

# Marine Spatial Planning and Information Management Workshop

Protea Courtyard Hotel

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,

28 Nov – 01 Dec 2022

## REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

### With funding from:

- [NC-SWIOFC Partnership Project](#) for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth Activity 1.1.1: Support *capacity development with specific reference to marine spatial planning*
- [GEF UNDP SAPPHIRE project](#): Component 1. *Deliverable 1.1.5 on Implementation of the priority national requirements for strengthening and improving national legislation, policy and institutional arrangements in line with the intentions of the LME SAP and to support the ecosystem-based approach*
- [The Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative \(WIOGI\) project](#): Component 1. *Output 2 on supporting the co-creation of a regional information management strategy*

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# MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

## REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

### INTRODUCTION

Coastal and marine ecosystems support livelihoods for many coastal communities in the western Indian Ocean, and provide food security and immense opportunities for a sustainable blue economy through tourism, shipping, fishing, and mining, among other sectors. These ecosystems are however facing increasing pressures from their unsustainable use causing pollution, degradation of critical habitats and a depletion of natural resources. These pressures are further compounded by the impacts of climate change and variability.

The increasing human activities in the ocean space of the Western Indian Ocean countries calls for concerted efforts towards an integrated management of coastal and marine resources through an ecosystem-based management approach. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a globally recognized interdisciplinary instrument for the management of human activities in the ocean space to achieve ecological, economic, and societal objectives and outcomes. MSP is a critical enabler of sustainable blue economy and the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

There are several regional and international policies and initiatives that anchor and foster MSP practices, including the African Union's Agenda 2063; the 2014 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS); the 2014 Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS); the 2015 UN Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs); and the 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter).

WIO countries have progressively extended economic development of their marine and coastal resources, especially for fisheries, mining, geo-engineering and exploitation of genetic resources. The 10 Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region have appreciated the need for MSP as a tool to promote integrated management of coastal and marine resources. During the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties, the countries adopted decision CP.10/8. on area-based planning tools for sustainable blue economy. The decision requested the secretariat to finalise the preparation of a regional marine spatial planning strategy for adoption at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties and urged the Contracting Parties to mainstream marine spatial planning and the ecosystems-based approach into national development planning processes, including the sustainable blue economy.

The MSP process is supported by data and information at all levels. In this regard the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties decision 10.5/3 requested the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention to strengthen national data centers through capacity development on information and knowledge management. The decision also called for collaboration with partners to develop a regional information management strategy (IMS) and mechanisms to address common challenges and to inform decision-making for ocean governance.



*Photo 1: A group photo of the meeting participants*

Development of the IMS is being led by a multistakeholder working group (MSWG) composed of Contracting Parties and non-state actors. The IMS is intended to provide a framework for continuous collation, analysis and access to comprehensive coastal and marine data and information by Contracting Parties, partners, and stakeholders for informed ocean governance and decision making.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE MSP WORKSHOP

The workshop aimed to promote shared learning on MSP implementation at the national and regional level for sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources in the WIO region.

#### **Outcome of the Workshop**

- ✓ Participants appreciated MSP as a tool for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the protection and management of the WIO coastal and marine ecosystems.
- ✓ Participants' capacity was built for an enhanced understanding of the process of developing Marine Spatial Plans, including best practices and lessons on MSP and related area-based management tools.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS FROM WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

1. The ongoing series of consultations and dialogues on ocean governance, sustainable blue economy, and marine spatial planning will be used to generate information for the ocean governance strategy before end of 2023. The consultations should be accelerated.
2. A Strategic Framework for Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Indian Ocean has been developed by the Nairobi Convention. The framework should be used to inform and harmonise MSP in the region.
3. Raising of awareness and stakeholder consultation should form a core element of MSP process of stakeholder engagement, involvement, decision making long-term community support. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and communities are integral in the MSP decision-making process through a series of sensitisation events.
4. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) should complement each other and form an integral part of the marine spatial planning process.
5. Harmonisation of MSP processes between national government, local government and municipalities should be factored to avoid duplication. On this basis, Seychelles was able to reach the 30 by 30 target of marine protected areas in 2020 after making some compromises with the joint management area (JMA) and the fisheries sector. This makes MSP to be an integrated, adaptive process that takes into account the precautionary principle, existing global datasets and maps, ocean expedition, and studies.
6. At the national level the MSP process within the framework of an integrated Ocean Governance (including transport, oil and gas, fisheries, and tourism sectors) and protection approach, delivered and proclaimed 22 new marine protected areas in South Africa. MSP works.
7. SWaM will support the updating of the WIOSymphony tool in 2023 to increase the impact of the WIO symphony in the region. The Nairobi Convention will enhance open access data sharing.
8. SwAM has planned regional MSP webinar series in 2023 to increase understanding of MSP and application at the national level. Targetted are government officials, policymakers, NGOs and universities. Up to 10 participants shall be nominated by Governments by mid December 2022.
9. SwAM [international training program](#) (ITP) will be commencing in 2023 to strengthen institutions working on MSP. Of the 10 WIO countries, seven will participate. Each country will nominating 5 participants.
10. A Marine Regions Forum Conference will be held in the Western Indian Ocean in October 2023.

