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Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region

Contracting Parties

Eleventh meeting
20-22 August 2024

Draft Decision Areas for the Eleventh Conference of Parties

Introduction

1. The Eleventh Conference of Parties (COP 11) is scheduled to be held in 20 - 22 August 2024 and will be hosted by the Government of Madagascar as the current Chair of the Bureau. This document provides an indicative list of proposed draft decision areas for consideration by the Contracting Parties.
2. Proposed policy decisions were arrived at during the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) 2023 Science to Policy Platform (SPP) hosted by the Government of Mozambique from 5th to 7th December 2023 themed Addressing Global Targets in the WIO in support of a Sustainable Blue Economy; and the WIO Plastics and Associated Chemicals meeting hosted by the Government of Seychelles from 11th to 12th December 2023 and convened by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (BRS conventions) and the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environments of the Western Indian Ocean Region.
3. The areas for the draft decisions were developed and agreed upon in a participatory manner that involved National Focal Points, stakeholders and partners, at two meetings, namely :
 - (a) the meeting of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention held 12-14 March 2024 in Mombasa, Kenya, where the National Focal Points, partners and stakeholders,
 - (b) the meeting of National Focal Points and Partners of the Nairobi Convention held 25-27 March 2024, in Durban, South Africa, where further inputs and comments were provided and agreed upon.

Draft Decisions to be considered by the Contracting Parties

4. Draft Preamble

We, the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (hereinafter the Nairobi Convention),

Noting with appreciation the progress made in implementation of the work programme for the period 2022-2024, and cognizant of the need for a work programme for 2025-2028, as well as the need for a new Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035

Recalling that the 2022-2024 work programme was funded and implemented through regular payments of assessed and voluntary contributions to the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region by the Contracting Parties and with contributions by partners through implementation of collaborative projects and activities,

Aware that we, as the Contracting Parties, have a shared common responsibility and concern for ocean health by addressing the emerging issues in the whole ocean space, including ocean governance,

Appreciating the progress made in implementing the decisions and programmes mandated by the meetings of Contracting Parties,

Noting the progress made in ratifying the amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities,

Welcoming the adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region on 12 September 2023 in Antananarivo, Madagascar,

Noting the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,

Further noting the progress made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, as established by resolution 5.2/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

Committed to further addressing the key environmental challenges facing the WIO region, including the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste;

Further committed to advancing sustainable blue economy in the WIO region, through the sustainable utilization of ocean resources, including by strengthening relevant frameworks, tools and approaches such as marine spatial planning, economic valuation and ocean accounting

Acknowledging with appreciation the support provided by partners, including the Global Environment Facility, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the European Union, for their contribution and collaboration on the implementation of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention;

Stressing the need for further developing and enhancing strategic partnerships to advance the work of the Nairobi Convention especially in the implementation of the new and ambitious integrated regional programme;

Appreciating the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, as the Secretariat of the Convention, and partners in the implementation of the work of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and work programmes,

Decide,

5. The draft decisions are as follows:

A. Theme 1: Approval and Financing of Programme of Work

Draft Decision CP.11/1. Approval of the Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035 and Programme of Work for 2025-2028

Rationale: The Programme of Work 2022-2024 is coming to an end in December 2024, and a new programme is required for the next period. Moreover, there is a new 10- year (2025-2035) Integrated Regional Programme for the Nairobi Convention that was mandated by COP 9 held in 2018 (CP.9/1.3), which provides the overarching framework for the development of the new Programme of Work 2025-2028. This decision requires the Contracting Parties to approve the Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035 and Programme of Work 2025-2028.

Proposed elements for the draft decision:

1. To approve and operationalize the 10-year Integrated Regional Programme for the period 2025-2035 for the Nairobi Convention as the overarching framework to guide the Convention's work;
2. To approve and implement, with the support of partners, the 4-year Programme of Work for the period 2025-2028;
3. To request the Secretariat to finalize the Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring framework for the Western Indian Ocean region and present it for endorsement by the National Focal Points before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties, in order to guide effective national and regional reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work;
4. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to report on the progress of implementation of the Programme of Work 2025-2028 at the meetings of the Focal Points as well as at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
5. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, as the Secretariat of the Convention, to regularly report at the meetings of the Contracting Parties on its support in the implementation of the Programme of Work for the period 2025-2028 in line with UNEA 6/6 on Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

Draft Decision CP 11/2: Financial matters

Rationale: This Decision seeks to address financial requirements for the effective implementation of the Programme of Work 2025-2028 and operational issues. The financing arrangements of the Convention are a going concern, as a new Programme of Work requires financial and other resources for implementation. The primary source of finances is the assessed contributions from Contracting Parties, supplemented by development partners, who often support projects conceived and implemented by the Nairobi Convention and partners. A COP decision is required for the finances to be raised and committed.

