

Developing the Western Indian Ocean Information Management Strategy

Report of the Workshop

12, April 2022

Virtual

Background of the Workshop

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.

Pursuant to the decisions, the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) project, a partnership between the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), is supporting the development of the Western Indian Ocean region Information Management Strategy (IMS). The IMS is expected to lay the vision and the strategy required to promote knowledge and information about the marine environment to policy makers, and to generate environmental stewards. The IMS will also promote effective data and information sharing across governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector, partners and relevant stakeholders active in the coastal and marine environment for informed decision-making, and to raise an ocean literate public that understands the value of the ocean and can make appropriate decisions to protect it.

Workshop objectives

- a. To raise awareness and purpose of the proposed regional Information Management Strategy.
- b. Kickstart the process of developing the information management strategy for the Western Indian Ocean.

Report of the workshop sessions

1. Opening remarks

Dixon Waruinge, head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS) opened the meeting, thanking the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) for supporting the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) project that is supporting the development of the Ocean Governance Strategy and the Information Management Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. He outlined the purpose of the meeting and the process of developing the IMS. He recalled several past efforts on information management by the Contracting Parties including a 2001 COP decision where the Contracting Parties requested the NCS to establish Regional Activity Centres as well as the SEACAM project, based in Mozambique that offered an ocean data portal. National data centres have been established or mandated by Governments and are operational. He highlighted the need to

amplify the role of national experts within the national data centres in the regional IMS process and recognise the fundamental role of the Nairobi Convention national focal points, who will ensure a sustainable regional IMS. The question on how to mainstream the IMS at national level was raised and participants requested to take it into account while developing the IMS.

Robin Farrington, project manager of the WIOGI project, highlighted the processes GIZ is collaborating with NCS on developing a regional information management strategy for the Western Indian Ocean. He noted that GIZ had partnered with the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI) and Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in the IMS development.

2. Overview of the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) project and rationale for developing an IMS)

2.1 WIOGI project

WIOGI project aims to strengthen cooperation between relevant actors at regional and local levels for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the WIO region. In its project period (2020–2024), it will implement three priorities for strengthening ocean governance in WIO - (1) a regional ocean governance strategy (ROG), (2) an information management strategy (IMS) and (3) establishing multi stakeholder partnerships in Mozambique. Further, the GIZ representative highlighted that the WIOGI project was designed to complement ongoing initiatives of the Nairobi Convention and to support the implementation of the approved programme of work of the Convention. WIOGI project was endorsed under Decision CP.10/12 of the 10th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention in 2021.

2.2 Rationale for developing IMS

The NCS recalled that information management discussions began way back 2004 during the 4th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention ([COP4](#)). In Decision CP.4/8 Contracting Parties resolved to develop and/or organize, in collaboration with partners in the region, outreach, information and public awareness programmes on marine and coastal issues. A Knowledge Management Strategy (KMS) was developed in [2006](#). At COP10 that was held in November 2021, Contracting Parties in Decision CP.10/5 tasked the secretariat to strengthen data centers and finalize development of the regional information management strategy (IMS). NCS further highlighted that the IMS will address the sharing of data and consolidate existing data within different platforms and make it more accessible to countries, partners, and stakeholders. An emphasis on developing the IMS was made, that it would be participatory and would promote collective ownership.

2.3 IMS Co-creation process

NCS highlighted that in 1-2 months, a participatory and representative Multi-Stakeholder Working group (MSWG) will be constituted, to include representation from the national level. NCS will lead the process to convene and formalize the MSWG, mapping the stakeholder's knowledge and management needs,

and insights required in the IMS development. Delivery of the IMS is supported by GIZ, the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), and ZMT. Participants were informed that NCS will send requests for submission of nominees required for the IMS process.

