport, informal sector, and mining. Impacts of COVID-19 on coastal and marine environment include weakened enforcement of environmental laws & regulations, Pollution of marine environment from Personal protective equipment (PPE), disrupted livelihoods and reduced incomes, market disruptions for sea products and food insecurity.
32. KMFRI's proposed interventions around proper disposal of PPE, promotion of marine environmental conservation initiatives, and investing in alternative and supplementary livelihoods to build resilience among coastal communities. The Institution provided a number of recommendations: i) embrace remote surveillance and reporting in the areas of work ii) implement enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance of natural resources iii) Institutions urged to share their skills and equipment at no cost or subsidized costs in mitigating against impacts of COVID-19; iv) Governments to develop a strong emergency response mechanism and to build strong and resilient economic sectors through research to withstand pandemics. KMFRI urged collaboration with partners to vi) undertake vulnerability mapping of both marine environment and households that depend on it for livelihood and income, vii) enhance funding from diverse sources for research on the coastal and marine environment to address emerging challenges, and that viii) Marine Spatial Planning should be comprehensively conducted to inform Blue Economy development.

### **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Nyawira Muthiga**

33. Using two case studies on responding to shocks in small-scale fishing communities, WCS informed of a panel-data study to track impacts and responses to Covid-19. The study confirmed that small-scale fisheries are a crucial safety net for a variety of livelihoods such that Covid-19 safe policies and protocols should support continued fishing or diversification into other informal livelihoods. The report noted that ensuring Covid19 support reaches the most vulnerable was critical in safeguarding the wellbeing of coastal communities.
34. Noting that WCS was supporting creation of Tandavandriva Nosy Be MPA in Madagascar, the presenter gave recommendations around management of MPAs in the areas identified as climate refugia in the region, called on member States and relevant organizations to

collaborate and develop management strategies to protect the climate refugia in the WIO. WCS encouraged member States to implement their global and regional binding commitments in the protection and management of the coastal areas and in ocean governance, including listing appropriate shark and ray species on Nairobi Convention Annexes in the Protocol concerning protected areas, wild flora and fauna.

#### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Robin Farrington**

35. Elaborating on a proposed regional multi-stakeholder initiative (MSI) for a sustainable blue economy, the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) Project alluded that MSI was an alliance between governments, business, civil society, international organisations, and science across the WIO, with the common agenda to transition to a sustainable blue economy. WIOGI project sought for further development of MSI including establishing a core group, a preliminary governance structure, roadmap for development and capacity development for high quality and inclusive dialogue and stakeholder processes to co-create the MSI. The project called on Contracting Parties to strengthen collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders for a sustainable blue economy and to endorse the development of MSI.

#### **Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO), Melita Samoily**

36. The presentation took note of CORDIO's interconnected approach to managing and conserving the marine and coastal environment through partnerships, science, policy, management, and governance. CORDIO acknowledged the challenges of COVID19 in community based natural resource management (CBNRM) that saw restriction in the number of participants, change in mode of facilitation, environmental pollution from improper disposal mask etc, but with increased awareness, there was a renewed interest in CBNRM to protect natural resources in site areas. Partners were informed of a project on Ocean protection being implemented by CORDIO in partnership with World Oceans and University of Comoros. It builds on a capacity building programme with the focus on improving MPA management and monitoring and building a resource centre at the university.

#### **Nairobi Convention - WIOSAP partnerships, Jared Bosire**

37. The WIOSAP Project has supported at least 20 demo projects in country partners and developed the Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Outlook and visualization Dashboard. The MPA Outlook called for the establishment of a regional framework for MPA capacity development and highlighted partnerships developed for Marine Spatial Planning, constructed wetlands for wastewater management, and application in IWRM. WIOSAP project has also established task forces and working groups for critical habitats, water quality, sustainable management of river flows, marine litter and microplastics and for marine spatial planning. The partnerships have been important in the development of guidelines for mangrove ecosystem restoration in the WIO, guidelines for sea grass ecosystem restoration for the WIO, and guidelines for assessment of environmental flows in the WIO.
38. Partnerships have been established in the ongoing development of frameworks such as the Regional Ecosystem Monitoring Framework, Regional Water Quality Monitoring Framework, Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy, Guidelines on Methodologies for the Valuation of Coastal & Marine Ecosystems, Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) toolkit,

Marine Litter Status, Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration in the Western Indian Ocean Region and constructed wetland technology as nature-based solution for sustainable municipal wastewater treatment in WIO region

