First Meeting of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2020

11h00 – 13h00 EAT

Venue: Skype

Report of the Meeting

MSP TWG Members	**WIOMSA Secretariat Staff**
1. Mr. Mouchtadi Madi Bandou (Comoros)	1. Dr. Arthur Tuda
2. Mr. Soifa Ahamed Soilihi (Comoros)	2. Dr. Julius Francis
3. Mr. Fabrice Bernard (France)	
4. Mrs. Susan Otieno (Kenya)	**Nairobi Convention Secretariat Staff**
5. Mr. Harrison Ong'anda (Kenya)	1.Mr. Jared Bosire
6. Mr. Fanomezantsoa Randrianarison (Madagascar)	2.Ms. Sinkinesh Jimma
7. Dr. John Bemiasa (Madagascar)	3.Mr. Timothy Andrew
8. Dr. Rezah Badal (Mauritius)	4. Mr. Theuri Mwangi
9. Dr. Arshad Rawat (Mauritius)	5. Ms. Marlyn Omondi
10. Mr. Amit Jheengut (Mauritius)	6. Mr. Bonface Mutisya
11. Eng. Sofia Chambe (Mozambique)	7. Mr. William Obote
12. Ms. Sidonia Muhorro (Mozambique)	
13. Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles)	
14. Ms. Helena Sims (Seychelles)	
15. Dr. Amina Lula Sekaly (Somalia)	
16. Mr. Dahir Farah Hussein (Somalia)	
17. Ms. Nenekazi Jukuda (South Africa)	
18. Mr. Potlako Khati (South Africa)	
19. Dr. Saleh A.S. Yahya (Tanzania)	
20. Eng. Siajali Pamba Zegge (Tanzania)	

Introduction

The Nairobi Convention in collaboration with the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) have been working to establish the Western Indian Ocean Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group (WIO MSP TWG). This follows a recommendation from the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and other partners at the MSP meeting held in March 2019 in Tanzania in which the development of a WIO regional MSP strategy led by the TWG was recommended. 21 experts have been nominated to the MSP TWG through the support of the national focal points from the 10 Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention. The first meeting of the WIO MSP TWG was organized with the aim of operationalizing the working group through discussions on the Terms of Reference for the working group, expected outcomes of the working

group, operational modalities and contribution of the working group to the development of the WIO regional MSP strategy and other MSP related activities being implemented by the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with partners.

Opening Remarks and Adoption of the meeting agenda

a) Tim Andrew called the meeting to order at 1105h and welcomed the experts nominated by the respective countries as members of the WIO MSP TWG to the first meeting of the TWG. He gave an introduction of the colleagues Secretariat and WIOMSA who were present at the meeting, and invited the country experts to introduce themselves, their background and give brief remarks on ongoing activities on MSP in their respective countries. The meeting was chaired by Tim as the chair and vice chair of the MSP TWG had not been nominated.

b) The agenda of the meeting was presented and was adopted by the meeting with no objections.

Summary of the Nairobi Convention and mandate of the Convention on MSP

a) Jared Bosire made a presentation on the Nairobi Convention Work Programme and the Convention's mandate on MSP. The presentation highlighted the following:

   i. Nairobi Convention a one of the Regional Seas Programme under UNEP and a regional framework and platform for regional collaboration between Contracting Parties of the Convention and partners, with the mandate to protect, manage and develop the Western Indian Ocean at the regional level.

   ii. Partnerships of the Nairobi Convention that support in delivery of it Work Programme including national institutions and agencies, UN agencies, Regional Economic Communities and Commissions (RECs), the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) and other regional and international institutions working in the WIO region.

   iii. Contribution to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 14 on conserving and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

   iv. The main activities of the Nairobi Convention work programme: (i) Assessments and Capacity development, (ii) Management, (iii) Coordination and legal aspects and (iv) Information and awareness

   v. Protocols of the Nairobi Convention: (i) Protocol concerning protected areas and wild fauna and flora in the Eastern African region, (ii) Protocol concerning cooperation in combating marine pollution in cases of emergency in the Eastern African Region, (iii) Protocol Concerning Land Based Sources and Activities (undergoing ratification process by countries) and (iv) Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (awaiting adoption of the agreed text of the Protocol at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries)

   vi. Importance of the WIO region in terms of biodiversity, fisheries resources, critical areas for conservation, support to coastal communities and their livelihoods and contribution to national economies of the WIO countries through fisheries, tourism, oil and gas industries among others.

   vii. Threats to the WIO region coastal and marine resources including biodiversity and habitat loss, illegal fishing, overfishing, pollution from land-based sources, climate change impacts, inadequate governance, unsustainable development of infrastructure and new opportunities that

   viii. Trends in biodiversity loss including loss of species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine biomes and the importance of sustainable intervention at a scale that matters to minimize biodiversity

loss and its impacts on livelihoods and economies of the region. These interventions include reducing Greenhouse gas emissions by 50%, protecting 30% of land and Sea, reducing impacts from food production by 50%, doubling sustainable fisheries management, sustaining the flow of major rivers, reducing deforestation by 50% and eliminating poaching.

