



Regional Training Workshop on Ocean Governance

30 August – 24 September 2021

Virtual in Zoom

Concept Note

Background

In the last few years, coastal and marine ecosystems around the world have begun to show signs of degradation due to unsustainable utilization of living and non-living resources, infrastructure development, extractive industries and pollution. Such complex threats call for effective ocean governance to coordinate the multiple uses of the ocean and the protection of the marine environment through policy instruments, regional actions and national legal frameworks. The governance of the ocean should evolve from sector-by-sector management to integrated ocean management, as the ocean is a single dynamic, inter-connected global ecosystem¹.

Much is at stake—the value of the global ocean-based economy is estimated to be between 3-6 trillion USD/year, while more than 3 billion people rely on the oceans for their livelihoods. Effective and sustainable governance of the global ocean is therefore essential to achieving a balance between the growth and development of the ocean economy and maintaining the health and productivity of the global ocean.

Ocean Governance in Africa

Emerging industries (such as oil and gas, mariculture, and wind and wave energy), together with the traditional maritime industries of fishing, shipping, and transport, have multiplied the pressures on Africa's marine and coastal resources. It is on this premise that the 2015 Cairo Declaration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) agreed to support efforts for the protection of the marine environment. The 16th session of AMCEN, held in Gabon in June 2017, requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariats of the Regional Seas Conventions to enter cooperative arrangements with regional bodies in order to enhance the application of ecosystem-based approaches in ocean governance in Africa. At the 7th special session of AMCEN, held in September 2018 in Nairobi, African states were urged to promote growth and development of the ocean sector in the context of the sustainable blue economy pathway and the mainstreaming of aquatic biodiversity in all productive sectors. As a follow-up to these measures, the AMCEN Secretariat undertook background studies to support member states in developing an Africa Ocean Governance Strategy.

These undertakings will support the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspiration for a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. In the first 10 years of Agenda

¹ <https://www.oceancouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/WOC-White-Paper-Ocean-Governance-and-the-Private-Sector-final.pdf>



2063 implementation, the African Union Assembly has appointed the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to serve as focal points for the facilitation of the adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all member state initiatives related to Agenda 2063.

Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region

Marine and coastal resources in the WIO region are managed by various national institutions, organizations, agreements and commissions, all of which have independent and often overlapping mandates. The WIO region is comprised of ten countries: Comoros, France (Réunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania, all of whom are contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region. The region has a total coastline of more than 15,000 km, a continental shelf area of some 450,000 km² and an estimated population of 220 million people, of which over 60 million live within 100km of the shoreline. The WIO region's annual gross marine product (equivalent to the Gross Domestic Product of a country) of least US\$ 20.8 billion illustrates the significant economic value of the region's coastal and marine resources.

However, the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region has started showing signs of degradation and biodiversity loss. Such trends can be attributed to factors such as climate change, coastal development, overfishing, sand mining, dredging and pollution from land based sources and activities. In line with these growing threats, stakeholders in the region are viewing ocean governance as an effective mechanism for addressing the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

The Nairobi Convention offers a legal framework and a forum for intergovernmental discussions, under which the efforts of its contracting parties in the protection, management and development of their coastal and marine environment are coordinated. The Convention is keen to promote ocean governance through cooperation, collaboration and partnerships between governments, intergovernmental organizations, Regional Fisheries Management Organization and Regional Economic Communities. Such readiness was highlighted at the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, at which the Nairobi Convention and a large group of regional and international actors committed themselves to developing a partnership approach for implementing SDG 14, "Life under Water" in the Western Indian Ocean². The approach is also consistent with SDG 17, which encourages building partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society to achieve the SDGs.

Rationale of the Ocean Governance Training Workshop

In August 2018, the Ninth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention adopted *Decision CP.9/6 on Ocean Governance*, urging parties to work with regional bodies to implement AMCEN's Cairo Declaration, the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy, and the provisions of Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches as well as contribute to the development of an African strategy on ocean governance. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat

² <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18313>



has advanced the process of regional ocean governance through a series of technical dialogues which outlined several priorities, challenges, and recommendations. To address the recommendation on knowledge, human capacity development and awareness creation on ocean governance, the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute – Southern Africa is organizing a training course on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

The training is organized pursuant to Decision CP9/1.2. on support and partnership for implementation of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project. The training contributes to Component five of the SAPPHIRE project which seeks to support capacity development to realise improved ocean governance in the WIO region. Specifically, it contributes to Deliverable 5.1.2: which supports partnerships for capacity development and training on operational strategies and management mechanism in support of SAP implementation activities

Goal of the course

The course is designed to raise awareness and build knowledge in the various disciplines associated with ocean governance. It is designed to build a core of experts on ocean governance in the WIO region. While the course highlights the importance of the global ocean governance framework, it focuses on the WIO region and emphasizes the benefits of harmonising ocean policies to promote a shared, integrated, and common approach to ocean management. The training covers various aspects of ocean governance including opportunities and threats, governance frameworks and tools, the management of various sectors, and the creation of a supportive environment for effective governance.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Promote understanding of the importance of viewing the ocean as a system with varied users and multiple, often competing and conflicting, uses,
2. Increased awareness on interdisciplinary skills, legal infrastructures, and cooperation at the local, national and international levels on ocean governance and resources management
3. Strengthen and update the academic knowledge of participants, with practical lessons drawn from actual experience in integrated coastal and ocean management,
4. Provide insight into the regulatory frameworks for coastal and ocean governance, promote harmonization of policies,
5. Provide a forum for sharing knowledge and information on ocean governance between managers and researchers.

Participants

The course is intended for mid-career government officials, professionals, educators, researchers, and civil society members who have coastal and marine responsibilities from countries within the WIO region. It is designed to cater for a maximum of 25 participants from



the relevant institutions of the WIO countries - such as fisheries, blue economy, marine resources management, port authorities etc.

Mode of Delivery

IOI-SA has an existing, 4-week, course – Ocean Governance for Africa – which has been run successfully on an annual basis since 2012 with participants from across Africa, including from the WIO region. This will provide the basis for the course for the WIO countries. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat and IO-SA will collaborate to adapt this course to the specific needs and priorities of the WIO region.

Given the current restrictions imposed by the COVID19 pandemic, the training will be delivered through virtual lectures, interactive discussions, videos, simulations and exercises, individual participant presentations and support from some 30 experts. Participants will also be expected to complete some “self-learning” assignments.

Expected Outputs

1. Better understanding of ocean governance,
2. Increased awareness and appreciation of interdisciplinary skills, ocean governance tools, and legal frameworks,
3. Strengthened and updated academic knowledge of participants, with practical lessons drawn from actual experience in ocean governance,
4. Inhouse expertise to support national and regional efforts in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and improved ocean governance.