

Progress towards a Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) for the Western Indian Ocean

MSP and Information Management Workshop

Protea Courtyard Hotel

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Recap-Day 1 in Brief

This was the inaugural day for the MSP/IMS workshop. We began with opening remarks from Dixon Waruinge (NCS) who stated that ocean governance is complex and calls for confluence of policy makers, private sector, civil society in policy making. However, they do not always do this. Also there are many global conventions on fisheries, shipping, pollution in place and some under development for example BBNJ and the Plastics Treaty. Hence it's difficult to manage the ocean. MSP is thus a tool for blue economy that can support good ocean governance.

The Tanzanian delegation led by PS and Director Environment gave their remarks highlighting that Tanzania has a National Environmental Master Plan which highlights MSP as an important tool to develop its Blue Economy

After the tea break, Tim Andrew set the context for ocean governance in the WIO and highlighted ongoing initiatives under the SAPPHIRE, WIOSAP and NOCAMO projects. Once adopted at the next COP, the implementation of the Strategy would further support Sustainable Blue economy and action on the ground at regional, national and local levels.

The Chair of the MSP-TWG Harrison Onganda gave an overview of the Regional Framework for MSP. The key highlights include:

- The Framework is being developed pursuant to 2019 COP decision
- The Task Force considered Ecosystem-based and Integrated Use MSP and settled on Ecosystem-based MSP for the Strategy
- Guiding principles for the Strategy
- Best Practices on MSP
- Governance changes/ threatening processes

The Regional MSP Framework will address transboundary issues and its outline includes a vision, goal, objectives and 9 strategic priorities.

Theuri (NCS) presented the Information Management Strategy stating that it is mandated by decision COP 10/5 and will reported back on at the next COP. He highlighted that there are

different types of data in the countries on the physical environment, biological data, data on resources and impacts which is presented through maps and dashboards.

Countries gave their presentation showing that they are at different stages of MSP implementation. Madagascar, Comoros and Tanzania are in the early phase of development, Kenya has set up the institutional structures but is yet to develop the Plan while Mozambique has completed the process awaiting implementation.

In the afternoon, Dr. Ingler Issacson started by highlighting the IOC-UNESCO Status report on MSP which shows progress in many African countries though Europe has majority of them. She then provided presented MSP and Swedish Symphony tool for assessing cumulative impacts. Transnational discussions on MSP in the Baltic under HELCOM and how regional cooperation supported this. In this regard, the Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) Committee on MSP helped to have coherent MSP through regionally agreed principles.

The Swedish MSP was adopted in 2022 after a long process of 7 years.

In concluding her presentation, she reported that the WIO Symphony tool is a similar tool which shall be applied at the regional scale to guide countries to assess cumulative transboundary impacts of MSP.

Recap-Day 3 in Brief

We began with a recap of the previous day by Boniface (NCS). Additionally, there was reporting back on group work by Harrison Ong'anda (WIO-Symphony Tool), Byron (ESRI) and Carol Mutiso (Kilifi MSP). *These shall be provided in the final workshop report.*

CEDARE then made a presentation on support for MSP in the WIO through a partnership with UNEP-ROA and NC-SAPPHIRE project. The tool is a data visualization for non-GIS users. Its key features are four modules: SDG 14 module, project module, socio-economic data module, climate data module, and data search module. It is accessible to the public with log in credentials but only through the Nairobi Convention.

On request by participants, it was agreed to extend the log-in credentials for the systems for the next couple of weeks and beyond through the NCS as appropriate.

This was followed by a presentation on Information Management Needs in the WIO by Hauke Kegler (ZMT) who stated that there is already enough information in the region which would greatly support the development of the Information Management Strategy. He further elaborated that the IMS would help improve governance and ocean management decisions in multi-stakeholder environments through shared efforts and a portal with an open interface to submit and access information as a one-stop source. The development of the IMS is a collaborative effort led by a Multi-Stakeholder Working group and engagement of all relevant stakeholders. This was echoed by Mai (CLI) who presented the process architecture stating that

it is closely related to the development of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy and characterized by engagement of key stakeholders to enable buy-in and collective ownership of the Strategy. The IMS development process has key components: stakeholder analysis; information needs assessment; and knowledge of existing information management systems among others. The draft strategy is expected to be ready by mid-2023 for adoption at the next COP.

Thereafter there was an interactive visioning exercise by 7 groups to co-develop a joint vision and goals for the IMS. This was followed by another exercise of one question to each group covering a broad range of issues including identifying existing systems, barriers/challenges to information and data access, success factors for the IMS and the system and host for operationalization. The results of the group work shall be presented by Hauke Kegler.

Elijah Munyao from NCS then presented the Nairobi Convention Community of Practice Online Platform which has several thematic groups and offers a platform to interact with other members. All are invited to join and provide input to the IMS and ROGS as it develops.

In the afternoon, there was a session on the status of available data at national level from countries (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Seychelles, South Africa, Mozambique) and partners (CORDIO, IUCN, TNC and ORI). These highlighted that there is vast data held across several platforms and tools at the national and regional level covering different thematic areas including biodiversity data, marine spatial data, bathymetry, socio-economic data, fisheries data, environmental disasters among others. It also revealed that there are differences across the countries in terms of the available infrastructure and that partners have data and information that can support them to fill the gap. All the presentations have been provided to participants by the NCS.