## DETAILED PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

### OPENING SESSION

#### **Nairobi Convention Secretariat**

The meeting was called to order at 10h00 by Mr Dixon Waruinge, Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat following the arrival of the chief guest. He welcomed all participants and appreciated the partners in attendance for their continued support to the Convention. He led the participants through a round of introductions. He thanked the GIZ - Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative project (WIOGI) for procuring the meeting venue based on the ongoing partnership with the Nairobi Convention. He appreciated the Government of Tanzania for host the meeting.

Mr Waruinge acknowledged the intensity of the meeting by noting that the meeting participants cut across key sectors in the management of ocean space on ocean governance, marine spatial planning, and knowledge management.

He stressed the need for an appropriate regional ocean governance framework and strategy which should cascade from the global, to regional, and to national level. To this end a number of capacity development workshops on marine spatial planning were ongoing and appreciated the support of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) in this regard. The Government of Germany, through the GIZ, was also supporting activities towards knowledge management in the region.

#### **Government of Tanzania**

Dr Komba welcomed the participants to Dar es Salaam and highlighted that the Government was hosting the meeting for a strategic reason as Tanzania is implementing the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (2022-2032). He acclaimed the training on MSP and its contribution to the blue economy as it will assist in building expertise to address interventions in the master plan.

Mrs Mary Maganga, Permanent Secretary of State, Vice-President's Office (Union & Environment), expressed her pleasure in joining the Regional Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning and Information Management. She thanked the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention and other partners for making the workshop possible. The Government is focused on promoting sustainable utilisation of marine resources especially through coastal ecotourism, marine fisheries, aquaculture and on enhancing value chains, and tapping renewable energy from the Ocean. Ms Maganga appreciated the importance of MSP in ensuring effective marine resource use and protection, by reducing conflicts among stakeholders and by increasing coordination among stakeholders. She called upon the participants to use the workshop as a strategic input and use of MSP in future interventions.

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr Waruinge called upon the representative of the Government of Madagascar – the chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau – Mr Jacquis Rasoanaina, and the Nairobi Convention Focal Point for Tanzania, Mrs Magdalena Ngotolainyo, to lead participants in the adoption of workshop agenda. The meeting agenda was adopted without any changes. The agenda was shared on this [link](#).

## SESSION I: SETTING THE SCENE

### Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO)

Dr Timothy Andrew highlighted the [progress towards improved ocean governance for the development of a sustainable blue economy in the region](#) as anchored in Decision CP.10/5 of the 2021 Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties. The process is supported by the Nairobi Convention projects and the GIZ - Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) project in partnership with multiple stakeholders. Inputs from a series of consultations and dialogues on ocean governance, sustainable blue economy, and marine spatial planning will be used to generate information for the ocean governance strategy before end of 2023. Once adopted, the additional support for implementation of the strategy at the regional, national, and local levels will be required.

### Advances in MSP in the WIO region

The Chair of the MSP Technical Working Group, Mr Harrison Oganda gave an overview of [the Strategic Framework for Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Indian Ocean](#). The presentation highlighted the different sections of the framework around the vision of a WIO region with inclusive and sustainable management of ocean and coastal ecosystem services for human wellbeing. The framework provides an inclusive and holistic MSP process for the sustainable management of ocean and coastal ecosystems. The framework provides concrete objectives, strategic priorities, and recommendations for its implementations .

### Information and knowledge management in the WIO

Mr Mwangi Theuri presentation on [information and knowledge management in the WIO region](#) was pegged around Decision CP.10/5(3) of the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties. The process of developing an information management strategy for the WIO was being spearheaded by the Nairobi Convention, the WIOGI project, and the information management working group among other stakeholders .Emphasis was placed on the need to enhance the capacity of WIO countries in the development and integration of MSP tools to realise a sustainable blue economy, sustainability of the platforms for data sharing and archiving, the adaptive nature of the MSP process, the ecosystem-based approach in MSP to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives, and partnerships for advancing the MSP process in the region.

## CURRENT STATUS OF MSP AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

### Comoros

[The presentation](#) highlighted that Comoros was at the infant stages of adopting MSP with the first meeting on preparation of an action plan on MSP convened in November 2021. The General Planning Commission (CGP) is the authority responsible for coordinating, supervising and monitoring all the phases of preparation and implementation of MSP in the country. Comoros has now the requisite experts on MSP and awaits the coordination required to initiate the MSP process.

### Kenya

[The presentation](#) highlighted that the country initiated its MSP journey in 2019 and had finalised the preparatory phase which included establishing a secretariat, finalising the national MSP framework, establishing working groups and developing the MSP structure. The process is led by the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries domiciled within the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime

Affairs, with 20 other government authorities being engaged. The main driver for MSP development is the sustainable blue economy, equity, protection and conservation, and the process was utilising the IOC-UNESCO MSP guidelines. The country is in the process of finalising the national MSP framework, and will undertake additional capacity development and technical studies such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of MSP.

### **Madagascar**

MSP was initiated in [2015](#) with the establishment of the General Directorate of the Sea. MSP falls under the Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Cluster where a sub-committee in charge of MSP has been established and coordinated by the ministries in charge of Blue Economy, Land Management and Environment & Sustainable Development. Madagascar was drafting the national MSP framework and several laws have been established to support the process. local maritime atlas which will inform the MSP process based on the IOC – UNESCO guidelines and best practices for MSP under The Nature Conservancy. The country would is finalising the national ocean policy, the Blue Economy National Strategy and Investment Plan, and the National MSP Framework. Focus on MSP will be for 7 coastal regions supported by the World Bank and implementation of Blue Economy and Ocean Governance in all 14 coastal regions.