ix. Integrated planning and management considering the current momentum on Blue Economy in the WIO region and country investments in the Blue Economy which can provide opportunities for sustainable development.

x. Importance of MSP as a planning tool for influencing the pathway for Blue Economy development in the WIO region

xi. The mandate of Nairobi Convention on MSP from the Conference of Parties (COP) Decisions including Decisions CP8/10 on Blue and ocean Economy, CP.9/2 on the work Programme of 2018-2022 and CP.9/10 on Marine Spatial Planning for the blue and ocean economy.

xii. Recommendations from the regional MSP meeting held in March 2019 including (i) establishment of a regional MSP technical working group, (ii) conducting regional and national legal/policy gap analysis in relation to MSP, (iii) development of a regional MSP strategy for the WIO region and (iv) promoting of shared learning among countries of the WIO region who are at different levels in MSP practice.

xiii. Process of establishment of the MSP technical working group including development of the Terms of Reference for the TWG in collaboration with the Contracting Parties and WIOMSA and request to the Contracting Parties to nominate 2 experts to the technical working group.

xiv. Regional tasks forces established under the Nairobi Convention including: Coral Reef Task Force, Critical Habitats Task Forces, Water Quality Task Forces, River Flows Task Force, Marine Litter and Microplastics TWG, and MSP TWG.

xv. Priority Actions requiring the contribution of the MSP TWG including (i) supporting the development of the regional MSP strategy which is being led by the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa, (ii) Supporting capacity building initiatives on MSP in the region and (iii) contributing to Cumulative Impact Assessment work in which the Nairobi Convention is collaborating with the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SwAM) to inform the MSP -related initiatives in the WIO region.

Summary of projects executed under the Nairobi Convention and their deliverables related to MSP

a) Tim Andrew provided a summary of the projects executed under the Nairobi Convention and their support to MSP work in the region as follows:

   i. Project on Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) – the project will support strengthening of capacity on MSP, selected national demonstration projects on MSP, functioning of the MSP TWG and development of WIO MSP strategy.

   ii. The Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project – the project will support strengthening of capacity on MSP, functioning of the MSP TWG and development of the WIO MSP strategy.

   iii. Partnership project on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries capacity Building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (EU- MEAs) – the project will support the functioning of the MSP TWG and the development of the WIO MSP strategy.

   iv. Partnership Project for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue growth in the WIO - executed in collaboration with South Western Indian ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and will support selected national demonstration projects related to MSP in the target countries (Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania) and capacity development on MSP with specific reference to local practitioner, community based organizations and key stakeholders

v. Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NoCaMo) project – the project will support the development of a roadmap for MSP in the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) region which will be integrated into the development of the WIO MSP strategy

vi. The projects will be working in synergy with one another for greater impact and to broaden the work supported in the region in collaboration with the contracting parties and partners.

Review and adoption of the Terms of Reference for the MSP Technical Working Group

a) Arthur Tuda presented the Terms of Reference for the MSP TWG highlighting:

i. The broad goals and rationale for establishment of the TWG : i) provide a regional forum for information sharing and exchange; ii) provide policy guidance and advice to the Nairobi Convention and other regional frameworks; iii) support capacity building on MSP at regional level as appropriate; iv) synthesize information on MSP from different sources, which includes engaging stakeholders and participatory approaches; and v) produce peer-reviewed publications, decision support tools, and other knowledge products in relation to MSP

ii. The specific activities for the MSP TWG including:

a) Assess the current status of MSP knowledge and practice in the WIO region by reviewing the literature to assess the policy landscape, institutional frameworks, and progress on the implementation on MSP in different countries, including initiatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in support of the implementation of MSP at the national and regional levels. The review is envisioned to identify progress made and major gaps and/or limitations to MSP knowledge, policy and practice to help countries progress. The results of the review will be presented in a Regional Status Report on MSP and in a peer-reviewed journal.

b) Identify, compile, and collate country-level spatial priorities and goals pertaining to marine use, which can be formulated into spatial planning objectives that can guide MSP for the different countries and if possible, at the regional level.

c) Facilitate Contracting Parties in implementing the global and regional ocean governance strategies pertaining to MSP at the country level, including the ongoing global discussions of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) which has a focus on area -based management tools;

d) Facilitate the development of a regional vision and strategy on MSP within the context of the Nairobi Convention, together with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and other interested partners.

e) Facilitate the building of a constituency on MSP among formal and informal stakeholders, including governments; management authorities; the private sector; and communities, and encourage dialogue between them.

f) Facilitate and support the identification of capacity building needs and the implementation of training activities related to MSP for different categories of stakeholders.

g) Facilitate and support the development of relevant environmental education and awareness raising programmes related to MSP.

h) Provide advice on the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks related to MSP to the Contracting Parties through the Science to Policy Platform and COPs.

