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## Meeting on Northern Mozambique Channel Area

*Zanzibar, Tanzania 21-24 November 2016*

### **Report of the Meeting on Northern Mozambique Channel area**

#### INTRODUCTION, MEETING CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:10am by the Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Mr. Dixon Waruinge. Following introduction by all participants, Mr. Waruinge recognised the co-financing of the meeting by the **WWF-Madagascar**. The meeting brought together for the first time at the regional level the Contracting Parties and partners active in the NMC area.
2. **WWF-Madagascar** introduced the objectives of the meeting. The meeting on the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) was organized pursuant to Decision CP8/6 of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (CP8) that was held in June 2015 in Seychelles. CP8/6 calls for support to implementation of projects, including in the Northern Mozambique Channel, as a good example of integrated ocean management approach. The meeting was also held in the framework of regular interactions that the Contracting Parties are having with the partners in order to take stock and plan for next strategic actions of the Convention's collective efforts around the integrated management in the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) area.
3. The economic importance of the NMC has emerged as a future driver of national and regional development on a scale not previously realized in the Western Indian Ocean, due to the high fishery productivity of the Channel. It is a hotspot of marine and coastal biodiversity and one of the last large marine sanctuaries in the Western Indian Ocean. It has the highest diversity of corals in the central, northern and western Indian Ocean.
4. Specifically the meeting delved on the progress and status around the NMC (fundraising for projects and developments in oil and gas) in order to collectively define the way forward. Secondly, the meeting discussed on how to move forward on SDG14 especially in the lead up to



the UN Oceans Conference in New York in June 2017, and the launch of the Western Indian Ocean Economy Report.

5. Recent findings of globally significant natural gas deposits, continuing exploration for fossil fuel, and a high potential for coastal tourism development makes the Northern Mozambique Channel a priority region for investments in ocean governance by countries and the international community. Accelerating population growth and demographic changes in the NMC region (growing to 30 million, by 2030) will increase demands for and pressures on resources, while at the same time providing opportunities for economic growth and building prosperity.
6. NMC in particular, faces many and increasing threats and pressures from population growth, overfishing, urbanization, oil, gas and mineral exploitation, tourism development, as well as climate change. This calls for large scale partnerships to strengthen the management of the region's marine resources.
7. The NMC area has an interest from five countries who are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention – Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania. Due to the proximity of Aldabra Island to the NMC border in the north, **Seychelles** requested, at the onset, to enjoin the five Contracting Parties. **Tanzania** urged the meeting to identify the role of Governments in achieving the objectives of the meeting and in the NMC project concept under preparation.
8. In summary, the meeting focused and realised the following:
  - a. The main target audience of the meeting was the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties, and including key partners, to plan for strategic actions and collective efforts around integrated ocean management in the NMC area.
  - b. Overall progress on the NMC was made, during which the strategic framework was briefly explained for comments.
  - c. On the fundraising discussion, the reasons why the Global Environmental Fund Project Identification Form (GEF PIF) was not forwarded were explained, and countries were requested to seek possibilities to integrate some works on NMC in their STAR 6, and/or GEF STAR 7 allocations. The countries asked the PIF to be updated and finalized, for them to have a good document to share with their respective GEF focal points when they will discuss with them on including NMC works into STAR 6 and/or GEF 7.
  - d. On the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) proposal, discussion revolved around the countries' recommendations of establishing coherence and complementarity of this project with the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE; to clarify the institutional set up with particular reference to the role of governments in the project, as they would like to own the NMC process. For activities to be implemented in each country, it should appear clearly that the respective Nairobi Convention focal points; to develop the terms of reference of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and different NGOs in relation to the implementation of this project; to ask FFEM whether it is possible to have some funding for an inception phase; and to circulate the full proposal to the countries before submitting the same to FFEM.
  - e. On the oil and gas discussion, the Contracting Parties insisted on the importance of the alignment between the national priorities and the proposed NMC approach, including the NMC coordination team; the alignment between national oil and gas processes and priorities and the NMC project proposal; finding appropriate ways to involve and build capacity of stakeholders on the sector, conducting experience sharing among the countries, and to give CSOs tools so that they can play their role as key stakeholders with respect to oil and gas.
  - f. On the SDG 14 discussion:



