

Ad hoc Meeting of the Nairobi Convention Focal Points in Response to the Oil Spill in Mauritius

Date: Friday, 21 August 2020 | 10.30am

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Nairobi Convention Focal Points		Nairobi Convention Secretariat
Seychelles	Ms. Nanette Laure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Dixon Waruinge 2. Mr. Timothy Andrew 3. Mr. Jared Bosire 4. Ms. Angela Patnode 5. Mr. Theuri Mwangi 6. Ms. Marlyn Omondi 7. Mr. Bonface Mutisya 8. Mr. William Obote
	Mr. Alain de Comarmond	
Mauritius	Mrs. Nashreen B. Soogun	
Tanzania	Dr. Aboud S. Jumbe	
	Ms. Ritha R. Said	
South Africa	Mr. Yamkela Mngxe	
Mozambique	Ms. Sidonia Muhorro	
	Ms Maria Arminda Mlauze	
Comoros		
Madagascar	Mr. Jacquis Rasoanaina	
	Mr. Damy Jean-Baptiste Ratolonjanahary	
France	Mr. Benoit Rodrigues	
Somalia	Mr. Kenadid Mumin Cali	
Kenya	Mrs. Susan Auma Otieno	
	Dr. Pacifica Ogola	

Min 01/20: Mauritius oil spill update

- A presentation was made to provide a broad overview on the grounding of MV Wakashio, the oil spill and the measures taken to reduce the risk of oil spill and mitigate the impacts on the ecologically sensitive areas located in the spill area.
- It was highlighted that following a request for assistance to foreign diplomatic missions, around 30 experts had already arrived in Mauritius to assist the government in different areas of expertise while 10 experts were providing assistance remotely. The experts were assisting Mauritius’ local teams through 4 groups for “Strategic and Coordination”, “Operations and Response”, “Social and Environmental Impact Assessment”, and “Forensic, Claims and Finance”.
- It was highlighted that the Mauritius Fisheries Department and the National Parks and Conservation Service were already carrying out assessments of the ecosystem.
- It was noted that Mauritius had favorably considered option 1 in the list of equipment proposed by the government of Kenya on 18 August 2020. Mauritius will consider technical assistance in virtual mode.
- The Nairobi convention was asked to allow Mauritius one week to get back with a formal request on the specific technical assistance that will be required.

Min 02/20: Focal points plenary discussions and response

- It was highlighted that a request to provide technical assistance had been received from the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB). The NGO had been linked with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation in order to scale up the discussions.
- It was highlighted that Seychelles had contributed two experts to the Commonwealth team of experts; i.e. a local scientist and an expert from an NGO.

- It was noted that France had sent some equipment, a vessel, ten experts in the initial phase and an additional three.
- A weekly written feedback was requested by France.
- It was highlighted that Mauritius did not alert the sub-regional IOC community through the regional centre in Madagascar but instead informed the Commission de l'océan Indien who came up with a list of oil spill assistance for Mauritius.
- It was highlighted that the initial appeal to the Nairobi convention was to have a team of experts to assess the ecosystem i.e. the coral reef, mangrove and seagrass, remote sensing, ecological health and social impact assessment and to initiate plans for restoration. However, taking into consideration the pool of experts already available in Mauritius at the time, Mauritius will require a week to review what is not available and get back to the convention with a formal request.
- It was highlighted that the Nairobi Convention Secretariat had drafted a framework concept on how to respond to the spill but shall wait to respond based on the requirements from Mauritius.
- It was highlighted that the convention will endeavor to respond to the mid-term and long-term consequences of the spill.
- It was highlighted that there's need for the member states to take a decision on the Regional Response Mechanism/Centre i.e. to build the necessary capacity in order to respond better to future incidents. It was noted that there is need to propose a COP decision on oil spills preparedness and response in the Western Indian Ocean region.
- It was highlighted that Nairobi Convention, under SAPPHIRE, has project resources for oil spill preparedness and response. The SAPPHIRE focal points were urged to interact with the project to identify ways of how to specifically use the funds in light to the spill.
- Mauritius (Nashreen) was requested to share the brief report as presented with the Focal Points and as well as an updated report to include impacts of the oil spill on specific locations and livelihoods affected.
- Mauritius was requested to share a report how the country's MPA baseline has been impacted by the oil spill, so as that the update be incorporated into the MPA outlook ahead of its production.

Min 07/ 20: AOB

There was no other business.