

Vision: A Prosperous

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

with Healthy Rivers,
Coasts and Oceans



60 MILLION

people live within 100 km of this region's coastline.

The combined coastline exceeds

15,000 KM

(including that of the island states)

The region has a total shelf area of

377,526 KM²

Population in 2014 (est.):

212.6 MILLION

Expected to double by 2050



The region's marine biological diversity of

OVER 11,200

species is among the highest in the world.

THE NAIROBI CONVENTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

The Nairobi Convention is a partnership between governments, civil society and the private sector, working towards a prosperous Western Indian Ocean Region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans. It pursues this vision by providing a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions; it enables the Contracting Parties to harness resources and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups; and in this way it helps solve inter-linked problems of the region's coastal and marine environment.

The Convention, which was first signed in 1985 and entered into force in 1996, is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. The programme aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans

and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. It does this by engaging countries that share the Western Indian Ocean in actions to protect their shared marine environment. The Parties to the Convention are part of more than 143 countries that participate in 18 Regional Seas initiatives.

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are **Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania** and **the Republic of South Africa**. The Conference of Contracting Parties (COP) to the convention meets every two years to set the agenda for its future work and review the implementation of past decisions.

STATE OF COAST REPORT FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN



At the 8th Conference of Parties (COP8) in 2015, the Contracting Parties and partners published the **Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO)**, the first comprehensive report on the state of the unique and highly biodiverse ocean. The report provides insights into the economic potential of the ocean, the rising demand for marine ecosystem goods and services, and the environmental changes that are underway.

The report also highlights opportunities to avoid serious degradation, presents exploratory scenarios and policy analysis to inform the planning and management of coastal and marine resources, and provides a basis for reflection on what the convention has achieved and the challenges ahead.

COP8 also adopted several decisions to develop a new Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) protocol, promote the blue/ocean economy in all member countries and establish a platform for science-policy dialogue, among others.

The COP8 decisions aimed to support the member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets set for the 2030 development agenda. The Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention is collaborating with UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC), institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to foster greater regional cooperation and more integrated and coherent governance frameworks at the national and regional levels. This translates to the development of national economies from a regional healthy ocean and calls for greater regional coordination and cooperation to support successful national implementation, follow-up, and review of the SDGs.

In 2016/17, the Nairobi Convention and UNEP's Coral Reef unit are working with regional experts to prepare the Regional Status of Coral Reef Report for the Western Indian Ocean.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: USE OF OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES



OCEAN/BLUE ECONOMY AGENDA



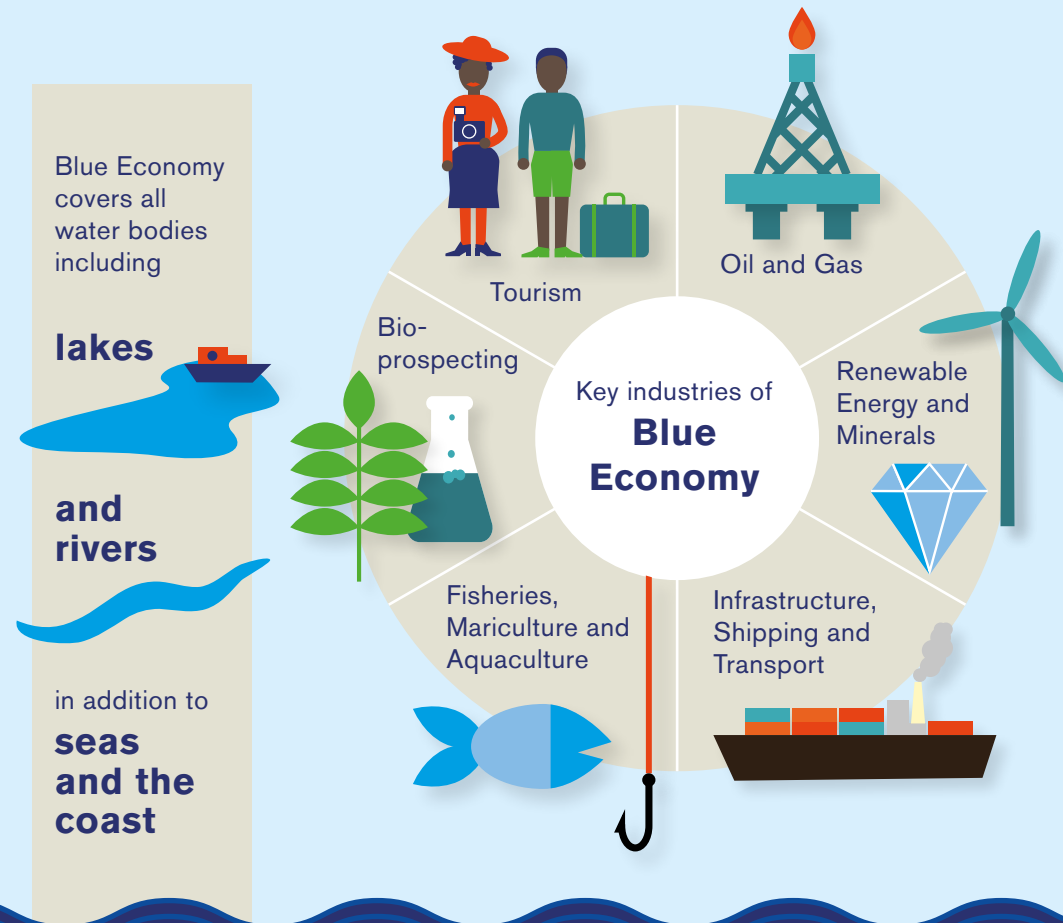
The parties to the Nairobi Convention together with The Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) partners have agreed to apply Ocean/Blue Economy pathways for sustained economic growth, food security, poverty eradication, job creation and environmental sustainability. To promote the blue economy pathways in the WIO region, the parties will cooperate in improving the governance of their exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and adjacent waters. Using an ecosystem approach, that recognises the ocean as an indivisible whole the parties will build on existing regional management and governance institutions including the Nairobi Convention, and develop an area-based management tool such as

Marine Spatial Planning. Examples of initiatives promoting Ocean/Blue Economy pathways are:

- South Africa's Operation Phakisa to fast-track development priorities; the Seychelles 'Blue Economy Strategy and the Road Map of the Ocean Economy' launched by Mauritius;
- France aims to supply 50 per cent of the energy needs of Réunion Island from renewable sources by 2025 and to raise that figure to 100 per cent by 2030;
- Mauritius and Réunion Island plan to implement the concept of seawater-based air-conditioning. In Mauritius, this is expected to lead to a 20MW reduction in energy requirements at Port Louis airport.

In 2012, a conservative estimate of the economic value of marine goods and services provide by WIO region was over

US\$22 billion annually



The world's oceans and coasts – the Blue World – are the cornucopia for humanity. They provide us with food, oxygen and livelihoods.

UNEP, 'Green Economy in a Blue World' report, 2012



IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat has successfully implemented various projects within the Western Indian Ocean region through funding from organizations such as GEF and the Governments of Norway and Sweden and through partnerships with other organizations such as Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Birdlife International, African Union (AU), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), WWF and IUCN. These include the project Addressing land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB) project (funded by GEF in 2004-2010) and the African Marine and Coastal Programme (Funded by Government of Sweden in 2011-2016).

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)



The Nairobi Convention Secretariat will partner with the UNEP, UNDP and **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** to implement two projects under the convention. These are the 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP)' and 'The Western India Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE)'.

The WIO-SAP project is intended to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme and the identified priorities.

The SAPPHIRE project builds on previous work completed under the UNDP-supported and GEF-financed Agulhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project. SAPPHIRE aims to help government and intergovernmental bodies deliver aspects of the Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme (LME-SAP); and to ensure the sustainability of SAP implementation through strong institutional arrangements and partnerships.