Proposed elements for the draft decision:

1. To request the Secretariat to provide timely invoices to the Contracting Parties for their current year's contributions by the first day of January, June or September of every year;

2. To request the Secretariat to continue reporting on the status and expenditure of the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region at the meetings of the Contracting Parties;
3. To request Contracting Parties and partners to support the Secretariat in mobilizing resources for implementation of the Programme of Work 2025-2028 as well as other projects and activities.

B. Theme 2: Implementing Global commitments.

Current international environmental commitments or trends on matters relevant to the Nairobi Convention need to be considered in the Programme of Work and in the Decisions to be made by the COP. Some of the commitments are ongoing while others are new. These include international legal and policy instruments, some of which were negotiated and/or adopted with the participation of Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention. As these instruments may affect the core mandate of the Convention, it is necessary to generate and consider COP decisions to enable their implementation. It is noted that international commitments reinforce and synergize with the Convention in the protection and management of the coastal and marine environment of the WIO, including through partnerships and collaborations. Among the more recent commitments are the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ treaty), the ongoing process of developing a global plastics treaty, and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), UN Decade for Ocean Science and UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, among others.

Draft Decision CP11/3: Contributing to the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

Rationale: The BBNJ treaty is a global commitment that was adopted in 2023. The Contracting Parties participated in its negotiations and adoption. It is strategic and relevant for the WIO region. It is proposed to make a specific decision urging Contracting Parties to adopt and implement it.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to sign and ratify the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in a timely manner;
2. To request the Secretariat to facilitate development of a common regional vision and framework for the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction;
3. To request the Contracting Parties, with the support of the Secretariat and Partners, to carry out capacity and technology needs assessments, and support activities such as scientific research, raising awareness and outreach and preparation of environmental impact assessments that are essential to the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction;
4. To urge Contracting Parties to enhance regional cooperation through partnerships for the management of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and/or development of area-based management tools.

Draft Decision CP 11/4: Combating plastics pollution in the coastal and marine environment based on a full life cycle approach for human health and the environment

Rationale: Plastics pollution is a major threat to the coastal and marine environment. Plastic production has risen exponentially in the last few decades and now amounts to some 400 million tons per year– a figure set to double by 2040. There are ongoing efforts to negotiate and adopt a legally binding international instrument on plastics pollution, including in the marine environment to address the full life cycle of plastics. WIO countries are affected by plastics pollution and are part of the global process to address this grave environmental problem spearheaded by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee as established by resolution 5.2/14 of the United Nations Environment The proposed global instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, has been described as the most important international multilateral environmental deal since the Paris Climate Agreement

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to continue to participate in the negotiations and support the common African position and the Small Islands Developing States position so as to advance Africa and Small Island Developing States’ interests in the negotiations of the proposed legally binding international instrument on plastics pollution, including in the marine environment;
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the Contracting Parties to effectively participate in the ongoing Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee negotiations as well as in the implementation of the legally binding instrument when adopted;
3. To request the Secretariat, with the support of partners, to revise the regional action plan for marine litter to integrate actions to address plastic pollution, including on plastic additives, problematic and avoidable plastics, microplastics and associated chemicals, and transboundary movements of plastic waste;
4. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen regional networks and collaborations on plastic pollution research such as the Regional Technical Working Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

Draft CP 11/5: Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Rationale: The momentum towards the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals has also catalysed action towards biodiversity conservation through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Target 3 of the Framework is geared towards protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, among other targets, a very high and ambitious goal christened “30 by 30”. The goal is to ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. With only six years left before 2030, there is need for the WIO region to take its place, among other regions, in seeking to achieve the stated goal.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by aligning their policies and laws to the framework, including updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to include marine and coastal biodiversity;

2. To request the Secretariat, with the support of partners, to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties to implement the global biodiversity commitments, especially the 30 by 30 commitments;
3. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to support the development of regional and national policy and legal frameworks for effective, inclusive, and equitably governed seascapes that encompass networks of ecologically representative and connected marine protected areas, other effective conservation measures and locally managed marine areas;
4. To urge Contracting Parties to conduct assessments and improve the effectiveness of existing and newly established marine protected areas;
5. To request the Secretariat to develop awareness initiatives on the role of other effective conservation measures in supporting the region in meeting its Global Biodiversity Framework targets;
6. To urge Contracting Parties to recognize and formalize area-based management systems that are co-managed by communities.

