

WIO Regional Private Sector Engagement Strategy Stakeholders Consultation Webinar

30 October 2020

03:00PM – 05:15 PM East Africa Time

Report

Agenda

Opening Session

- Nairobi Convention Secretariat
- Government of Kenya

Presentation and Discussion Session

- Presentation of WIO regional private sector engagement draft strategy and guidelines
- Plenary discussion on the draft strategy and guidelines

Way Forward and Closing Remarks

Nairobi Convention Secretariat/ SAIIA

Opening Session

The meeting called to order by Ms Sinikinesh Jimma. She welcomed the participants to the stakeholder consultation webinar on Private Sector Engagement Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region on behalf of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). She mentioned that the Nairobi Convention has engaged with SAIIA to develop the Private Sector Engagement Strategy with the objective of enhancing the partnership and public – private engagement as well as promoting the interventions of the private sector in the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystem.

She highlighted that SAIIA has engaged with most of the stakeholders in the region during assessment of the current status of private sector engagement in the region which was a prerequisite to drafting of the strategy.

She mentioned that the objective of the webinar was to discuss the Private Sector Engagement Strategy to enrich it will input and comments so that it can be finalised. She thanked stakeholders who had submitted written comments on the draft strategy to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. She invited Kenya, the Chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau to give opening remarks.

Mr Stephen Katua mentioned that the recognition of the need to protect and ensure sustainable use of the ocean has been accelerating globally over the past few years. He highlighted that this is in line with the central role that the ocean and its resources play in the lives and livelihoods in Africa. He mentioned that the realization of sustainable management of our ocean calls for the development of working partnerships with all relevant stakeholder at local, national, regional, and global levels.

He mentioned that there has been increasing recognition at the international level that the private sector should be encouraged to transform its business practices by mainstreaming the use of greener technologies and sustainable practices in its operations, to enhance ecosystem conservation as well as contribute towards improved ocean governance and sustainable blue economies. He mentioned that in 2019, the UN Environment Assembly adopted a resolution on addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practice by promoting sustainable production patterns, supporting the dissemination of information on good practice, and promoting cooperation for uptake of sustainable business practices.

He mentioned that the private sector in Kenya is vibrant and in good health. He highlighted that Kenya is a promising place to do business, with growing markets and good opportunities. He mentioned that there is a widespread intellectual appreciation amongst Kenyans, including government officials, that partnerships with the private sector is important and will be one of the main drivers of growth and employment in the economy.

He mentioned that the Nairobi Convention Work Programme for 2018 – 2022 includes among its objectives the need to engage stakeholders in the public and private sector in greening operations and management practices for innovative ocean governance. He highlighted that the Nairobi Convention has commissioned the development of a Private Sector Engagement Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean Region through its WIO LME Strategy Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reform (SAPPHIRE) project. He mentioned that the strategy aims to enhance private sector engagement in the conservation and protection of large marine ecosystems in the WIO region, as well as to promote the mainstreaming of ecosystem-based management practices in their operations.

He highlighted the Private Sector Engagement Strategy for the WIO region seeks to promote partnerships with the private sector that contribute significantly and measurably to implementation of the Strategic Action Programme as well as to the Sustainable Development Goals – especially SDG 14 – in the WIO region. He mentioned that the partnerships should lead to reductions in the loss of marine biodiversity and marine pollution, address climate change and increase the resilience of coastal communities.

He commended the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and SAIIA for leading the preparation of this Strategy and thank UNDP and the Global Environment Facility for funding through the SAPPHIRE project. He highlighted that he hopes that this stakeholder consultation will enable to gather valuable inputs and comments that will help to enrich and finalize the strategy. He finalized by wish the stakeholders a fruitful deliberation.

Ms Sinikinesh welcomed Mr Alex Benkenstein, Head Programme Management at SAIIA, to make a presentation of the draft private sector engagement strategy.