3. WIO IMS capacity building in Multi-Stakeholder dialogue and collaboration

3.1 Collective Leadership Institute contribution

The CLI partnership under the WIOGI project will build multi stakeholder dialogue and collaboration capacity among IMS actors in the WIO to enhance quality, viability, and ownership of the IMS. CLI will conduct training on stakeholder dialogues and build collaboration systems centred around the MSWG, while technical aspects of IMS will be delivered by ZMT. The proposed process architecture was presented (see image below) and highlighted the two categories of participation in the IMS co-creation process:

Team 1: WIO Information Management Strategy Multi-Stakeholder Working Group where respective team members will be fully engaged in all workshops, proposed webinars, follow up meetings, and taking responsibility of designing and driving the IMS process within their organization and with the wider stakeholder system. This team will organize and convene thematic stakeholder consultations. The time commitment required for each training workshop is four days held two days per week for seven hours per day. *Team 2: Information Management Strategy WIO Consultation Team* where participants from respective team members will be partially involved, giving ideas, thoughts, checking possibilities in collaboration within the MSWG and support in linking with the wider stakeholders. During the workshop, a survey was administered seeking the interest of participants to engage in either of the two teams. Survey results will be used by the NCS, GIZ and CLI for further engagement.

3.2 Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)

As a scientific institute that exclusively researches tropical and subtropical coastal ecosystems and their significance for nature, ZMT creates a scientific basis for the protection and sustainable use of tropical coastal ecosystems. ZMT will support the IMS process with background and technical information as well as in drafting the information management strategy. ZMT will also assist with the organization of webinars on technical topics of information management.

4.2 IMS priority content/thematic areas

To establish the priority content/thematic areas for the IMS, a poll was conducted. Results have been analyzed and categorized as follows:

Thematic area	Potential topics
Oceanography and Geomorphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrological and rainfall data Water quality Data relevant for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change Bathymetry
Biological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine biodiversity Ecological connectivity between species Mangroves Protected areas (LMMAs, MPAs)
Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries resources Sustainable fisheries Blue economy sectors Oil and gas Role of different blue economy sectors including private sector Socio-economic information on communities along coastlines Fisheries data on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS), Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing Ocean governance Marine spatial planning Relevant policies
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine litter Land based pollution Climate impacts and risks Ocean acidification
Cross cutting considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative implications/hurdles for the implementation of IMS Data protection and management to operationalize IMS Data scope, standardization, use and transparency, sharing and access Data analysis, value addition of the IMS Sustainability of IMS at national level

4.3 Next steps

Building on the participants feedback, a summary on the the IMS process and the next steps were highlighted:

1. The type of IMS and its priorities will be developed in a participatory manner. The MSWG will design the Strategy with support of CLI and ZMT throughout the planned training sessions.
2. Key groups targeted for the virtual training are yet to be identified. NCS will contact the Focal Points for nominations to the MSWG. Non-state actors will be selected based on the interest of participants to engage in the IMS development.
3. The planned training will focus on strategy, stakeholder dialogues, collaboration and collective leadership. Upon completing the certification process, participants will have more capacity to engage in multi-stakeholder dialogues. In addition, they will provide vitality for the IMS technical task force. Trainings will take a maximum of four days with 7-8 hours per session, two days per week. A schedule for the full program, format, timing, and purpose of each training will be provided.
4. A funding concept for the IMS will be discussed further down the IMS co-creation process

Annex 1: Agenda

**Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI)
Developing the Western Indian Ocean Information Management Strategy**

Online Interactive Introduction Event

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

14:00 – 16:30 EAT

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 813 5066 5192 Passcode:654438

[Joining the meeting](#)

Tentative Agenda

Time	Sessions
13:45	Registration and Tech Check
14:00	Official opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening statement by Nairobi Convention Secretariat ● Remarks by the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative
14:15	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Getting to know each other, Collective Leadership Institute
14:25	Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WIOGI project ● Developing Information Management Strategy (IMS) ● Engagement for developing IMS
15:15	Live poll on IMS and feedback
15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next steps and follow up ● Closing remarks
16:30	End