### **Mozambique**

The Government, through the Ministry of The Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP) and in coordination with other ocean related sectors, had developed the National Maritime Spatial Plan – [POEM](#), which was adopted and launched in [August 2021](#). The Government had also established the National Institute of Sea (INAMAR), with the mandate to coordinate the implementation of MSP related activities. The Government had developed a sea policy and strategy among other legal policies including sectoral legislation and will continue to focus on the dissemination of POEM, build capacity to implement it and develop MSP for Maputo Bay with support from the SWIOFC - NC Partnership project.

### **South Africa**

MSP is enshrined in [Operation Phakisa](#) which seeks to spur economic growth in the country. [MSP](#) forms one of the pillars for coordinated ocean governance in South Africa and helps identify and manage interdependencies of socio-economic aspirations and environmental integrity. The MSP process is supported by an MSP Act, a National MSP Framework including a zoning approach and the National Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS). The country has established a Ministerial Committee on MSP, Directors General committee on MSP and a working group to manage the process. The working group is undertaking stakeholder consultations to inform the development of marine sector plans.

### **Tanzania**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in 2019 initiated the development of [MSP](#), a collaboration between government agencies, institutions and the Non-Government Organizations and Private sectors, led by the Vice President's Office. The process is supported by a Blue Economy Policy among other legislations such as the National Environment Policy 2021 and National Fisheries Policy 2015. The national [Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions 2022-2032](#) proposes to have established marine spatial plans for all the coastal districts in Tanzania on or before 2032. Meanwhile the country will seek to establish a well-defined institution for MSP implementation and spearhead capacity building and resource mobilisation.



### **MSP: Principles, Approaches and Practices**

Dr Ingela Isaksson, from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management ([SwAM](#)) made a [presentation on principles, approaches and best practices in MSP](#). Strategic partnerships are important and should be created as well as MSP capacity development programmes using the opportunities for Blue Economy in the environmental, societal and economic pillars.

MSP plans need to be tailored to the legal framework of each country, while the legislative framework needs to be adaptive to tackle emerging challenges and opportunities. Using the case of Sweden, MSP process needs to identify the pressures and to prioritise key flows from the ocean.

SwAM supported development of the Symphony tool for the WIO region (WIO Symphony) following a request by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to support marine planners with a tool for integrating environmental considerations and human activities within the MSP planning process.

Partnerships in the Baltic region and stepping up MSP work with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and Visions and strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) provided key avenues for cooperation and collaboration. Co-funding from European Union has been essential for capacity building.

From the Baltic experience, key lessons learned included:

- (i) the early dialogue with neighbours and stakeholders
- (ii) Work with agencies and representatives that have the requisite mandate
- (iii) Make use of already existing regional intergovernmental bodies to advance MSP
- (iv) Funding, political will and leadership in ocean governance helps.

### **MSP process and application in South Africa**

Mr Potlako Khati presented the [process and progress on marine spatial planning initiatives for South Africa](#) under Operation Phakisa and which aims create 1 million jobs by 2030. MSP process began in 2000 and covers over 3000 km of coastline in 4 provinces as well as small-scale site-specific areas supported by the Nelson Mandela University and the Nairobi Convention in Algoa Bay and KwaZulu Natal respectively.

Key MSP achievements including the passing of the MSP Act, a National MSP Framework, including a zoning approach, key awareness with stakeholders and the National Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS) which provides decision support for effective ocean governance. South Africa expressed readiness to share lessons balancing ecosystem conservation vs economic growth, collaboration and lessons and practices on projects around land-sea interactions.

### **MSP process and application in Seychelles**

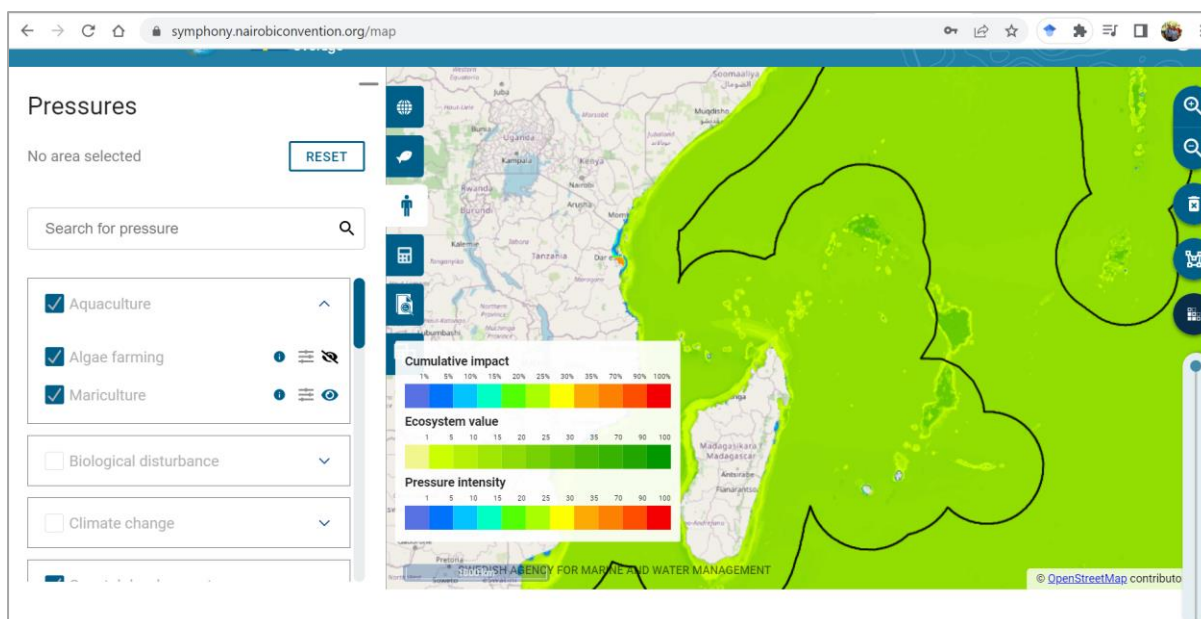
Ms Elke Talma, Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) presented on the [Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Initiative](#) funded by a green bond swap and the World Bank. An [MSP policy 2020](#) exist and recently Seychelles declared to protect 30% of marine biodiversity, address climate change adaptation and advance blue economy implementation. Seychelles has developed the MSP “best practice” approach, and seeks to implement the [2022 Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan](#) and Conservation Milestones.