### **Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), Vasco Schmidt**

39. The presenter highlighted the mandate of SWIOFC as an advisory body to its members mainly on sustainable management of fisheries from small scale, semi-industrial to commercial both at regional and national scales and informed partners of the 2019 guideline on Minimum terms and conditions for foreign fisheries access to tuna fisheries in the SWIOFC region adopted by SWIOFC members. Noted that members are taking steps towards implementing articles of the guideline related to MCS. At the same time, SWIOFC is collaborating with regional MCS centres including SADC's MCS Coordination centre in Maputo and Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance (PRSP) linked to IOC and funded by ECOFISH program. The collaboration is expected to extend towards fighting IUUs in the region in the next two years.
40. SWIOFC informed of a series of ongoing partnership projects such as (i) an upcoming IUU study in the SWIOFC region that will not only detail the IUU fishing problem but also the criminality around it, (ii) the Project on building on resilience of fishing communities with a focus on coral reef fisheries in IOC region and Kenya, (iii) the Nairobi Convention-SWIOFC Partnership project to promote the policy dialogue amongst the institution concerned with fisheries and environment, (iv) FAO EAF Nansen project-the vessel has not been conducting surveys leading to implementation of ecosystems approach to fisheries. SWIOFC highlighted other resilience and fisheries related projects ongoing in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, and Tanzania.

### **University of Eduardo Mondlane, Salomao Bandeira**

41. UEM is a FARI member and a partner in several fisheries and marine resources projects. The University indicated that COVID-19 impacted seagrass restoration at Inhaca island due to restricted access, and mangrove restoration in Maputo bay. UEM noted ongoing activities: (i) 2nd edition of Blue Economy conference Vilanculos/Bazaruto region scheduled for November 2021; (ii) National Strategy for Blue Economy in Mozambique expected to be endorsed in 2022; (iii) Mozambique MSP (POEM) currently in public consultation (iv) new Regulation of Marine Fisheries (REPMAR), 2020 is almost operational. The presenter noted that a proposal to designate 2 MPAS as UNESCO World Heritage was in advance stages (Marine Partial Reserve of Ponto de Ouro (MPR-PO) & Maputo Elephant Reserve (MER)), while insecurity Northern Cabo Delgado was improving and gas constructions was expected to restart early 2022.

### **Oceanographic Research Institute, Larry Oellermann**

42. ORI noted that 18 and 7 local and regional research projects respectively had been affected by COVID-19 pandemic where research activities including field work, laboratory work and collaborations had slowed down. ORI recommended building of contingencies into project design for unplanned events; the embracing of flexible time and distributed capacity & operations work models and increasing access to online data and data sharing.

#### University of Nairobi, Agnes Muthumbi

43. The University of Nairobi (UoN), a FARI member, indicated that there were disruptions in learning due to Covid-19 pandemic leading to closure of institutions with online teaching and learning being adopted. A key work by UoN has been an ongoing study on microplastics pollution in marine waters in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO): Comparison of the status in Kenya and South Africa undertaken (UoN, KMFRI, UKZN). Results of the study will be shared in due course.

#### Blue ventures, Hajaniaina Ratsimbazafy

44. The presentation highlighted that there are 14 partnerships supporting community-led fisheries management and conservations in the WIO. Initiatives focus on Fisheries management, fisheries governance, broader management plan, Health-environment approach, participatory fisheries monitoring, scoping, forest management, organizational development and livelihood support. Impacts of COVID on fisheries included global market disruptions and decreases in product prices e.g., crab export to china banned in Madagascar, and Blue Ventures public awareness to minimise COVID-19 impacts.
45. BV highlighted areas of policy initiatives with recommendations made to (i) Support Protection of 30% of the planet by 2030, (ii) Call for 100% of land and seascapes to be managed and destructive activities to be prohibited, (iii) A global coalition to restrict / reform bottom trawling (coalition was launched at the WCC event in Marseille on 6 September 2021) iv) Setting up an observatory in Madagascar to map and collate all instances of Illegal, unreported and unlicensed (IUU) fishing in collaboration with the government (and to extend across the WIO over time) v) allow for exclusive coastal zone fishing rights for small scale fishers.

#### Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, Arthur Tuda

46. WIOMSA is in the process of conducting a COVID-19 impact assessment on funded projects and programmes with impacts of COVID on policy, included reduced regional cooperation processes. Meanwhile, WIOMSA has been prioritizing interventions and measures such as online trainings, strengthening within-country activities, considering projects budget adjustments and reallocations, and preparing guidelines on how to mitigate COVID-19 impact during field operations. WIOMSA sought governments support on research financially and strengthen institutions, increase data gathering on impact of COVID-19, accelerate digital transformation and enhance data sharing, reduce cross-border restrictions and enhance cooperation for science and policy processes.
47. Partners were informed of an ongoing gap analysis on legislation and policy to prevent/reduce marine litter pollution, a study being undertaken by Sustainable Seas Trust on behalf of WIOMSA and UNEP. A life cycle and waste value chain approach was being employed. An online waste-sector stakeholder platform, called the African Waste Network Maps was being created in response to numerous calls for a multi-stakeholder platform to solve the growing waste issue.

#### Flora and Fauna International, Gurveena Ghataure

48. FFI main focus is on supporting community-based governance structures (BMUs and Conservancies) to manage marine resources; establishing new LMMAs; Marine turtles and cetaceans' conservation; Fish to Market; Seagrass restoration; and setting up mangrove Blue Carbon initiative. FFI noted that longer term planning by FFI and Mwambao had been initiated since 2019 regarding management of Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA). Further partnership in Mozambique have been established with MIMAIP, Oikos, UniLurio, Associacao Luarte, Mwambao, UNEP-WCMC and CORDIO. In the Western Indian Ocean region, priorities include facilitating fisheries community councils, co-management committee and supporting establishment or expansion of LMMAs in Mozambique; and establishing a clusters of fishing community councils (on the model of Pemba CMGs, mainland Tanzania CFMAs)

#### The Nature Conservancy, Adnan Awad

49. The 2022-2024 programme at TNC focuses on community-based conservation in Kenya and Tanzania, WIO Blue economy (IKI project) in Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles and possibly Mauritius and working on establishing a regionally replicable model of Seychelles blue bonds. TNC noted the need by Governments of placing coastal communities at the centre of conservation and recovery/restoration efforts, besides transparency, participatory planning & policy reform, and Financing the Blue Economy.

#### South West Indian Ocean Tuna Forum (SWIOTUNA), Doreen Simiyu

50. The presentation introduced SWIOTUNA and the support provided by the forum in coordination, collaboration, capacity building and collective voice of civil society and private sector in sustainable natural resource management and development. SWIOTUNA has played an active role in the formulation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture (PFRSF) and the development of the Confederation of Fishers in Africa.

#### Wetlands International, Julie Mulonga

51. The presentation highlighted ongoing initiatives in response to COVID-19 including rehabilitation of cold storage facilities in Nyamisati, Tanzania, and community empowerment through support of livelihoods; and Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR). Other ongoing partnership projects include (i) Mangrove Capital Africa (up to 2027) (ii) Global Mangrove Watch (online platform), and (iii) Save Our Mangroves Now-SOMN. Wetlands International proposed new projects include (i) Mangrove restoration in Rufiji (ii) Source to Sea (Eastern Africa Wetland Initiative in Lamu and Rufiji). The Organization recommended adoption of best practice and collaborative approaches to roll out restoration at a landscape level.

#### The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Thomas Sberna

52. In line with the theme of the Partners meeting, the presentation noted that IUCN blue resilience framework pillars are composed of i) Blue planet; securing critical ecosystems integrity ii) Blue people; increasing ocean stewardship and socio-economic benefits to people iii) Blue partnerships; accelerating and upscaling impacts by unlocking innovation, funding, and increasing awareness. IUCN noted the communique by the G7 Nations in June 2021 to

achieve a nature positive world by 2030 to enrich biodiversity, store carbon, purify water and reduce pandemic risk, and intends to support a nature-based recovery through a catalytic movement that will accelerate action and catalyse investment to enhance socio-ecological resilience and unlock the potential of a regenerative blue economy.

53. IUCN highlighted The Great Blue Wall initiative to accelerate the blue economy in the WIO region. The project is supported by James Michel, a former President of Seychelles, and the founder and executive chairman of the James Michel Foundation and seeks a resilient connected network of regenerative, productive and inclusive seascapes of mangroves, corals, and seagrasses (all MPAs, LMMAs, OECMS) in the Western Indian Ocean Region. Other ongoing initiatives by IUCN include establishment of 15 LMMAs in Mozambique; enhancing the establishment of LMMAs in the WIO region; Save Our Mangroves Now project; addressing marine plastics in Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa; Blue Entrepreneurship Initiative; and Blue carbon Payments for Ecosystem Services in Kenya and Tanzania. Upcoming initiatives include WIO Sea grass project, Blue Guardians of the WIO, MARPLASTICC 2.0, Tanga-Pemba Seascape, WIO Seascape nature-based solutions, and establishment of LMMAs.