Presentation of WIO regional private sector engagement draft strategy and guidelines

Mr Alex mentioned that effective partnerships with the private sector is key in moving towards sustainable ocean economy. He highlighted that private sector partnership emphasis on the sector adopting sustainable practices such as sustainable fisheries and the sector contributing to broad initiatives such as skills, human resource, technology, innovation, finances etc. He mentioned that most of the partnerships are not reaching their full potential in terms of scope and effectiveness.

Plenary discussion on the draft strategy and guidelines

It was mentioned that marine parks are by design not prominent in draft strategy even though tourism is one of the priority sectors identified in the document. It was highlighted that marine parks were included in the draft assessment report and a section highlighting them will be included in the final private engagement strategy.

It was mentioned that the strategy does not intend to coordinate all private partnership initiatives in the region but seeks to facilitate private sector partners by providing the structure and platform for collaboration and information sharing.

It was mentioned that consultancy work will be raised on a need by need basis especially where a particular partnership activity is being implemented under the umbrella of the strategy. It was mentioned that the draft strategy recommends establishment of focused groups for the priority sectors e.g. tourism where consultancies can come in to develop proposals to address gap identified in the strategy.

It was highlighted that the Nairobi Convention will not establish different working groups but will play a facilitation and capacity development as exemplified by the partnership with SAIIA to develop the private sector engagement strategy. It was mentioned that the private sector engagement strategy will provide guidelines for partnerships between different partners including the private sector in conservation of the marine ecosystems. It was mentioned that the convention will support proposals on private sector engagement coming from countries.

It was mentioned that the Convention will undertake to implement some of the recommendation from the draft private sector engagement strategy while other will be undertaken by different organizations. It highlighted that the Convention would support any mandated institution doing coordination of private sector engagement in the region for more effective partnerships and engagement.

It was mentioned that there are many tools on private sector partnerships but there is little take up of these tools. It was highlighted that there is a need for a platform for different partners to come together even though there might be need for financing of such a platform.

It was mentioned that the private sector engagement strategy and engagement guidelines should be merged into one document to avoid repetition of segments of the strategy.

It was highlighted that the links to the background documents leading to the development of the strategy will be provided for everyone for reference.

It was mentioned that the strategic guidelines foresee resource mobilization including donor funding as well as private sector contribution to projects and initiatives on marine conservation and management in the region

It was highlighted that there will be further engagements to develop an implementation plan and action plan for the private sector engagement strategy.

It was mentioned that the Convention has the mandate of facilitating discussions between Government institutions, the private sector and Civil society organizations (CSOs) for close collaboration in implementing initiatives to reduce stress to the marine ecosystem. It was highlighted that the Convention

though the SAPPHIRE project has some resources to support demonstration projects/initiatives for partners and private sector to work together.

It was mentioned that the strategy will be revised based on the written inputs from partners and the discussion during the consultation workshop with the aim of finalizing it by the end of November. It was highlighted that all the documents will be shared in the Nairobi Convention website. It was mentioned that the strategy will be discussed during the Science to Policy Forum in Maputo, after which it will be presented at the Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention for endorsement.

In concluding the consultation workshop, Sinikinesh thank all the participants for participating in the consultation workshop, she thanked those who had made comments as well as those who submitted written comments. She mentioned that the Convention and SAIIA are grateful for all the support and the interest from different partners to work with the Convention especially the private sector which the convention is looking forward to work with. She commented the SAIIA team for the wonderful work and for the commitment to deliver the strategy. She highlighted that the convention will further engage SAIIA in the development of an implementation plan and some demonstration projects for the strategy.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

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Provisional Agenda

Time	Programme	Presenter/Facilitator
I. Opening Session		
15 min	Opening Remark(s)	Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Government of Kenya
II. Presentation and Discussion Session		
40 min	Presentation of WIO regional private sector engagement draft strategy and guidelines	Alex Benkenstein, Programme Head, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
30 min	Plenary discussion on the draft strategy and guidelines	SAIIA and Nairobi Convention Secretariat
5 min	Break	All
30 min	Second round discussion on the draft strategy and guidelines	SAIIA and Nairobi Convention Secretariat
III. Closing Session		
15 min	Way Forward and Closing Remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat/ SAIIA