



**Concept Note: Workshop on Oceanographic Research and Data Collection in North Kenya
Bank and Pemba Channel of Tanzania**

Date: 16 – 17 April 2020

Zanzibar, Tanzania

Oceans and seas play a key role in supporting socio-economic growth, development across different sectors as well as regulating climate patterns. The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region is characterized by a diverse range of species and ecosystems, which ranks it as the world's second richest marine biodiversity hotspot. The region comprises coastal forests, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds, coral reefs, as well as pelagic and deep-sea habitats which support high biodiversity and productive waters which in turn support economies and livelihoods. Livelihoods of coastal people in the region have been evolving and changing in nature due to population increase, infrastructural development and climate change. Over 60 million people in the WIO region live within 100km of the coast, with over one million working in the fisheries sector.

Recently, the region has seen dramatic and often poorly understood reductions in key fisheries, due to the combined effects of climate change, overfishing and degradation of key marine ecosystem. Understanding and managing WIO marine resources and the impacts of current and future changes requires scientific understanding of the ocean response to pressures and management actions. Oceanographic observations and research are essential for predicting the consequences of change, designing mitigation actions and guiding adaptation to cope with the many ways the ocean affects human lives at different spatial and temporal scales.

The Nairobi Convention and its protocols offers a legal framework and coordinates the efforts of its contracting parties; Comoros, France (Réunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania, in their capacity to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment. The Convention provides support to member states to address environmental challenges by promoting oceanographic research, knowledge and information sharing to provide decision makers with information on marine and coastal ecosystems for planning and effective management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Nairobi Convention is implementing the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPHIRE) project whose overall objective is to achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the WIO large marine ecosystem. The project intends to strengthen the bridge between research and policy by strengthening technical capacity of national institutions to undertake oceanographic research to promote the formulation of evidence-based policies for

effective and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources as well as contribute to regional and global solutions to environmental challenges. The work will build on the previous activities completed under the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project in which data and information management system was established to ensure that data collected during the project, and thereafter, are not only tracked and monitored to the stage of publication, but that datasets are archived in national data centres for the ongoing benefit of countries, and to build country ownership of the project. This process will strengthen the ability of WIO scientists to effectively deliver evidence-based environmental and socio-economic information to support policy development and implementation at national and regional levels as well as build long-term strategic research partnerships in the WIO region.

As part of its deliverables, the project will support the collection of scientific and local information in the WIO region and ensure it is routinely archived in national data centres for long term environmental change studies. To demonstrate this, the project is working with Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute and University of Dar es Salaam - Institute of Marine Sciences in undertaking oceanographic survey in Kenya and Tanzania, respectively. The surveys are aimed at generating baseline data and information on the Kenyan Northern Banks and Pemba channel to inform policy and management for sustainable management these critical coastal ecosystems and habitats.

The SAPPHIRE project is in line with decisions adopted by the contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention on enhancing cooperation and facilitate the sharing of information as well as coordinate and facilitating collaborative research some of which are captured hereunder:

1. **Decision CP7/17:** To request the Secretariat to hold and encourage partners to support regular science to policy dialogues to provide continuous interaction between the scientists, civil society, private sector, policy and decision makers.
2. **Decision CP8/12.1:** To urge Contracting Parties to promote science to policy interface in order to enhance informed decision making;
Decision CP8/12.2. To agree to establish a dialogue platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and action and to mandate the forum of the Heads of National Academic and Research Institutions to act as the technical and advisory body of the platform;
3. **Decision CP.9/12.1:** To urge Contracting Parties to promote a science-policy interface by holding regular dialogues between scientists and policymakers to exchange science-based information and to support the development of appropriate policies and innovative solutions to the task of addressing current and emerging threats to the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean;

Objectives of the meeting

- To discuss the status of oceanographic research and data collection in Kenya and Tanzania
- Stocktaking on the progress in the oceanographic research in North Kenya Bank and Pemba Channel of Tanzania
- Identify the modality for data and information sharing and archiving

Expected Outputs

- The progress of the oceanographic research project by both KMFRI and IMS discussed
- Gaps and shortcomings in the implementation of oceanographic research in North Kenya Bank and Pemba Channel of Tanzania identified and addressed
- Data and information sharing, archiving and ownership of oceanographic data and scientific research findings in Kenya and Tanzania agreed upon

Participants: IMS, KMFRI, TAFIRI and Nairobi Convention and SAPPHIRE focal points for Kenya and Tanzania, Nairobi Convention Secretariat and SwAM team.