

## Ocean Governance in Africa

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African Ministerial Conference on  
Environment (AMCEN) processes  
on “African Ocean Governance Strategy”

# African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

- **AMCEN** established in 1985 as a forum to promote regional cooperation in addressing environment issues
- **Outcomes** reported AU STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, Executive Council and Summit
- Outcomes also feed into UNEA, other regional and global fora, institutions and partners
- Regular sessions held every 2 years - 15<sup>th</sup> session in 2015 - 16<sup>th</sup> session for August 2017 in **Libreville**, Gabon. Special sessions convened – 6<sup>th</sup> special session held in 2016
- **AMCEN Bureau** – ensures political and intersessional continuity and regional balance

<h2 style="text-align: center; color: red;">Current situation</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center; color: red;">Challenges</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center; color: red;">Opportunities</h2>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate political and economic <b>appreciation</b> of value of marine and coastal resources</li> <li>• Insufficient cooperation at national level sectors, ecosystem- wide at regional, sub-regional levels.</li> <li>• Absence of <b>integrating</b> common frameworks for delivery collective outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing <b>pressure</b> on oceans and seas putting marine environment and ecosystems at risk</li> <li>• Erosion of natural capital base that constitutes growth base on which Africa can depend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential of contributing to <b>Africa transformation</b> by sustainably harnessing its oceans natural capital - estimated “gross marine product” at USD 24t</li> <li>• <b>strengthened ocean governance</b> - mobilising and coordinating key stakeholders – has short, medium and long positive impacts on ecosystems management</li> <li>• <b>Political will:</b> Agenda 2063 (common regional vision on development) is strong on ocean ecosystems and economic growth</li> <li>• Strong contribution of ocean</li> </ul>

# AMCEN 2015/2016: Outcomes on ocean issues

## *Key elements of the “Cairo Declarations” of 2015 and 2016:*

- Regional seas programmes in Africa as regional platforms for implementing **Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050, Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-Based Management Approaches** for marine resources in EEZ and adjacent waters;
- **Development of an ocean governance strategy**, in accordance with UNCLOS and RSC, for effective management of Africa’s shared maritime resources;
- AMCEN 15 held under the overall theme of “harnessing natural Capital” with oceans as part of theme
- AMCEN SS6 agreed to strengthen existing regional institutional mechanisms in Africa for ecosystem based management of oceans and coastal zones and called upon UN Environment and partners within their respective mandates to organize a conference on oceans in 2017.
- First Planning Meeting – Istanbul, October 2015 - 4 Regional Seas, UNEP - agreed approaches and on scoping study

# Next Steps

- **2017**

- An overview and scoping **study/** gap analysis (on-going) – to be completed by June 2017
- Engaging new leadership at **AU-** from April
- Use existing **opportunities/events** to advance Africa's ocean governance  
Objective: political buy-in, create awareness, mobilise and consult member states and stakeholders
- **PrepCom of UN Ocean Conference** in New York, February - side sessions
- SDG High Level Political Forum in June - side sessions and Africa Group of Permanent Representatives in New York
- **Our oceans Conference, Malta** October - side sessions
- 19th RS Global meeting, South Africa, November – experts session
- **Regional Seas** - to inform and mobilise member states on overall Africa ocean governance initiative and have governance expert reviews (possibility of preparing own ocean governance frameworks)

# Next Steps

- **2017**

- UNEA 3 December - side sessions
- AU Summit in July, Addis Ababa – side sessions
- AMCEN16, August, - ½ day experts review, stakeholder consultations and report progress
- Resource mobilisation - fundraising concept (to include coordinator of the process), identify potential partners including financial institutions, foundations and bilaterals
- Draft ocean governance strategy - 2 months after AMCEN16

- **2018**

- Africa ocean governance conference (to be decided at AMCEN16)
- Continue with High level engagements
- Engage AU through AMCEN for political adoption
- Prepare plan of action for implementation of Ocean Governance Strategy