## **EXERCISES ON MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AT REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS**

Three rotational groups of participants were established on the floor of the meeting for hands-on exercises on MSP application at the regional, national and local level. Each of the three groups of about 20-25 participants was to have an experience on MSP at each level.

### **Group 1: WIO Symphony tool for MSP at the regional level**

Mr Gustav Kågesten, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) made an introductory presentation on the [WIO Symphony tool](#) that is based on more than 80 maps which can be manipulated to create scenarios as well as generate reports. Ms Pichaya Zerne of SwAM took participants through a demonstration exercise on assessing environmental impacts from human activities in the ocean using the Symphony tool. The tool features metadata, ecosystems, how to delineate areas of interest, how to calculate the cumulative impact and generate reports, how to create MSP scenarios and compare them and how to find ideal locations for blue economic activities. Participants were provided with online login credentials for the WIO Symphony tool and made real-time exercises. Sustainability of the tool will remain at national level.



Map 1. Cummulative impact assessment in the Western Indian Ocean using the WIO [Symphony](https://symphony.nairobiconvention.org/map)

## Group 2: National level - Marine Spatial Information Management and Visualization

The exercise focused on the [ArcGIS Online](https://www.arcgis.com) tool to support the preparation, integration of data, planning, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and evaluation phases of a national marine spatial planning process. [Esri Eastern Africa](https://www.esri.com) collaborated with the Nairobi Convention to develop MSP visualization for Tanzania datasets on biophysical, geophysical, socio-economic and governance parameters. The exercises were facilitated by ESRI EA and the Nairobi Convention.

**Some background on the [ArcGIS Online](https://www.arcgis.com):** In October 2021, the SWIOFC-Nairobi Convention Partnership project offered consultancies was to collate, manage, analyse and create web maps, story maps and dashboard visualizations based on marine and coastal datasets available in the Nairobi Convention clearinghouse and from ongoing demonstration projects. In addition, the consultancies were to provide web design and development, database and back-end structure management of the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM) in ensuring contextualized data and knowledge to support under Component 1 Activity 1.4.5 of the Partnership Project.

Visualizations were expected to be developed on the open-source [GEONETWORK](https://www.geonetwork.org) platform, a catalog application to manage spatially referenced resources as well as an interactive web map viewer. By May 2022, a GEONETWORK user manual had been developed but the cost of installing the self-driven GEONETWORK software in the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse proved expensive.

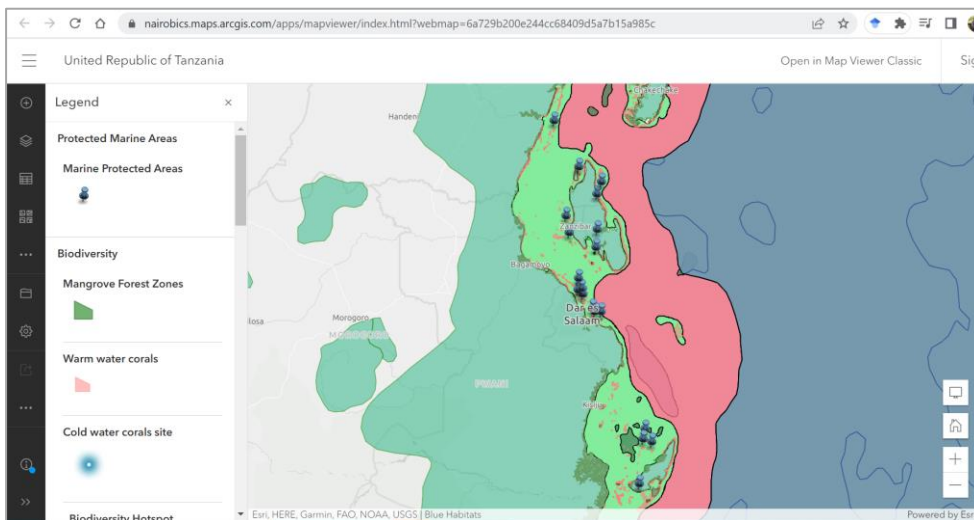
The Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS) engaged [ESRI](https://www.esri.com) inc. in July 2022 for consideration of a marine conservation grant embedded in ArcGIS Online. NCS received the first ever marine conservation grant from ESRI in September 2022. By October 2022 the web maps, [story maps](#) and dashboard visualizations were migrated and deployed on the Nairobi Convention ArcGIS online [portal](#).

