



**Meeting of the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions
in the Western Indian Ocean (FARI)**

Nosy Be, Madagascar 8th July 2022

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION (FARI)**

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean (FARI) was organized by the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with the Western Indian Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). The meeting was organized pursuant to Decision CP 8/12 of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention which urged the Contracting Parties to establish a dialogue platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and action, and to mandate the Forum of national Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) to act as the technical advisory body of the platform. The FARI meeting was held back to back with the Sixth WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 6th -7th July 2022 and it involved the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, WIOMSA, FARI members and representatives of academic and research institutions as well as experts and partners from non-governmental institutions.

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was called to order at 0910 hrs by Dixon Waruinge, the head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat who welcomed the all the participants. In his opening remarks, Mr. Waruinge outlined the key focus of FARI which aims to support the Nairobi Convention work programme by mobilizing expertise from academic and research institutions to produce science that supports and sustains regional and national policy frameworks. Mr. Waruinge underscored the importance of institutions to the Nairobi Convention. He stated that institutions were an integral part of the Convention's work, acting as sounding boards for the documents generated by the Nairobi Convention and providing expertise in the global, regional and national processes that the Convention is involved in. These processes include supporting countries in their contributions to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; supporting Contracting Parties and their focal points in making informed contributions to the climate change dialogue; offering capacity development in the management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP); localising experiences and discussions on the global Post-2020 Biodiversity Frameworks; and supporting capacity building on negotiations for instance for the upcoming discussions on a binding agreement on marine litter. From the foregoing, Mr. Waruinge noted that while the mandate of the Nairobi Convention was wide, it was achievable through engaging with and forming relationships with the institutions and experts who deal with such issues as part of their core mandates. He stated that FARI is the framework that can facilitate sustained engagement with regional experts through their institutions. He further outlined the key role that FARI members will play in the writing of a new GEF funded programme. He concluded his remarks by stating that the objective of the meeting was to start discussions of how best to engage FARI in supporting the work of the Convention in a more sustained and systematic manner and the type of structure that will be required for FARI to act as the science pillar of the Science Policy platform. He asked meeting participants to deliberate and make recommendations on the experts to be targeted as FARI members.

3. The welcoming remarks from WIOMSA were delivered by Ms. Lilian Omolo, on behalf of the Executive Secretary. She welcomed participants to the meeting noting that their presence was a clear indication of their commitment towards the revitalisation of a well-functioning FARI whose role as the science pillar of the Science to Policy platform of the Nairobi Convention was well recognized. The speaker noted that WIOMSA has been providing secretariat support to FARI since its establishment in 2004 and in that capacity some activities had been undertaken including, the organization of meetings, coordination of reviews and validations of technical publications; coordination of the inputs of FARI members through the Science to Policy Platform of the Nairobi Convention; and the setting up of an online platform for FARI members. She discussed the potential role that FARI can play in supporting both the work programme of the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA's competitive research programmes. She added that FARI is a useful tool for raising the profile of institutions and expertise in the region and for forging stronger partnerships between research and academic institutions and the Nairobi Convention Focal points. She concluded her remarks by stating that the last meeting of FARI, held in Zanzibar in December 2017, had laid the foundation for creating an operational structure for FARI which would be discussed in the meeting.

Selection of the meeting chair and adoption of the meeting agenda

4. Mr. Waruinge facilitated the process of the selection of a chair for the meeting, proposing Dr Margaret Kyewalyanga from the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), of the University of Dar es Salaam, as chair. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the meeting. Dr Kyewalyanga thanked the meeting participants noting that it was an honour to be elected chair. She stated that the task of revitalising FARI had come at an opportune moment, given the tasks that lay ahead as outlined by the Nairobi Convention. She led the meeting through the agenda which was adopted without modification.

Presentation on the role of FARI by WIOMSA

5. Ms Omolo's presentation provided a background on the establishment of FARI and its operational mandate. She outlined the forum's objectives and the role of FARI including peer review of documents, providing quality assurance and assessing some of the elements of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention, development of regional outlooks, state of the coast reports, identification of research priorities and engaging in the science-policy forum which has led to decisions at the COP for consideration by Contracting Parties. The presenter discussed some of the achievements of FARI including supporting the WIO-LAB /WIOSAP TDA and the ASCLME MEDAs. Lastly, the presentation outlined the requisites for FARI membership, the current members of FARI and the operational structure as discussed in the 2017 meeting of FARI.