#### **Western Indian Ocean Resilience & Prosperity Initiative (WIO-RPI), Alain de Comarmond**

54. The presenter introduced the WIO-RPI as an initiative under development for the Western Indian Ocean encompassing a) enhanced marine science b) sustainable blue growth c) strengthen resilience and restoration d) advancing governance for sustainable management and protection. The initiative is supported by Danny Faure Foundation of Seychelles. The goal of the WIO-RPI is for WIO Governments to co-create and implement an ambitious new regional ocean strategy and policy to continue to support sustainable ocean development underpinned by science-based management and protection. The project will be presented at the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties (COP10) for review and commitment.

#### **East Africa Wildlife Society, Elija Ambasa**

55. EAWLS has prioritized the development and harmonization of policies and legal framework supporting sustainable management of marine resources by local communities. The organization has contributed and supported participatory management planning processes leading to the development and approval of by-laws, local governance structures creation by beach management units (BMU), demarcation of community conservation areas (CCA) and linking of CCA representatives through a country-wide networks for peer learning.

#### **WWF Madagascar, Maafaka Ravelona**

56. The presentation highlighted the five pillars of the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) strategic framework for regional fisheries management. These are: i) application of ecosystem-based management (EBM) and ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) on key fisheries stocks (tuna, shrimp); ii) Well managed Small-scale Fisheries; iii) Promotion of adoption of Sustainable Blue Economy principles by financial and management institutions; iv) conservation and restoration coastal resources such as coral reefs seaweed; and v) addressing key threats through Marine Spatial Planning. The priority near-term outputs that are expected include: i) SWIO Governments to have developed and adopted Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) policies and plans; ii) AfDB and other major International Financial Institutions investing in the region



to adopt the SBE principles and catalyze an increased flow of investments and initiatives; iii) A collective approach, united and influential voice in negotiations and decision-making by the SWIO governments for fair and equitable access to fisheries resources achieved; and iv) SWIO countries to adopt innovative and robust management measures to combat IUU Fishing.

57. To address the proposed outputs, WWF has a number of ongoing initiatives to include: i) Coral Reefs Rescue Initiative for Madagascar and Tanzania which is under development (GEF, GCF); ii) Save our Mangroves Now initiative to improve policies at national and regional levels (BMZ, IUCN and Wetlands Intl); iii) Marine CBNRM to enhance local communities' capacities in resource management and for entrepreneurship; iv) Developing methodology for enhancing contribution of area-based management tools in MSP (in Madagascar and Tanzania) (NoCaMo project); and v) Strengthening CSOs & their networks to improve their institutional, organisational and management capacities at national and regional levels.

## PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

58. Anca Leroy, the National Focal Point of France to the Nairobi Convention called for management of the ocean as a global common and highlighted the relevance of the global agenda such as communiqués of G7 and G20 and their implementation at appropriate level. She highlighted areas of interest to the Nairobi Convention on the proposed “BBNJ treaty” encompassing establishment of marine protected areas, environmental impact assessment of activities undertaken within national jurisdictions and having an impact beyond national jurisdictions, access to marine genetic resources and sharing of scientific knowledge, and capacity building and transfer of technology.

Other areas of interest are on i) support for adoption of a specific marine target within the CBD COP15 and its Post 2020 Strategic Plan including the MPAs protection target of 30% of the Global Ocean, ii) joining the High Ambitious Coalition for Nature and People aiming to implement the “30 x 30” target where MPAs represent 30% of marine space by 2030, and iii) continued contributions to the implementation of SDG 14 and to the Blue Economy

59. The need for information on what member states have put in place to guide management of COVID-19 waste and the extent of enforcement of existing national guidelines (e.g., Kenya) to properly manage the waste was noted. It was suggested that the community of scientists should influence the narrative on the impacts of COVID-19 at government level and to focus attention to blue economy growth. Further, a call to managing waste on land to avoid leakages into the sea was made, with governments being urged to strengthen and enforce waste management regulations.
60. The issue of IUU and maritime security was revisited. There was a growing possibility of illegal fishing vessels in the territorial waters during covid-19 lock downs. Maritime security and programmes in place to were highlighted. The regional Maritime Information Centre in Madagascar was mentioned. Terrorism in Northern Mozambique was noted with plans to include IGAD, SADC, EAC, COMESA and IOC in the rolling out of the next phase of the security programme.
61. Partners who undertake capacity development programmes were called upon to collaborate with academic institutions in areas of research and assessments. Such cooperation is

important especially when addressing emerging issues such as ocean acidification. It was recommended that governments have dedicated funding for research in marine environment at national universities to encourage uptake of marine science by young students.