C. Theme 3: Ocean Governance

Rationale: Ocean governance in general has become an important discussion in recent years at the global, continental, and regional levels. There are many initiatives and measures to address ocean governance in the face of renewed interest in oceans and seas spurred by opportunities presented by the blue economy, as well as increasing pressures on the oceans and seas from pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, challenges of maritime security, among others. The African Union is developing a regional strategy on ocean governance to support implementation of the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) 2050. At COP 9 and 10 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties mandated the Secretariat to work with partners in the development of a WIO regional ocean governance strategy in support of the African regional ocean governance strategy, among other actions (CP9/6; CP10/5). The WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) has since been developed in a participatory manner and requires a decision to adopt it, alongside other associated decisions.

Draft Decision CP 11/6 Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the West Indian Ocean region

Rationale: The Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO region has been developed as mandated by previous decisions CP 9/6 and CP 10/5 and requires the COP endorsement/adoption.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to adopt and implement the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy at regional level and accordingly align their national policy frameworks to the Strategy;
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the Contracting Parties to harmonize policy frameworks for effective ocean governance across transboundary areas.

Draft decision CP11/7: The Information Management Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region

Rationale: As part of effective regional ocean governance, there is need for a regional information management system for the WIO region. This need has been expressed previously through past COP decision(s). The Information Management Strategy (IMS) for the WIO region has since been developed and requires adoption/endorsement by COP and a call to implementation.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to adopt and implement the Information Management Strategy for the West Indian Ocean region;
2. To request the Secretariat to enhance the clearing house mechanism of the Nairobi Convention by establishing a secure, centralized database infrastructure to accommodate data and information storage and exchange at both national and regional levels.

Draft decision CP 11/8: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface

Rationale: The Science-Policy interface is of great importance in the governance of ocean affairs since science is a foundation for evidence-based management and policy decision making. The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention have prioritized this interface through the establishment of the science-policy platform, which has become the basis for areas of decisions for the COP. Decision CP 8/12 established a platform for science to policy dialogue; and CP 9/12 and CP 10/11 called for continued science-policy dialogues and platforms to support decision making for improved ocean governance. Science-to-policy dialogues have continued to be convened over the past number of years and are beginning to yield positive outcomes. A follow up decision is required in order to advance the science-to-policy interface.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to ensure that policy making integrates the use of science;
2. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen the participation of government, private sector, academia and civil society in science-policy platform dialogues to promote research and communication of science to policy makers;
3. To request Contracting Parties and partners to enhance resources to support scientific research in marine and coastal environment in the Western Indian Ocean region, and uptake of the results to inform policy and decision making for effective conservation and management of coastal and marine resources;
4. To request the Secretariat to continue organising regional and national science-policy dialogues for scientists and policy makers to support decision making for improved ocean governance.

D. Theme 4: Strengthening Nairobi Convention Legal Framework

Draft decision CP 11/9: Ratification of Amended Nairobi Convention and its Protocols

Rationale: The need for continued strengthening of the legal basis of the Convention cannot be overemphasized. Over time, the Nairobi Convention and its protocols have evolved to become a robust legal framework for the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment of the WIO region. Apart from the 1985 Convention and its two initial Protocols, namely the Protocol on Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol on Emergency in Cases of Oil Pollution Emergency (1985), there is a Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities

in the WIO region adopted in 2010 alongside the Amended Nairobi Convention, as well as the newly adopted Protocol on Integrated Coastal Management in the WIO region (2023). The Amended Nairobi Convention (2010) and the LBSA Protocol have yet to come into force as they await the requisite number of ratifications. The Protocol on Integrated Coastal Management is still open for signature, accession or ratification. On the other hand, the Contracting Parties through past COP decisions have mandated the review of the Protocol on Protected Areas and Wildlife and the process is underway.

