

Sans frontières - Ocean and Coastal Sustainability of the Western Indian Ocean

Louis Celliers *et al*

Climate Service Center Germany

Abstract

This policy paper discusses the commonalities in the policy implementation cycles of integrated coastal (zone) management (ICM), marine spatial planning (MSP), the Blue and Green Economies and climate change adaptation. The overlap and integration between these (currently) separated domains in the WIO is seen as the only path to the achievement of the SDGs and sustainability. The paper proposes a purposeful integration of management across these four axes of sustainability, and a pragmatic view on the extensive overlap and combined benefit of integrating elements of the existing policy instruments for coastal and marine resource management (in support of CP9/6). Such commonalities are recognized and actioned as a unifying and integrating mechanism to plan a range of management and governance activities from ocean to land. Pragmatically, it proposes the exploration of management (strategies, and plans) and institutional (regional and national fora) mechanisms with which to explore the benefit flows and management of resources across the land-sea interface. Practical actions and deliverables arising from this policy recommendation may include:

- Developing a white paper for Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management in the WIO.
- Developing of a high-level integrated ocean and coastal management strategy for the WIO, incorporating the principles of both ICM and MSP, and the targets of the SDGs.
- Including a chapter on the four axes of sustainable coastal and ocean management in the WIO Regional State of the Coast.
- Developing a set of indicators to monitor the state of the coastal-ocean systems across contemporary concepts of boundaries
- Convening a work group to consider a more comprehensive understanding of the flow of benefits from the Blue Economy, especially between ocean resources (planned at the national level) and local communities and coastal urban administration. Such a working group needs to pay more attention to economic development synergies between coastal and inland areas in the context of the Blue Economy.
- Developing a protocol for engagement of stakeholders across the four axes of coastal and ocean sustainability. This should address the issue of involvement of local stakeholders (citizens, communities, urban settlements, cities) in the planning process and sustainable utilization of marine resources.