A user manual was provided, specifying where data and maps are stored, secured, accessed, manipulated, viewed and shared to fulfil visualization and mapping needs on the web and on mobile tools.

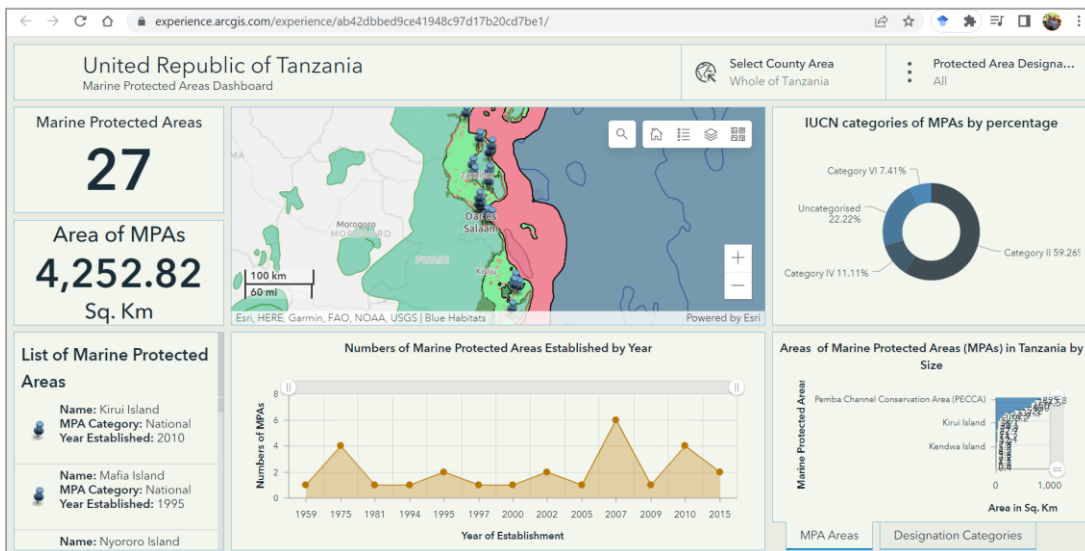
An exercise on Marine spatial planning (MSP) and data management were demonstrated to participants at the regional MSP capacity development and information management workshop using the case of Tanzania.



Photo 2: Exercises on data visualization on marine spatial planning



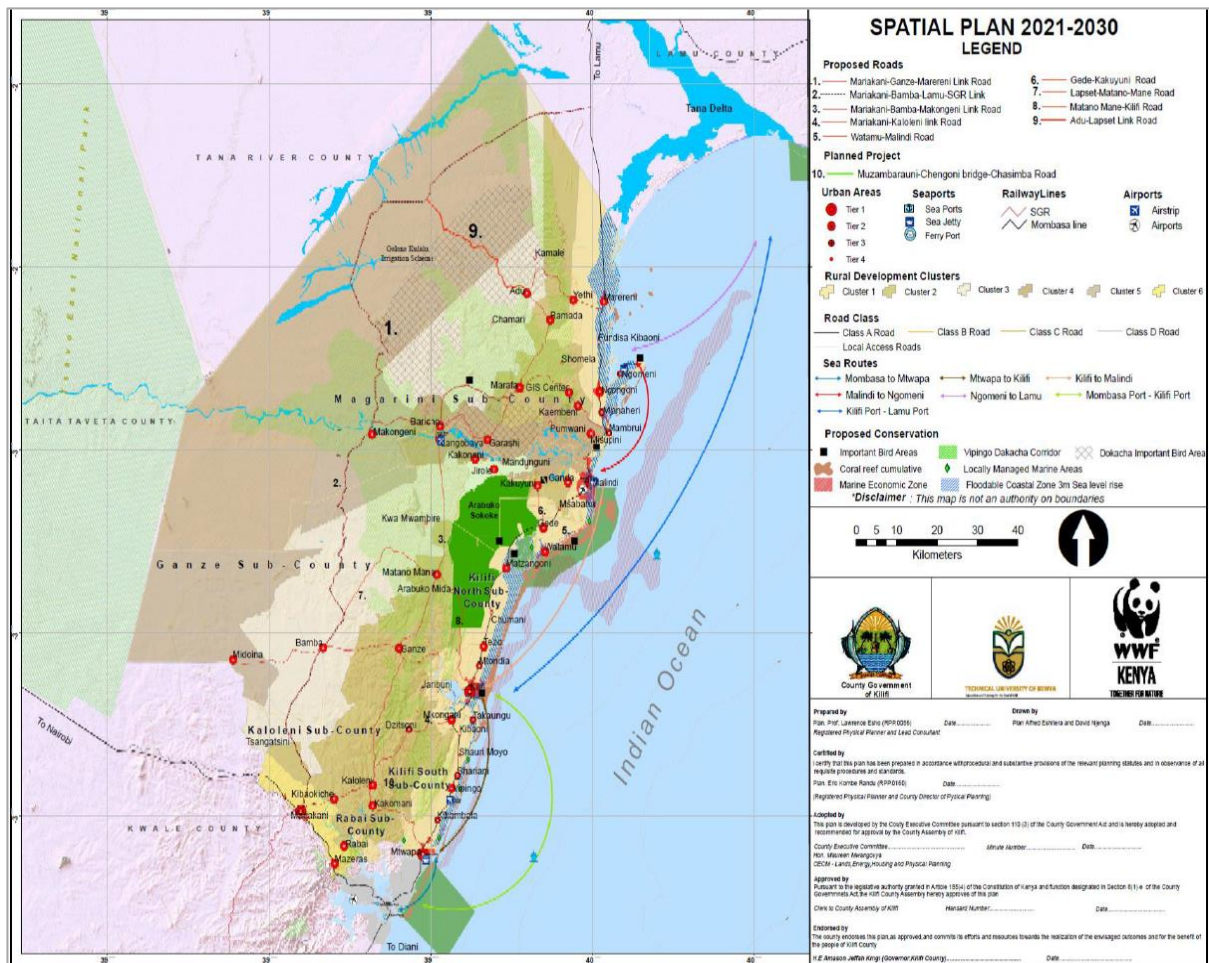
Map 1: Tanzania Marine Spatial Planning [web map](#)