Discussions on Revitalizing FARI

6. Dr. Kyewalyanga led the meeting through plenary discussions on how to revitalise FARI. The key points from the discussions are outlined below.
 - *FARI membership and involvement of the heads of institutions:* It was agreed that FARI membership should be institutional, with the institutions nominating expert representatives. The meeting further recommended that FARI membership is viewed as a “working group” of experts who can contribute in terms of science, policy and regulatory frameworks. The heads of institutions, and especially, the heads of relevant marine science units/ departments/schools, should be made aware of FARI and its role since they can play a key role in linking FARI to their countries’ policy frameworks.
 - *National FARI Chapters:* it was agreed that it would be useful to have national/country chapters to promote dialogue, exchange and activities at the national level. The goal of these chapters would be to ensure that FARI is owned by the institutions and that its objectives are achieved at the national level.
 - *Establishing a niche for FARI:* it was agreed that the NC Secretariat and WIOMSA should explore ways of making FARI’s contribution more meaningful to the region by determining its niche. This will ensure that FARI’s does not overlap with or duplicate efforts of existing processes (e.g., the research work that experts are doing through WIOMSA). FARI’s operational structure- whether it is national focal points or country chapters- must be clear on the forum’s niche as an enabler/ facilitator/ connector/ boundary agent acting between research and management one the one hand and research and policy on the other.
 - *Benchmarking from similar networks/fora:* it was noted that there are networks with similar arrangements to FARI in Kenya, that are working well, and whose structure FARI can emulate. Two such examples include the Sustainable Development Solutions Network which first established national focal points at Pwani and Moi University and then moved downwards to involve research and academic institutions in appointing coordinators of the SDSN. These coordinators, work together with the national focal points to ensure that the university vice chancellors and the managing directors of research institutions are informed about the network activities. The second example is the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, handled by NEMA and the Ministry of Education at the national level which in turn established local networks that identified universities working work with partners in the formal and informal education sectors as members of the centre.
 - *Institutionalization of FARI:* It was proposed that information about FARI is circulated to relevant experts within coastal and marine science units in universities and research institutions who may not be aware of its existence. Secondly, it was proposed that institutional coordinators are appointed. The coordinator role would be the introduction of FARI to the management of the universities/ research institutions and issue-based identification of expertise to attend FARI meetings. A second level of anchoring of FARI was discussed. This is at the level of the line ministry or policy. This would involve creating awareness about the existence of FARI and the

expertise and type of services that the forum provides to support policy and management at the national level.

- *Broadening the FARI membership base-* FARI membership should be broadened beyond coastal and marine science to factor in the “source to sea” landscape perspective. It was recommended that the meeting participants identify the other nontraditional units in their respective institutions that should be included as FARI members e.g., environmental economists, legal experts involved in ocean governance etc.
- *Use of lessons learnt to inform the revamping of FARI:* It was proposed that the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA look at the lessons learnt from the establishment of FARI in 2004- what has worked well, what are the gaps- to inform the revamping of FARI. Further, it would be useful for WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention to revisit the reports of previous FARI meetings that discussed institutional arrangements of FARI as these could provide a wealth of information on how to anchor FARI at the institutional level.

FARI’s Contribution to the Work-Programme of the Convention

7. Dr. Jared Bosire delivered a presentation on the contribution of FARI to the work programme of the Nairobi Convention stressing that FARI has not been inactive, but rather it has not had many formal meetings. He stated that FARI has contributed significantly to many aspects of the Convention’s work programme- notably the provision of advice and the constitution of task forces and working groups; providing technical support in the development and implementation of projects by countries; and reporting to meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention.
8. Dr. Bosire outlined the existing opportunities where FARI can play an important role including Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the UN Super Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the 2015 Paris agreement and the Glasgow COP 27 compact, the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and working towards addressing the triple planetary crises of pollution and waste, biodiversity loss and climate change. He outlined the role that FARI can play in ensuring that the various outlooks and regional guidelines that have been produced by FARI members for the Convention are adopted and put to use at the national level.
9. Dr. Bosire discussed upcoming activities that FARI can contribute to for instance the convening of a special session at the 12th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, the sustainable port development dialogue, the transboundary conservation area economic valuation and the SWIOFC scientific committee meeting of national fisheries experts planned for Madagascar in September 2022. He added that a FARI meetings will be held on the back of the Madagascar event.

Discussions on the Contribution of FARI to the Nairobi Convention Work Programme

10. Plenary discussions were held on the contribution of FARI to the work of the Nairobi Convention. The key points from the discussions are outlined below.