i) Provide state-of-the-art science to support policy developments on MSP in the region through the Science to Policy Platform of the Convention and other appropriate fora.

j) Provide technical support to the Contracting Parties in the implementation of MSP-related interventions on a case by case basis.

k) Undertake quality assurance of outputs related to MSP produced through the support of both the Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA and other interested partners.

l) Establish potentially mutually beneficial linkages (and/or partnerships) as necessary with relevant leading institutions, professional networks, working groups, and research centers/groups internationally in respect to MSP.

b) Comments following the presentation were as follows:

i. Clarification was requested with regards to the responsibility of the TWG on *'identifying, compiling and collating country-level spatial priorities and goals pertaining to marine use, which can be formulated into spatial planning objectives that can guide MSP for the different countries and if possible, at the regional level'* considering that the fact that countries have different priorities at national level, how the collation of all the different priorities to have a common goal at regional level will be carried out. It was mentioned that the process of prioritization including how the country priorities will be taken into account will be part of the discussions with Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in the strategy development process. The MSP TWG will be engaged in informing the strategy development and the strategy is expected to promote progress in MSP among countries that are in the early stages of development of their MSP process and provide opportunities for shared learning among the countries on approaches and success stories form countries in advanced stages of MSP development.

ii. The MSP strategy development should take and approach that will ensure that focus on the national priorities by respective countries is not compromised in development of regional priorities since the countries may have different national priorities on MSP and thus can only converge in common areas of priorities identified for the region and adopt these based on their national contexts.

c) The TORs were adopted by the MSP TWG with no objections from the meeting.

Development of an MSP strategy for the WIO region: Key Partnerships

a) Tim Andrew informed the meeting that the Nairobi Convention is partnering with NMU in South Africa the development of the MSP strategy and NMU will be leading in the process. NMU will work closely with the MSP TWG in the development of the strategy and will be reaching out to the country experts to engage on the status of national level MSP processes. The experts were requested to provide the necessary input to NMU to inform the process of development of the strategy in order to ensure that the strategy developed is of high quality and useful to the region.

b) Tim further informed the participants that SwAM of Sweden is working in collaboration with Nairobi Convention to compile data from the region under the WioSym Project. The work will involve carrying out an analysis to look at the contribution of different sectors to the MSP process in terms of impact that is cumulative impact of the different sectors and how they can inform holistic spatial planning. SwAM is planning to hold a webinar in September 2020 and will reach out to the MSP TWG members to contribute to the webinar.

Appointment of Chair and Vice- Chair of the Technical Working Group.

a) Theuri Mwangi outlined the guidelines and consideration for selection of the chair and vice-chair for the MSP TWG as follows:

i. Ensuring that the appropriate gender considerations are made in the selection process

ii. Ensuring that there is representation of both mainland and island stated in the selection process

iii. The chair and vice chair will contribute to policy and technical discussions on MSP at the regional level and therefore should be actively and practically be engaged in MSP at the national level in line with requirements of MSP in strategic planning and management, implementation, legal and spatial analysis, monitoring, evaluation and communication.

b) The meeting agreed on the following next steps in the selection of the chair and vice-chair for the MSP TWG:

    i. The selection of the chair and vice chair will be carried out at the next meeting of the MSP TWG to allow the experts time for further consideration of the working group members in order to propose candidates.

    ii. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat will develop criteria for the profiling and nomination of suitable candidates for the chair and vice -chair positions.

    iii. The CVs of the experts in the MSP TWG will be shared with all the experts for consideration of suitable candidate to nominate based on the criteria provided by the Secretariat and have the election process done at the next meeting.

    iv. The TORs for the chair and vice-chair should be developed by the Secretariat and should detail roles and responsibilities of the leadership of the working group and the working group procedures including the terms of office of the leadership and the procedure for election of subsequent chairs and vice chairs once the terms of office of the chair and vice-chair have elapsed.

c) It was proposed the terms of office for the chair and vice-chair for the working group will be at least 2 years to allow for the leadership to have impact and ensure good momentum for the working group. The MSP TWG is expected to last beyond the current projects of the Nairobi Convention and will be embedded as a structure within the Nairobi Convention and membership may change as necessary.

d) The Secretariat will consider input from meeitng, prepare requested information, and circulate to the MSP TWG member in two weeks' time.

AOB

a) The Secretariat was requested to circulate the presentations made during the meeting to the MSP TWG members along with the report of the meeting.

b) The Secretariat was requested to provide more information on the WioSym project and the expected contribution of the MSP TWG to the project

Concluding Remarks

a) Jared Bosire thanked the members of the MSP TWG for their participation in the meeting noting the importance of the working group in promoting shared learning on MSP in the region at policy level and in practice and influence the agenda on MSP at the regional level. The regional frameworks of MSP will provide an example of what countries could consider in the development of their national MSP processes and adopt these based on their national contexts and priorities.

b) There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 1315h