Map 2: [Dashboard](#) of Marine Protected Areas in Tanzania

### Group 3: Local level MSP, the case of Kilifi County

The group focused on application of MSP at the local level with a [case study of Spatial Planning of Kilifi County](#). The exercises were facilitated by [WWF Kenya](#), [CORDIO EA](#) and [WIOGI](#). The [Kilifi County Spatial Plan 2022](#) shows the ecologically significant areas of Kilifi County and activities that can be undertaken in each ecological zone. It was developed consultatively with key stakeholders including policymakers and coastal communities. The 10-year spatial plan aims at guiding sustainable development for the wellbeing of people while ensuring continued environmental conservation for the current and future generations. Data sources were obtained from <http://maspawio.net/> and <https://wwf-geiscoe.wwfkenya.org/aefII/>



Map 3: Kilifi County Spatial Plan 2021-2030

### Developing the Information Management Strategy (IMS) for the WIO: process, approach, update

[WIOGI](#) in partnership with the [Collective Leadership Institute](#) (CLI), and [ZMT](#) set the scene by explaining the participatory IMS development process driven by a multi-stakeholder working group members nominated by the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention.

Decision CP.10.5/3 of the 10th Conference of Parties ([COP10](#)) to the Nairobi Convention requested the Secretariat to strengthen national data centres, through capacity development on information and knowledge management, and in collaboration with partners, to develop a regional information management strategy and mechanisms to address common challenges for informed decision-making on ocean governance. Further, decision CP.10/12(c) requested the secretariat to support the implementation of ongoing projects, including the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, in the development of an information management strategy, ocean governance strategy, and a regional multi-stakeholder initiative to enhance coastal and ocean stewardship and accelerate the transition to a sustainable blue economy.

[A multi-Stakeholder Working Group](#) had already been convened: Working Groups were formed, a shared documentation system had been set up, and a process meeting with the working group was held on the sides of the Marine Spatial Planning and Information Management Workshop. A SWOT and needs analysis had been conducted successfully, with the stakeholder Dialogue Process is underway in 2023, stakeholder mapping initiated, and collaboration ecosystems assessed.

Participants supported a visioning exercise to help with the development of a collaborative Information Management Strategy. The exercise included use of tools, solid policies, and approaches that could also be applied on a regional scale IMS, sharing of experiences in setting up an information management strategy (IMS) and how IMS could support regional ocean governance and MSP strategy and implementation.

Each group submitted its vision and goals for an effective Western Indian Ocean IMS. **A SWOT analysis for the IMS** was shared to inform the (i) development of a regional information management strategy, (ii) benefits of the strategy, (iii) source of information and analytical tools, (iv) standardized and interoperable data management system, sharing and access protocols, (v) governance in multi-stakeholder environments, and (vi) and sustainability including an active [Community of Practice](#) for knowledge exchange. ZMT will further [refine the vision](#) for the WIO IMS and the timelines for the strategy drafting process..