Annex 2: List of participants

	Country	Name	Designation
1.	Mozambique	Mr. Alexandre Bartolomeu	Nairobi Convention Focal Point
2.	Mozambique	Ms.Sidonia Muhorro	Alternate Focal Point, Mozambique
3.	Madagascar	Mr. Nicolas Andriamboavonjy	Project Focal Point
4.	Tanzania	Ms. Ritha R. Said	Project Focal Point
5.	South Africa	Mr. Yamkela Mngxe	Project Focal Point
6.	Somalia	Mr Mohamoud Sh. Abdullahi	IOTC focal point for Somalia
7.	Mauritius	Dr. Arshad Rawat (Alternate)	MSP Technical Working Group
8.	South Africa	Mr. Moses Ramakulukusha	MSP Technical Working Group
9.	Tanzania	Dr. Saleh A.S. Yahya	MSP Technical Working Group
10.	South Africa	Susan Taljaard	CSIR, South Africa
11.	South Africa	Shannon Hampton	IOI-SA, South Africa
12.	Kenya	Peter Manyara	IUCN, South Africa
13.	South Africa	Alex Benkenstein	South African Institute of International Affairs
14.	South Africa	Rhett Bennett	World Conservation Society
15.	Seychelles	Fredrick Kinloch	Ministry of Agriculture climate change and Environment, seychelles
16.	Somalia	Andres Moreno	EUCAP Somalia
17.	Somalia	Hassan Mao	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Hirshabelle), Somalia
18.	Sweden	Katrin Eitrem Holmgren	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)
19.	Tanzania	Amrani Nurudini Samwaja	Tala Fisheries, University of Dodoma
20.	Tanzania	John Komakoma	MPRU, Tanzania
21.	Kenya	Lilian Nyaega	Wetlands International

22.		Cecilia Torres	Blue Action Fund
23.		Ben Youssef Mohamed Ibrahim	Student (.)
24.	Kenya	Mr. Harrison Onganda	KMFRI
25.		Edwin Mwashinga	IOC
26.	France	Dr. Stéphanie Duvail	IRD
27.	France	Alice Marque	IRD
28.	France	Dominique Hervé	IRD
29.	France	Florence Galletti	IRD
30.		Mr Julien Barde	IRD
31.	France	Jean-Francois Ternon	IRD
32.	Madagascar	Joelle Rahantarivelo	Blue Ventures
33.	Kenya	Agnes Muthumbi	University of Nairobi, Kenya
34.	Kenya	Evans Mwangi	University of Nairobi, Kenya
35.	Kenya	Jennifer O'Leary	World Conservation Society
36.	Mozambique	Jose Ariscado	Mozambique
37.	Tanzania	Mathias Igulu	WIOMSA
38.	Tanzania	Valerie Ochanda	WIOMSA
39.	Tanzania	Arthur Tuda	WIOMSA
40.		Tanguy Nicholas	Flora & Fauna International
41.	Kenya	Maarifa Mwakumanya	Pwani University Kilifi
42.	France	Martin Binachon	French Ministry of Ecology
43.		Marius Chirila	
44.		DAGP-MPEB	
45.		James Mbugua	CORDIO
46.	Mauritius	Yuneeda Ooozeeraully	Dept. of Continental Shelf, Mauritius

47.		Annette Muriithi	SDSM
48.		Jfwoiso	
49.	Kenya	Dixon Waruinge	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
50.	Kenya	Theuri Mwangi	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
51.	Kenya	Jared Bosire	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
52.	Kenya	David Ouma	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
53.	Kenya	Melisa Wandia	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
54.	Kenya	Eunice King'ori	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
55.	Kenya	Esther Maina	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
56.	Kenya	Timothy Andrew	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
57.	Kenya	Nathan Majwa	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
58.	Kenya	Elijah Munyao	UNEP - Nairobi Convention
59.		Mai ElAshmawy	Collective Leadership Institute
60.		Douglas Williamson	Collective Leadership Institute
61.		Hauke Kegler	Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) GmbH