There is need for timely signing, accession or ratification of the Amended Nairobi Convention and its protocols as appropriate. Past COP decisions, including CP8/2, CP8/3, CP8/4, CP9/2, CP9/4, CP9/5, CP10/2, CP10/3 and CP10/4, have all spoken to this subject in various and cumulative ways. Further decision(s) of the COP are required in order to advance the work of the Convention through operationalization of its Amended Convention and protocols.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties that have yet to ratify or accede to and domesticate the Amended Nairobi Convention, the Protocol on Land based Sources and Activities in the Western Indian Ocean region, and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management to do so in a timely manner;
2. To note the progress made in the negotiation of the revised Protocol on Protected Areas and Wildlife and request the Secretariat to organize the final negotiation sessions and convene a conference of plenipotentiaries to adopt the revised protocol before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties.

E. Theme 5: Addressing Key Environmental Challenges

The core mandate of the Nairobi Convention is the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the WIO region. At the global and regional levels, there is a focus on the triple planetary crises of biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, and climate change, the latter being the most disruptive phenomena of our time. Past COP decisions have focused on these issues, and it is necessary to make further or follow up decisions on specific environmental challenges and propose responses. These include addressing critical source points of pollution and degradation, marine biodiversity loss, including area-based management tools, and climate adaptation and mitigation actions, among others.

Draft decision CP 11/10: Mainstreaming climate change concerns in marine biodiversity protection

Rationale: Climate change intersects with biodiversity in significant ways, and particularly the adverse impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Globally, marine biodiversity loss is partly and perhaps largely attributable to climate change impacts. In the oceans and seas, adverse climate change impacts include increased ocean acidification, sea level rise and ocean warming among others. Ocean warming is a strong driver of ecosystems collapse and consequent biodiversity loss. It is proposed to make decision(s) on mainstreaming climate change concerns in marine biodiversity protection in the WIO. Past COP decisions have sought to address this matter, including CP 8/8, CP8/9, CP9/9, CP9/11, CP10/4 and CP10/9.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to operationalise the Western Indian Ocean Regional Climate Change Strategy at regional and national level;

2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties in the development of blue carbon projects and other climate change financing mechanisms;
3. To urge Contracting Parties to advance and support climate finance investments that support community resilience;
4. To urge Contracting Parties to address climate action through their Nationally Determined Contributions, loss and damage, and mainstreaming climate change in integrated coastal zone management in support of, as well as through engagement at the level of Africa Union Climate Change Strategy implementation and the outcomes of the 2023 Africa Climate Summit and the 2023 Moroni Declaration.

Draft CP11/11: Conservation, Restoration and Management of Critical Habitats and Species

Rationale: The efforts in the WIO to conserve, restore and manage critical habitats and species have gained momentum over the two decades as part of implementation of the core mandates of the Nairobi Convention. The critical habitats include sea grass beds, mangroves, coral reefs and flagship species such as sharks and rays. Past COP decisions have progressively dealt with this matter, including CP8/9 and CP9/11. This decision seeks to reinforce and enhance previous decisions and create new momentum in this regard.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen measures for the protection and restoration of blue carbon seagrass, mangrove and associated ecosystems;
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the development of a regional seagrass strategy, vision, and action plan;
3. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen institutional arrangements to address knowledge gaps for blue carbon systems in their national ocean management frameworks and national institutions;
4. To urge Contracting Parties to continue protecting highly threatened shark and ray species.

Draft Decision CP 11/12: Improving environmental quality through Source-to-Sea approaches.

Rationale: The purpose of this draft decision is to achieve one of the visionary outcomes of the new programme of work 2025-2028, which is anchored on the 10-year integrated work programme 2025-2035. The two programmes have a strong focus relating to the reduction of marine pollution based on Source-to-Sea approaches in the WIO region.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to support implementation of the regional Strategic Framework on Coastal and Marine Water Quality Management and the Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in a Blue Economy;
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support efforts to control, manage and prevent coastal and marine pollution through Source-to-Sea approaches;
3. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen their Integrated Water Resource Management frameworks by incorporating Source-to-Sea approaches;
4. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to establish a regional community of practice on Integrated Water Resource Management to support the implementation of relevant existing frameworks, processes, guidelines or strategies.

F. Sustainable utilization of ocean resources

Draft decision CP 11/13: Strengthening Marine Spatial Planning

Rationale: Marine spatial planning and ocean plans has gained ground in the WIO region, and many countries in the region have already started developing their national MSP frameworks. Past decisions of COP, including CP 9/10 and CP10/8 mandated the development of a WIO regional MSP Strategy, and the same is to be adopted by the Contracting Parties.