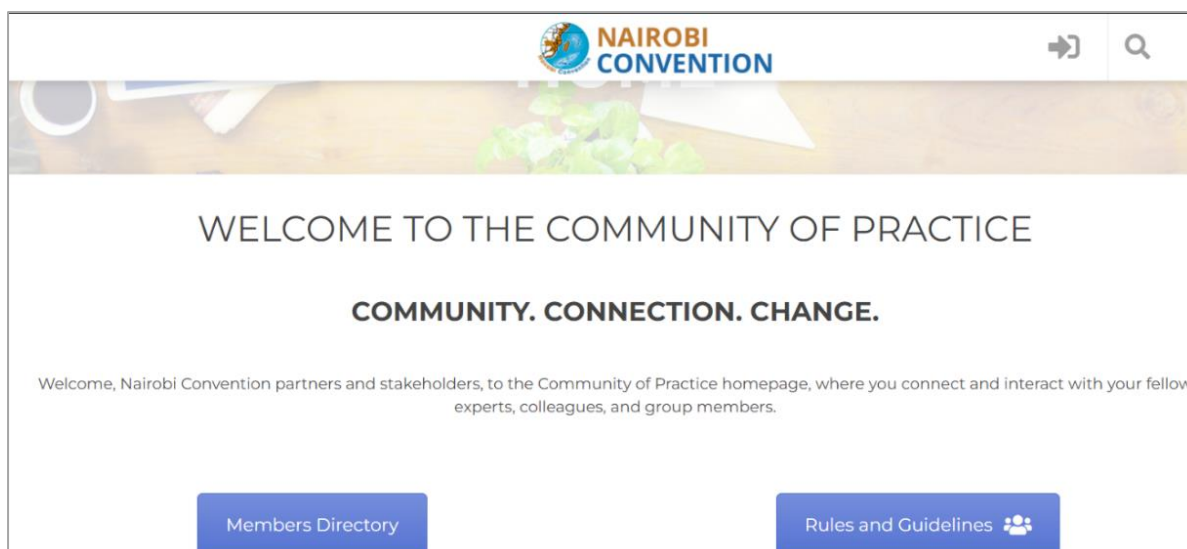


Figure 1. Screenshot of the Nairobi Convention Community of Practice

### Status of available data at the national level and from partners

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	
<b>Comoros</b>	<b>Kenya</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Coastal and marine data available as studies, reports, and databases.</li> <li>– Needs a national strategy for ocean and coastal information management.</li> <li>– Need for a strong GIS and cartographic departments within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment and the Ministry of Land and Urban Planning.</li> <li>– Capacity building needed for data collection, data management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Coastal and marine data and information available.</li> <li>– Legal, policy and institutional frameworks supporting coastal and marine data and information management exist.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– insufficient government budgets on ICT infrastructure, poor reward schemes on data submission, enabling digital data publication, dedicated data centre.</li> <li>– Stakeholder engagement is needed for data producers, attribution rules, privacy and ethics, benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Madagascar</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) coordinates coastal and marine data and information management.</li> <li>– Dedicated National office for the Environment (ONE) with environmental dashboard, marine atlas, Hay Natiora Portal.</li> <li>– There exists legal and policy frameworks that support data and information management.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Need for a comprehensive coordination on data and information among Government sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– There exists <a href="https://poem.gov.mz/">https://poem.gov.mz/</a> website for Marine Spatial Planning</li> <li>– Ministry of Sea Inland Water and Fisheries (MIMAIP) coordinates legal and policy frameworks that support data and information management.</li> <li>– Need for development of a sectorial platform for data sharing and management, and the operationalization and expansion of <a href="#">POEM Webgis</a> to incorporate more data and information</li> </ul>

<b>COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– need for updated information in the tourism and oil/gas sectors.</li> <li>– technical capacity building for data management, sharing and access.</li> </ul>	
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– National Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (<a href="#">OCIMS</a>) which ‘provides decision support for the effective governance of South Africa’s oceans and coasts.</li> <li>– Algoa Bay Project <a href="#">Community of Practice</a></li> <li>– Existing legal and policy instruments that support coastal and marine data and information management (National Sector legislations, Provincial Laws and Policies, Municipal laws and policies).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– There exists coastal and marine data sets and information (<a href="#">marine hub</a>, <a href="#">weather updates</a>, fisheries data).</li> <li>– Key authorities and institutional frameworks on environment (largely by Vice President’s Office, Fisheries Departments).</li> <li>– Legal and policy instruments (National Environmental Policy (2021) and the National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Intervention, 2022-2032).</li> </ul> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Capacity building in MSP needed.</li> <li>– To have a dedicated GIS unit at Ministry level in the mainland and Zanzibar to support MSP.</li> </ul>
<b>CORDIO EA</b>	<b>IUCN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Open access Marine Spatial Atlas for the Western Indian Ocean (<a href="#">MASPAWIO</a>).</li> <li>– CORDIO hosts a data and information <a href="#">Portal</a> used to share data, information, and knowledge.</li> <li>– Encouraged for data sharing and access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– IUCN has data and knowledge resources that include a variety of information gathered by its global community of experts, including databases, tools, standards, guidelines, and policy recommendations. as well as books, assessments, reports, briefs, and research papers.</li> <li>– Several projects and an initiatives in the Western Indian Ocean (<a href="#">Great Blue Wall Initiative</a> and the Bahari Mali).</li> <li>– Successful nature conservation portal <a href="#">Ecolex</a></li> <li>– Need to accelerate the legal recognition and expansion of LMMAs.</li> </ul>
<b>ORI</b>	<b>CEDARE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ORI engaged in spatial data analysis of the WIO shelf/slope and modelling species distribution, compiling existing spatial products, finalizing spatial data consolidation, and all will be transferred to the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CEDARE developed a template for a <a href="#">portal</a> to provide analytical data and information on WIO countries around climate change vulnerability and risk mapping, socioeconomics, and SDG 14 Indicators</li> </ul>



### **Developing Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO**

Recalling the [presentation on the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy \(ROGS\) process](#) by [WIOGI](#), the planned [2023 Marine Regions Forum](#) to be held in the Western Indian Ocean was seen as a good opportunity to showcase the ROGS process to other [Regional Seas Programmes](#).

WIOGI informed that [ROGS](#) is being developed in line with decision CP/10.5 of the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties as well as the mandate of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). A task force to steer the ROGS process was nominated by the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Capacity building of the task force is supported by WIOGI and already an outline has been developed with a broad vision, priority tasks and an implementation plan. The link between ROGS and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), MSP and on the interfaces of planning and relevant data were highlighted.