- *Anchoring the contribution of FARI members as institutional work:* It was noted that as FARI's membership is institutional, but many of the contributions highlighted in the presentations have been contributions of individual experts and the role of FARI as an entity was not recognized. It was recommended that this is streamlined such that any work that is done by the individual experts is also credited to FARI and to the scientists' institutions.
- *Using existing in country structures:* the meeting discussed and considered the use of existing structures for instance the WIOMSA country chapters and/or the task forces and working groups that are well known regionally for FARI's operational structure. It was agreed that some level of flexibility should be applied in the establishment of FARI's national chapters with some existing structures being considered with the caveat that FARI's role is not subsumed in their structures. Part of this process shall involve the analysis of the core mandates of the existing structures to ensure compatibility with the mandate of FARI.
- *The Organizational structure of FARI:* The 2017 meeting agreed that FARI will have an Executive Management Board (EMB) consisting of FARI National Focal Points, a Chairperson and a representative each from the FARI and Nairobi Convention Secretariats. The NosyBe meeting agreed that this EMB structure should be reviewed but in the interim, a strong chair is appointed to drive the operationalisation process forward and to convene the next meeting. IMS was appointed the interim Chair of FARI. The meeting further agreed that EBM structure should be flexible and optimised for efficient functioning.
- *FARI's engagement in emerging issues:* it was agreed that the focus of FARI should be on identifying emerging priorities and research areas or new areas of investment in the regional and global process in the policy realm. A starting point for this exercise would be the proceedings from the science policy dialogue.
- *Streamlining the membership and working of FARI:* it was noted that the Nairobi Convention is an intergovernmental body, working under the supervision of governments and as such FARI members shall be government mandated academic and research institutions in the Nairobi Convention countries. The meeting agreed that the contribution of non- state actors and the private sector is welcome but it shall be forwarded to FARI for endorsement. It was agreed that the Chair, WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention develop a template document to be circulated to participants to identify the research and academic institutions in their countries, with the expertise therein. Based on the TORs developed in 2017, and the NosyBe meeting recommendations, WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention, working with the FARI chair shall propose an optimal operational structure to be decided on at the next FARI meeting.

Presentation FARI's Contribution to the WIO Joint TDA & SAP and the Work programme of the Convention and Future Joint Programme for the Convention

11. Dr Bosire delivered a presentation focusing on the history and background of the ASCLME, SWIOFP and the WIO-LaB projects that were implemented by Nairobi Convention and FARI's role in developing the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the Strategic Action Programmes (SAP) for these projects that gave rise to the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects. He outlined the common areas of action between the WIOSAP and the SAPPHIRE projects, the 25 products or regional outputs from the projects and how these will inform the development of a joint or a harmonized TDA for WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE. This TDA will in turn inform a joint SAP for a future integrated programme to be presented to the GEF for funding.
12. Dr Bosire discussed the opportunities for the integrated programme including MSP, blue economy, MPAs, LMMAs, circular economy, climate change, and ecosystem restoration; all of which will be implemented within the UN super decade framework and which are strongly aligned to GEF 8's International Waters' focal area objectives. He concluded his presentation by mentioning the areas in which FARI can contribute to the new programme including identifying emerging issues, the review and validation of the joint TDA, the review of the SAP and contribution to discussions on the focus and implementation of the new programme.

Discussions on the joint programme for the Convention

13. The following issues were discussed in plenary after the presentation:
 - The joint TDA should include a gap analysis review of the ASCLME and WIO-LaB TDAs and SAPs since it has been over 10 years since they were written. FARI can contribute to this process by highlighting the emerging issues.
 - The meeting appreciated the work done by the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects and noted the need to convene high level FARI meetings to contribute to the joint TDA and SAP.
 - The meeting discussed the shift from a project implementation to a programme implementation approach for the WIO region with Ivica Trumbic providing perspectives from the lessons learnt from the GEF funded Mediterranean programme.

Online platform for FARI

14. WIOMSA presented the new [FARI](#) online platform whose development is in progress. Following the presentation, feedback back was provided on additional elements to be included on the platform such as the science to policy platform. Other ideas for keeping the online platform alive were also discussed including the involvement of students, the production of an online newsletter and the organisation of online meetings. It was agreed that the finalisation of the platform will include granting access to FARI members to populate the members portal with their expertise before it is launched.