Additionally, sustainable blue economy and utilization of ocean resources, ocean governance, BBNJ and MSP all require informed decisions on strategic environmental impact of alternative use cases, for which WIO Symphony has been developed by Contracting Parties and the Secretariat in collaboration with the Swedish Water and Marine Agency (SwAM); a web tool that supports marine spatial planning by assessing environmental impact from human activities. The WIO Symphony enables Contracting Parties to visualize data, test scenarios, and compare different ways of using the ocean.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop a regional marine spatial plan that will guide sub-regional, national, and local marine spatial plans through the implementation of the Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy;
2. To request Contracting Parties to mainstream ecosystem-based marine spatial planning into national development plans and carry out ecosystem and social baseline assessments for purposes of designing marine spatial plans;
3. To urge Contracting Parties to use the WIO Symphony to assess the strategic cumulative environmental impacts of human activities for evidence-based decision making.
4. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to develop a regional vision and roadmap aligned to the Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy.

Draft decision CP11/14: Economic valuation and ocean accounting

Rationale: Mainstreaming ocean accounting and natural capital accounting into national planning is deemed important as understanding of the concept gains ground in the WIO region. Integrating ocean values in national planning will strengthen the new Programme of Work of the Nairobi Convention 2025-2028. A decision is required to provide for further understanding and application of ocean accounting and natural capital accounting in the WIO region.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

To request the Secretariat to collaborate with partners in developing tools and methodologies on ocean accounting and natural capital accounting with the purpose of increasing knowledge, capacity development and harmonizing of and use of these tools in ocean management.

Decision CP11/15: Environmental impacts of large infrastructure projects

Rationale: Over time it is clear that there are increasing numbers, complexity, and environmental and socio-economic significance of large-scale infrastructure projects in the WIO region, with direct and indirect implications on the coastal and marine habitats and communities. These projects, whether in energy, transport, mining or other sectors come with attendant negative environmental, social, and human health impacts, often transboundary in their nature and scope. It is proposed to have a COP decision on this matter.

Proposed elements of the decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties, in planning and executing large infrastructure projects with potential transboundary environmental, social, and health impacts, to take necessary measures to mitigate them in a collaborative manner;
2. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to assist the Contracting Parties to undertake studies and assessments to inform policy decisions on large infrastructure projects with potential transboundary environmental, social and health impacts and report to the twelfth meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Decision CP 11/16: Support for Projects and Partnerships

Rationale: The Nairobi Convention has many partnerships and projects and programmes jointly run with partners bilaterally or multi laterally. Over time the number and complexity of partnerships and programmes has necessitated the inclusion of a COP decision to anchor the partnerships and projects and provide a framework for tracking and reporting them in a systematic and orderly way. Past COP decisions dealing with support for partners and projects include CP 8/13, CP9/13, and CP10/12. It is proposed to incorporate a similar decision in COP 11.

Proposed elements for the draft decision

1. To urge Contracting Parties to establish partnerships and programmes with partners on ocean action taking advantage of the opportunities offered by climate change financial mechanisms and arrangements.
2. To request the Secretariat to support the implementation of ongoing projects and agree to develop new projects, where necessary, including:
 - (a) Consortium for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region in Northern Mozambican Channel through the Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel Project and development of a second phase of the same project;
 - (b) European Union Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme focusing on ocean governance, business investments and nature-based solutions in the management of coastal and marine ecosystems in the region;
 - (c) Collaboration with the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on work on plastics and associated chemicals;
 - (d) Ports Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa in the roll-out of the Toolkit for Green Port Development in Blue Economy;
 - (e) Food and Agriculture Organization in the implementation of the Partnership for Resilient Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Livelihoods;
 - (f) Indian Ocean Commission in the development of a regional plastics and associated chemicals strategy as well as the implementation of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management through the RECOS Resilience Programme;
 - (g) Regional Economic Commissions and Communities in the implementation of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy;
 - (h) Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association in the implementation of the Science, Capacity and Assimilation for a Sustainable Blue Future, to enhance policy action;
 - (i) Operation and development of Western Indian Ocean Symphony in collaboration Contracting Parties and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.

- (j) Institut de Recherche pour le Development (the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development) and other partners through the BRIDGE Programme for the Western Indian Ocean region financed by France for the period of 2023-2032;
- (k) German Development Cooperation in the implementation of the scaled phase of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development funded Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative project and Our Blue Future initiative supporting operationalization of the Regional Governance Strategy.