ROGS technical dialogues among the task force members focused on plastics, fisheries, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), critical habitats, and prevention and preparedness for oil spillage and hazardous substances. More technical dialogues will be held in 2023, and draft strategy is expected to be ready for adoption by at the 11<sup>th</sup> Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties.

### **Introducing the Marine Regions Forum: Goals, Objectives and Outcomes**

[IASS presented](#) the objectives and philosophy of the planned October 2023 Marine Regions Forum (MRF) conference in the Western Indian Ocean. The conference has the potential to catalyse partnerships, showcase best practices on regional ocean governance and share knowledge among regions.

Responding to the need for a cross sectoral and multi stakeholder engagement, Ms Neumann of IASS highlighted a workshop on Ocean Governance was held in 2016 where stakeholders expressed the need for a platform to exchange experiences. During the 2017 UN Oceans Conference in New York, a proposal was made to establish a multi stakeholder platform to co-develop approaches for dialogue and to complement formal arrangements on Ocean Governance. The first MRF forum took place in 2019.

MRF's concept is centred on connecting people to protect one ocean as well as supporting the implementation of SDG 14 in a multi-stakeholder environment. Ms Neumann reiterated that the planned October 2023 will be a good opportunity to showcase ongoing initiatives and processes within WIO, noting that these can be a good basis to showcase to other regions.

The MRF is anticipated to be co-hosted by two countries, supported by its regional partners namely the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and CORDIO EA. Ocean governance experts in the WIO region are expected to define the agenda, and topics of the conference and identify participants.

Participants recommended an accessible venue for the conference, in a destination without stringent visa requirements or complicated travel routes. The issue of translation, both during the meeting and in documents, including during the planning phase of the meeting, was noted. Small break-out groups and communicated goals were suggested to ensure all voices were heard during the conference. Field

trips and social events were suggested as ways to optimise networking and allow for meaningful exchange outside of the conference’s formal agenda. Gender issues, geographic coverage and age representativity were encouraged.

Participants provided useful feedback on the types of challenges that the WIO region is facing and the types of initiatives, organisations and projects tackling these challenges. The key challenges were list to include marine pollution (such as plastic pollution); illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; climate change; lack of political will and weak monitoring, control and surveillance. These would form the bulk of the conference topics.

Participants identified some of the key players that were missing from ocean governance dialogues. They included religious leaders, the private sector (including oil and gas, transport, telecommunication etc.), community representatives and government departments such as national statistics, trade and industry, and legal departments. As such, the MRF conference report and implementation plan of concrete actions and activities should form part of the outcome of the conference. Participants highlight the need for monitoring of actions or activities and for this to be reported at the next Marine Regions Forum.

MRF team will have ongoing engagement with the participants and a wider network of regional and global actors is planned in the build-up to the conference.



Photo 3 AISS introducing the Marine Regions Forum 2023

## SESSION V: MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN THE WIO

### MSP Capacity building programme in the WIO

SwAM informed that with the support from the Technical Working Groups and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat developed and provided data for the [WIO Symphony tool](#). The tool was launched in October 2022 during the [12<sup>th</sup> WIOMSA symposium](#) and handed over to the Nairobi Convention. Member states have a free access to the tool. Following a [mentimeter survey](#) conducted at the workshop, SwAM will support the updating of the tool in 2023 to increase the impact of the WIO symphony tool. Further needs to enable full use of the tool will include enhancing open access data sharing and capacity building.

In collaboration with the Nairobi Convention, SwAM gave an [overview](#) of the planned regional MSP webinar series in 2023 to increase understanding of MSP and application at the national level. Targetted are government officials, policymakers, NGOs and private universities. Through the Nairobi Convention MSP Technical Working Group, up to 10 participants shall be nominated by Governments by mid December 2022.

Mr Henrik Nilsson of the SwAM informed that [International Training Program](#) (ITP) will also be commencing in 2023 to strengthen institutions working on MSP. Of the 10 WIO countries, seven will participate. Each country will nominating 5 participants.

## SESSION VI: CLOSING SESSION

Ms Ingela Isaksson on behalf of SwAM expressed interest to continue collaboration with the WIO stakeholders.

Mr Robin Farrington on behalf of the WIOGI project acknowledged the interest to support countries through different processes such as ROGS, IMS, Our Blue Future and to build partnerships in one country (Mozambique) in close cooperation with the through Nairobi Convention.

Ms Barbara Neumann on behalf of MRF acknowledged key inputs by participants and their contribution to the 2023 MRF conference.

Mr. Dixon Waruinge on behalf of the Nairobi Convention secretariat noted the Convention's network and its ambition to influence better management of marine and coastal resources. He called on increased synergies, regional approach, and a robust knowledge management system to share information within WIO. He called upon the workshop participants to influence application of MSP at the national level.

In his remarks, Mr Jacquis Rasoanaina, on behalf of the Government of Madagascar, the Chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau, called for additional MSP support to the region to cover more countries.

Ms Magdalena Ngotoloinya, on the behalf of Permanent Secretary, Vice President's Office, Tanzania noted that the workshop had strengthened the capacity to implement regional, national and local level MSP. She affirmed the aspect of collaboration at the national level and with partners to apply MSP. She observed that the workshop served as a confirmation that the region has the potential, tools data and space for rollout of marine spatial planning as highlighted by Mozambique, South Africa and Seychelles. Ms Ngotoloinya officially closed the workshop.

## ANNEX I

Agenda, Meeting Documents and presentations available at this [link](#)

## ANNEX II

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