62. A call was made to identify country level framework for strategizing and prioritizing actions to be undertaken during the Ocean decade 2021-2030. An Ocean health approach was proposed as a new framework to define such priorities within the nexus between biodiversity, food and human health, climate change, and energy. In addition, a call to tackling/ mitigating impacts of large infrastructure projects in the region was made with the idea to review proposed projects and map them to help raise awareness. It was therefore recommended that a multi-stakeholder platform be established showing who is doing what and where in the region.

## ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR PARTNERS' MEETING

### *Partners' Meeting for the UNEP/Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean*

**VIRTUAL MEETING held on 30 and 31 August 2021**

**Theme: 'Enhancing resilience and the health of the Western Indian Ocean: 2022-2024 Partners Programme'**

#### Provisional Programme

**Monday, 30 August 2021**

#### Session I: Opening Session: 9:30-10:00

The meeting will be called to order by Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat at 09.30hr East Africa Time, followed by an introduction highlighting the aim of the Nairobi Convention Partners Meeting.

**Session II: Summary Report of each Partner Presentations** on responses and interventions to mitigate Covid-19 impacts on the marine and coastal environment at national and regional scale, with proposed actions and policy recommendations for the period 2022-2024.

Time	Partner Institution	Presenter
10:00	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	<i>Ahmed Hersi</i>
10:15	IOC-UNESCO	<i>Mika Odido</i>
10:30	Indian Ocean Commission	<i>Ginna Bonne</i>
10:45	SAPPHIRE Partnerships	<i>Tim Andrew</i>
10:55	Institute of Marine Sciences - University of Dar es Salaam	<i>Prof. Ntahondi Nyandwi</i>
11:10	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute	<i>Nina Wambiji</i>
11:25	Plenary Discussions (15 Minutes)	
<b>11:40</b>	<b>10 Minutes Break</b>	
11:50	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	<i>Arthur Tuda</i>
12:05	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	<i>Harifidy Ralison</i>
12:20	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	<i>Nyawira Muthiga</i>
12:35	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	<i>Robin Farrington</i>
12:50	CORDIO EA	<i>Melita Samoily</i>

Time	Partner Institution	Presenter
13:05	Plenary Discussions (15 Minutes)	
13:20	Any other business (5 minutes)	
	<b>Tuesday, 31 August 2021</b>	
	Day 2 will start with a Summary of Day 1 proceedings	
	<b>Session III: Summary report of each Partner</b>	
09:40	WIOSAP Partnership	<i>Jared Bosire</i>
09:50	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)	<i>Vasco Schmidt</i>
10:05	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	<i>Thomas Sberna</i>
10:20	University of Eduardo Mondlane, Dept of Biological Sciences, Maputo, Mozambique	<i>Salomão Bandeira</i>
10:35	Oceanographic Research Institute of South Africa (ORI), KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	<i>Larry Oellermann</i>
10:50	Department of Zoology –University of Nairobi	<i>Agnes Muthumbi</i>
11:05	The Nature Conservancy	<i>Adnan Awad</i>
11:20	Plenary Discussions (15 Minutes)	
11:35	<b>10 Minutes Break</b>	
11:45	Blue Ventures	<i>Hajaniaina Ratsimbazafy</i>
12:00	Wetlands International	<i>Julie Mulonga</i>
12:15	Birdlife International (recorded)	<i>Ademola Ajagbe</i>
12:30	Rare (recorded)	<i>Atanasio Brito</i>
12:45	Fauna & Flora International (0797 361 692)	<i>Gurveena Ghataure</i>
13:00	Western Indian Ocean Resilience & Prosperity Initiative (WIO-RPI)	<i>Alain De Comarmond</i>
13:15	South West Indian Ocean Tuna Platform (SWIOTUNA)	<i>Doreen Simiyu</i>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Plenary Discussions (15 Minutes)</b>	
	<b>Session IV: Closing Remarks</b>	
13:45	The chair will invite closing remarks from Nairobi Convention	

## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Gender	Name	Organisation/Country
1	M	Edwin Mwashinga	UNESCO
2	M	Arthur Tuda	WIOMSA
3	F	Gina BONNE	COI-IOC
4	M	John Ngatia	UNESCO
5	M	Elija Embasa	EAWLS
6	M	Eric Okuku	KMFRI
7	M	Mika Odido	UNESCO
8	M	Peter Funegard	SwAm
9	M	Atanasio Brito	RARE
10	M	Jacquis Rasoanaina	Madagascar
11	M	Peter Manyara	IUCN
12	M	Mubarak Sodha	PMAESA
13	M	Mwita Mangora	WIOMN
14	M	Alain de Comarmond	WIO RPI Project Development Lead
15	F	Achieng Ogola	NC Focal Point Kenya
16	M	Bento Novela	GIZ
17	M	Hajaniaina Ratsimbazafy	Blue Ventures
18	F	Agnes Muthumbi	Nairobi University
19	M	Ahmed Hersi	IGAD
20	M	Louis Celliers	Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS)
21	F	Nina Wambiji	KMFRI
22	F	Bernadine Everett	ORI
23	M	Alexandre Bartolomeu	NC Focal Point Mozambique

24	M	Robin Farrington	GIZ
25	M	Markus Burgener	TRAFFIC
26	F	Carol Mutiso	GIZ
27	F	Ann Mukaindo	EAWLS
28	F	Valentine Ochanda	WIOMSA
29	F	Nyawira Muthiga	WCS
30	F	Katrin Eitrem Holmgren	SwAM
31	F	Ulrika Gunnartz	FAO
32	M	Evans Mwangi	Consultant
33	M	Adnan Awad	TNC
34	F	Jacqueline Uku	KMFRI
35	M	Thomas Sberna	IUCN
36	F	Doreen Simiyu	SWIOTUNA
37	M	Ntahondi Nyandwi	IMS
38	M	Yamkela Mngxe	South Africa
39	F	Julie Mulonga	Wetlands International
40	F	Joëlle RAMANANTENA	Blue Ventures
41	F	Henna Ramdour	Mauritius
42	M	Deidre de Vos	Sustainable Seas Trust
43	M	Sean Fennessy	ORI
44	F	Gurveena Ghataure	FFI
45	M	Larry Oellermann	ORI
46	F	Yvonne Waweru	GIZ
47	F	Lucy Woodall	University of Oxford/ Nekton
48	F	LEROY Anca	NC Focal Point France

49	F	Melita Samoilyls	CORDIO
50	M	Mike Izava	Conservation International
51	M	Ron Fluegel	GIZ
52	F	Nancy Ongoje	EAWLS
53	F	Sinikinesh Jimma	UNEP
54	M	Rhett Bennett	WCS
55	M	Warwick Sauer	Rhodes University
56	F	Dulce Panguana	FAO
57	M	Douw Steyn	Plastics SA
58	M	Hauke Kegler	Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) GmbH
59	M	Ismael Bachirou	NC Focal Point Comoros
60	M	Salomao Bandeira	University of Eduardo Mondlane
61	M	Naly Rakotoarivony	Blue Ventures
62	M	kenadid Mumin Cali	Somalia
63	M	Dr Akunga Momanyi	University of Nairobi
64	M	Maafaka Ravelona	WWF
65	M	Alex Benkenstein	SAIIA
66	F	Luise von Pogrell	
67	M	Linus Hammar	SwAM
68	M	Sebastian Unger	Blue Action Fund
69	F	Lucy Scott	UNESCO
70	M	Vasco Schmidt	FAO
71	M	Ambadi Issouf	Alternate National focal point Comoros
72	M	Tony Ribbink	Sustainable Seas Trust
73	M	Sam Dupont	University of Gothenburg
74	M	Dr Kwame Koranteng	Ghana

75	F	Angela Patnode	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
76	F	Bonface Mutisya	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
77	M	Jared Bosire	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
78	F	Melisa Wandia	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
79	M	David Ouma	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
80	M	Evans Muthoka	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
81	F	Caroline Bii	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
82	M	Tim Andrew	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
83	M	Nathan Mjwa	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
84	M	Mwangi Theuri	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
85	F	Rose Bahati	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
86	M	Dixon Waruinge	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
87	F	Jane Ndungu	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
88	F	Mastura Chelangat	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
89	M	Ladu Lemi	UNEP