- Efforts have been made to engage Sweden on the NMC as outlined in a proposal to Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) – especially on the development of regional scenarios that can catalyze and support the implementation of SDG 14 on integrated ocean management
  - Links of the NMC approach with other key players such as PROG in accordance with Nairobi Convention Eighth Conference of Parties Decision CP8/6.
  - The need to domesticate messages for a jointly owned roadmap on integrated ocean management and blue economy in the NMC (attached 2 pager messages-see Annex ...)
  - The region to seize the opportunity of the UN SDG 14 summit (June 2017 in New York) to present a number of key elements that will set the stage for the NMC roadmap.
  - The Representative from Sweden’s statement to confirm that Sweden was committed to support the NMC and in particular in the area of SDG 14.
  - The NMC coordination team and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to ensure that Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique and Seychelles participate at the Technical Group preparatory meeting on 15 February 2017 in New York;
  - Need to keep the NC focal points (Tanzania, Madagascar, Seychelles, Kenya, South Africa, Mauritius) in the loop to follow-up on their Government’s involvement;
  - Need to involve the WIO-C to enhance collaboration and synergies on the SDG14 Summit until June 2017.
- g. On the Western Indian Ocean Economy report, its content, its purpose and relevance to the SDG 14 process and upcoming launches was made. Countries asked for arrangements in place to make the countries participate at the regional launches.

## TAKING STOCK ON PROGRESS IN THE NMC AREA

9. On behalf of the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C), **WWF-Madagascar** provided a brief on progress being made in the NMC area. WIO-C comprises a group of international and regional NGOs in partnership with intergovernmental organizations that have presence and are active in regional marine and coastal ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean. Launched in 2007, WIO-C’s main purpose is that of advancing efforts to protect, conserve, and manage the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean region while working to alleviate poverty and attain sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable segments of its population.
10. Founding members of the WIO-C include IUCN, WCS, WIOMSA, WWF, EAWLS, CORDIO, and Nairobi Convention. As of 2012, Birdlife International, Wetlands International, Blue Ventures, Rare, TNC, Fauna & Flora International and CI became full members of the Consortium.
11. A strategic framework has been developed and proposed to each NMC country and key stakeholders. With a proposed vision for NMC: *“The people, countries and economies of the NMC prosper in a sustainable future founded on the natural and cultural assets and diversity of the NMC”*. The framework is based on institutional, economic, natural, social, human and knowledge capital.
12. In the next five years the of focus area will include enabling policies and partnerships for national integrated ocean management and maintaining ecosystem services and demonstrating beneficial interactions between priority ecosystems and people. Others include empowering local communities and livelihoods, mainstreaming blue economy principles into key sectors, with decision-making supported by planning frameworks, capacity and information platforms.



13. To achieve the vision, consultations in the NMC countries in the areas of integrated ocean management, partnerships, fundraising and oil and gas development were held for France in April 2015, Comoros in April 2015 and March 2016, Mozambique in October 2015, Madagascar in June 2015 and Tanzania in January 2016.
14. The **Nairobi Convention Secretariat** added that in 2012, Contracting Parties called for a program on NMC on oil and gas. The Secretariat supported WWF in 2013 with the development of the program. A GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) was prepared. Another proposal targeted the French GEF (known as FFEM<sup>1</sup>) was prepared by WWF. By 2015 it was necessary to update the project concepts with new development in oil and gas and SDG14 applicable to the NMC area and which have now raised interest with FFEM of France and the Government of Sweden through SIDA<sup>2</sup>.
15. Contracting Parties expressed interest in targeting GEF<sup>3</sup> funding for the NMC project concept through either GEF STAR<sup>4</sup> allocations 6 (2014-2018) or 7 (2018-2022). Madagascar, Seychelles and Tanzania proposed to go for GEF STAR allocation 7 while Mozambique would consult further with the national GEF<sup>5</sup> Focal point.