Synergies and complementarity between the implementation of the WIO-SAP and the SAPPHIRE will lead to a joint WIO-SAP and LME-SAP implementation with a focus on Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms in the Western India Ocean region-“WIOPHIRE“.

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (WIOMSA)



The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) has worked closely with the Nairobi Convention to produce the [Regional Strategy on Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation in the Marine and Coastal Environment of WIO](#). The initiative builds on the Nairobi Convention's Climate Change Strategy, which provides a framework to foster regional cooperation in addressing the impacts of climate change by assessing the preparedness, vulnerability and adaptive options for communities in the WIO region. It takes into account existing national climate change strategies, and complements national actions by encouraging collaborative efforts by the parties to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacities of socio-ecological systems.

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL



The [Status of Birds in the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Nairobi Convention Area: Regional Synthesis Report](#) is a major contribution to the implementation of the parties' decision to recognize or designate Important Bird Areas (IBAs) as a tool for the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, and to use information on birds as indicators of ecosystem health. Prepared by national experts for [BirdLife International](#), the report provides an objective and scientific basis for reviewing the bird list in the Protocol Concerning Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora in the Western Indian Ocean Region, which in its current form has many gaps. It gives information on the status of birds and key habitats in the region, including coastal and marine ecosystems, and the threats they are facing. It also identifies areas that could be designated as IBAs and receive increased formal protection and presents a priority list of bird species of conservation concern requiring some form of management.

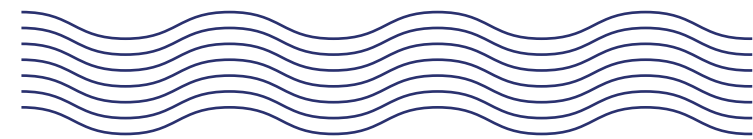


AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)