Way forward and Closing of the meeting

15. WIOMSA thanked the participants for their active participation. For the next steps, it was agreed that the meeting report would be finalised and circulated to members and a task list developed to guide the preparation of documents for the next meeting.
16. Mr. Waruinge took the opportunity to thank the WIOMSA Secretariat for their continued partnership and support to the Nairobi Convention. He thanked the chair of FARI for providing excellent leadership. He stated that the next meeting would be held in September in Madagascar. He noted that the next process in the NC work programme would be the development of the joint TDA and SAP and urged FARI members to participate in the process.
17. In her closing remarks, the Chair thanked the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA for organizing the meeting and the participants for their active participation in it. She then declared the meeting closed at 1250 Hrs on 8th July 2022.

Download the [meeting recording and presentations](#).

Task list

Activities	Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an email list and template document to be circulated to participants to identify the research and academic institutions in their countries, with the expertise therein.	WIOMSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise the online platform and grant access to members to populate their details	WIOMSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the 2017 TORs and recommendations from the July 2022 meeting, a refined operational structure proposal should be developed and circulated for members to provide comments.	Dr. Margareth Kyewalyanga, WIOMSA and the Nairobi Convention

Annex I Agenda



Forum of Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) meeting

Date: 8th July 2022

Venue: Royal Beach Hotel & Spa
Madirokely, 207 Nosy Be - Hell Ville
Madagascar

Agenda

Time	Programme	Responsible Person
Session I: Opening		
9:00 -9:05	Opening Remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
9:05 -9:10	Opening Remarks	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)
9:15- 9:30	Participants introductions	All
9:15 -9:45	Presentation on the role of FARI	WIOMSA
9:45-10:30	Discussion on Revitalizing of FARI	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
10:30 - 10:45	Tea Break	
Session II: FARI Contribution to the Work-Programme of the Convention		
10:45- 11:15	Presentation on WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE's Contribution to the WIO Joint TDA and SAP Discussion on FARI's Contribution to the WIO Joint TDA & SAP and the Work programme of the Convention	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
11:45 - 12:30	Future Joint Programme for the Convention	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
12:30 – 12:50	Online platform for FARI	WIOMSA
12:50 – 13:00	Way Forward and Closing Remarks Next FARI meeting	- Nairobi Convention Secretariat - WIOMSA
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
End of FARI meeting		

ANNEXE II: List of participants

No	Name	Organization	Email addresses
1.	Dr. Ali Makame Ussi	University of Zanzibar	ali.ussi@suza.ac.tz ; amau04@gmail.com
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3.	Dr Margareth Kyewalyanga	University of Dar es Salaam	mamakevin@gmail.com ; director@ims.udsm.ac.tz
4.	Dr. Sean Fennessy	Oceanographic Research Institute	Seanf@ori.org.za
5.	Prof Agnes Wangui Muthumbi	University of Nairobi	amuthumbi@uonbi.ac.ke
6.	Ivica Trumbic	Consultant	
7.	Prof. Japhet Kashaigili	Sokoine University of Agriculture	jkashaigili@sua.ac.tz ; jkashaigili@gmail.com
8.	Célia Macamo	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane,	celiamacamo@yahoo.com
9.	Salomão Bandeira	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane,	salomao.bandeira4@gmail.com
10.	Dr. Nyawira Muthiga	Wildlife Conservation Society	nmuthiga@wcs.org
11.	Dr. Kyle Harris	Prime Africa	
12.	Dr. Blandina Lugendo	University of Dar es Salaam	blandina_lugendo@yahoo.co.uk
13.	Francis Kagema	Nature Kenya	
14.	Dr Edward Kimani,	Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute	edwardndirui@yahoo.com
15.	Jacquis Rasoanaina	Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Ecologie	jacquis415@gmail.com
16.	Dr. Yves Mong	Centre National de Recherches sur l'Environnement	mong2011@hotmail.fr
17.	Mr. Guy Celestin Rakotovao	MIHARI Network	guy@mihari-network.org
18.	Nirina Mamy Rajaonarivelo	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	mamy_nirina@hotmail.com
19.	Noeline Rakotoveloa	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	
20.	Mr. Andriamaharo Ny Aina Tantely	Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy	
21.	Lilian Omolo	WIOMSA	lilian@wiomsa.org
22.	Mastura Chelang'at	Nairobi Convention Secretariat	chelangat@un.org
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24.	Jane Ndungu	Nairobi Convention Secretariat	jane.ndungu@un.org
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