## PROGRESS ON FUNDRAISING

16. **Blue Ventures**, on behalf of WIO-C provided a snapshot of the efforts being made on fundraising for the NMC FFEM project concept. In 2014 discussions were held for the development of appropriate project targeting the FFEM of France. In 2016 the project concept was submitted to FFEM and the WIO-C led by WWF-France and CORDIO received feedback and questions. For the period of July – November 2016 a coordination of NGOs update of proposal, which on 8 November 2016 the revised proposal was submitted to FFEM, French ministries and WIO-C members during a meeting Paris. The concept was presented and discussed on 25 November 2016 by the wider stakeholders (in the Zanzibar meeting) before submission to the FFEM Steering Committee in January 2017. Final decision from FFEM is expected around October-November 2017.
17. The project focusses on three core themes: Enabling conditions for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) (including capacity building), sustainable development in oil and gas sector, and community-based marine management through integrated Population-Health-Environment approaches. The project foresees overall coordination by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, working closely with WIO-C partners under the coordination of WWF and CORDIO. A project steering committee will assure project governance, partnering with other inter-governmental organizations (IOC, SADC, EAC, etc.). Technical support will be provided by supporting partner organizations such as WIO-C members, the French MPA Agency and the Convention for Biological Diversity Sustainable Ocean Initiative (CBD SOI).
18. The Project duration is expected to be 4 years (2018 – 2021) at a total cost estimated at € 5 million, of which € 1.5 million is from the FFEM, with co-financing by SIDA and WIO-C members.
19. **Tanzania** and **Mozambique** reiterated the need for a strong institutional setup on the project, the role of governments in the project at national level, modalities for collaboration with other projects such as SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP to avoid duplication of efforts, and access to

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<sup>1</sup> Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)

<sup>2</sup> Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

<sup>3</sup> Global Environment Facility (GEF)

<sup>4</sup> GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)



information. The **Contracting Parties** requested that the proposal be circulated to countries of the Western Indian Ocean before submitting the same to FFEM in January 2017 for comments.

20. **WWF-Mozambique** added that the project concept may need to be aligned with efforts going on in the region such as capacity building of civil society organizations. Similarly, efforts need to be made to factor new changes from countries and stakeholders through a six month inception phase. The project team was requested to survey the possibility with FFEM so that FFEM funding would co-finance GEF 7 STAR allocation.

## PROGRESS ON OIL AND GAS IN THE NMC AREA

21. **WWF-Madagascar** articulated efforts being made in the oil and gas sector in the northern Mozambique Channel. The approach in addressing oil and gas in the NMC involves linking and promoting synergy between Civil Society Organizations CSOs/NGOs and the Nairobi Convention projects and endeavours on oil and gas. Secondly, developing key enabling conditions to reinforce and upscale the national-level and regional-level advocacies (partnership with global and key organizations, platforms (etc.), use of champions and experts, support to CSOs, and capacity building. The third approach has been catalysing the conduct of key and strategic actions having the potential to significantly influence better governance of oil and gas sector (such Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Natural Capital Assessment. The NMC area has been promoting partnership among CSOs/NGOs to provide opportunities for strengthening the advocacy power of the CSOs.
22. Progress has been made in aligning the understanding of oil and gas development and stakes among global and regional NGOs of the WIO-C in the NMC area through scoping missions in the sub-region. Joint areas of collaboration and planning have been identified among WIO-C NGOs in order to develop coherence between the NMC partnership on oil and gas and that of the Nairobi Convention. Already, WWF has national projects and programmes on oil and gas in Tanzania and Mozambique, working closely with stakeholders to ensure projects are harmonized. This has also led to capacity building of representatives of CSOs from the NMC countries on legal and regulations, operational principles, licensing and contracts, link to marine spatial planning and corporate social responsibility. With such a list of activities, this calls for fundraising of resources.
23. While appreciating the efforts being made in the NMC area, **Tanzania** called for more coherence on oil and gas policies pointing out that such policies exist in the country. Guidelines and national legislation need to be factored and linked in the project document being prepared. At the same time Tanzania indicated that, with Finland, Sweden and Norway rather active in the oil and gas sector in the country, synergies were necessary, including options to standardise oil and gas development.
24. **Mozambique** added that at national level there exists sectoral regulations on oil and gas, SEA, and environmental laws on air quality to ensure no net loss on biodiversity in the country. **Comoros** called on..... (Who??) to avail the existing information from the scoping missions on oil and gas to the group of wider stakeholders. At this point the **Nairobi Convention Secretariat** noted the need for assurance that the NMC partnership will be sensitive to country needs and programmes on oil and gas. Secondly, there was a need to generate best practices based on national practices and lessons learnt at the national level. Thirdly, efforts will need to be made to discuss environmental issues with oil and gas line ministries, such as the Ministry of Energy in each country. **WWF-Mozambique** added that at the micro-level NMC CSOs will need to be equipped beyond advocacy in biodiversity (for which reason they exist) into fisheries and negotiations skills necessary to factor benefits to the local communities in the oil and gas development.