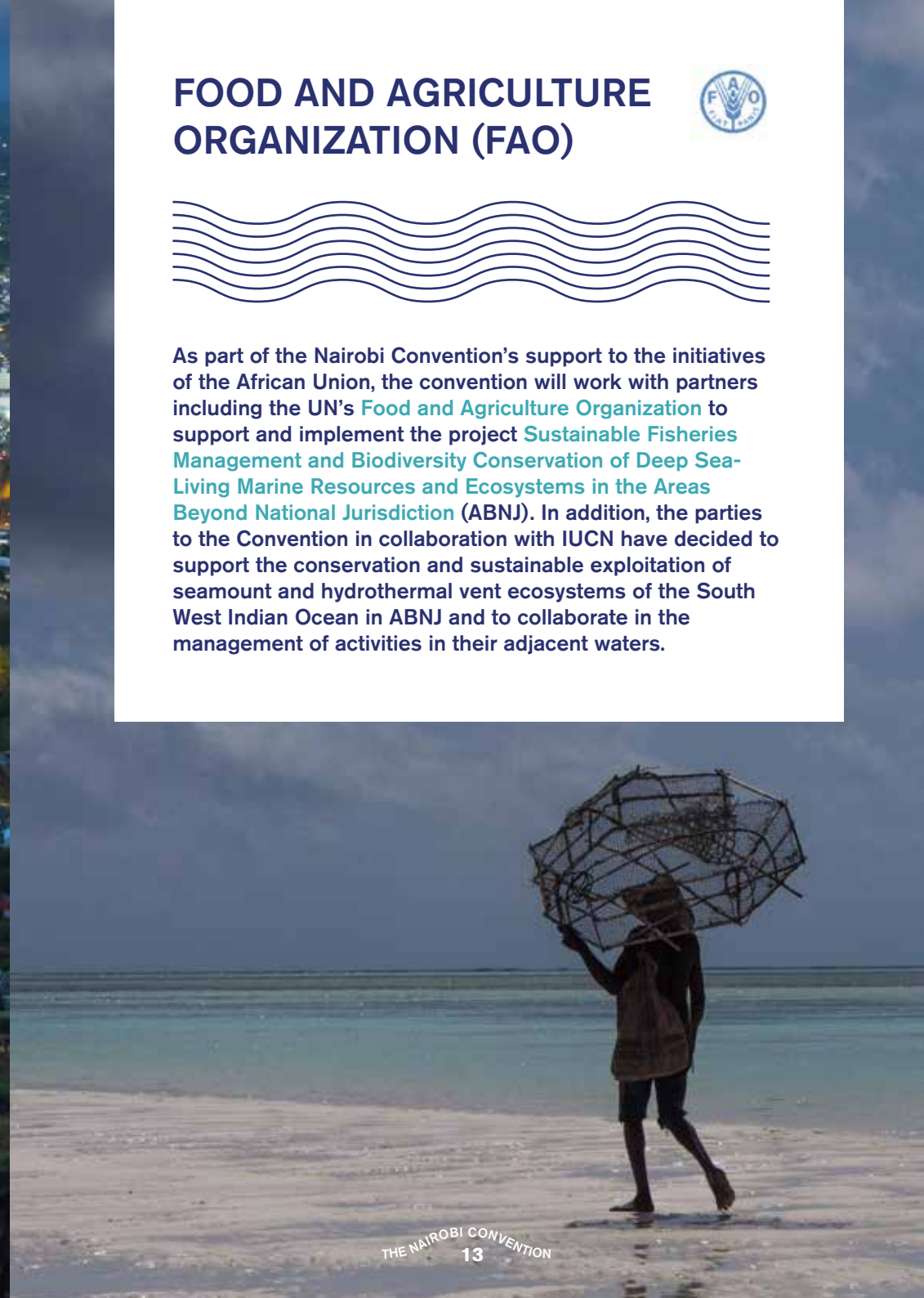


The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), supports the Nairobi Convention as a regional platform for the implementation of the AU's Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050, and of its Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-Based Management Approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters. The 2050 AIM Strategy provides a broad framework for the protection and sustainable exploitation of African maritime resources. Agenda 2063 highlights Africa's blue economy as a major contributor to continental transformation. In support, the Nairobi Convention will collaborate with other conventions under UNEP's Regional Seas Programme – the Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention and Jeddah Convention – to help develop an African strategy on ocean governance.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)



As part of the Nairobi Convention's support to the initiatives of the African Union, the convention will work with partners including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization to support and implement the project Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea-Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). In addition, the parties to the Convention in collaboration with IUCN have decided to support the conservation and sustainable exploitation of seamount and hydrothermal vent ecosystems of the South West Indian Ocean in ABNJ and to collaborate in the management of activities in their adjacent waters.





GRID-ARENDAL, IDDRI



The Nairobi Convention Secretariat will work with **GRID-Arendal**, **IDDRI** and **WCMC** to prepare **regional guidelines on environmental management for oil and gas development** in the Western Indian Ocean region. The guidelines will include a regionally coordinated Strategic Environmental Assessment of the social and environmental sustainability of oil and gas extraction in the Western Indian Ocean. The initiative will consult on best practice for the region with countries and partners already involved in oil and gas development. The Regional State of Coast Report quotes the U.S Geological Survey that has estimated that there are mean volumes of 27.6 billion barrels of oil, 441.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 13.77 billion barrels of natural gas liquids off the coasts of Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar and Mozambique.

INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (IOC)



The Nairobi Convention is working with partners including the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** to review the draft protocol on **ICZM** and explore options for the effective management of the marine and coastal environment. COI is also assisting the secretariat to review and update the **Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora**, and its annexes. The Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region provides the basis for a two-tiered review process. The first step is to review the status of the species (animals/plants) listed in the annexes of the protocol. The second step is to draft and negotiate a revised Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora.

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