## MOVING FORWARD ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

25. According to **WWF-Madagascar**, the context of the sustainable development goal (SDG) 14 resonates with the 5-7 June 2017 UN Oceans Conference in New York. The high-level UN Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden, will coincide with the World Oceans Day, and seeks to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*).
26. NMC partnership has held discussions with Sweden looking at engagement of some NMC countries in delivering the SDG14 through blue economy and integrated ocean management, and to potentially commit to some high-level goals in June 2017. In turn, Sweden, through SIDA, called on the NMC partnership to provide a pathway for reaching to the goals for consideration and funding.
27. Recalling Decision CP8/6 of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention on support on the Northern Mozambique Channel as a good example of integrated ocean management approach, three key areas are important for the high level goals. First is the requisite wide stakeholder engagement and buy-in, and a regional roadmap towards an inclusive integrated ocean management (marine spatial planning). Secondly, a concrete commitment to the roadmap by NMC governments at the SDG 14 Summit will be necessary, a roadmap supported by the international community and followed upon in the next years. Thirdly will be intensified effort of mobilizing Governments at highest levels to take a leadership role in implementing the roadmap in NMC, around a common agreed vision.
28. The roadmap proposed to Sweden for the 2017 Ocean Conference has three activity clusters: The joint development by the NMC partnership of a fully-fledged proposal for the SIDA grant cycle of 2018-2022, coordinated by the Nairobi Convention and the NMC steering committee; the assessment of proposed regional scenarios available (in the soon to be launched Western Indian Ocean Economy Report) using available tools such as Health Index and Natural Capital Assessment; and the catalysing and supporting of a roadmap on integrated ocean management development for NMC in the lead up to the June 2017 SDG14 Summit.
29. Concluding on the presentation **WWF-Madagascar** called on NMC countries to support the roadmap toward the June 2017 Conference through concrete high level messages on the NMC. Efforts will be required to ensure participation of countries to the February Technical Groups meeting in preparation to UN Oceans Conference, including structured collaboration from February and all the way to June 2017 between NMC Governments, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, NMC partnership of the WIO-C members, and PROG<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> PROG: Launched at the UNEP Regional Seas Meeting in Istanbul on 20 October 2015 under the Partnership for Regional Oceans Governance (PROG), the initiative on the Ocean and Coasts Sustainable Development Goals is a partnership between UNEP, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). PROG will support the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by identifying lessons learned and developing innovative approaches to regional ocean governance; promoting regional exchange and, wherever requested, assisting in strengthening regional capacities and ocean governance structures; fostering the role of regional ocean governance approaches at the global level through engaging in multi-stakeholder processes, and by partnering with key players including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research centres and think tanks.



30. The representative of **Sweden** Mr. Peter Mwakifamba conveyed the support of Sweden to current and future activities in the NMC area. Reiterating that Sweden will host the SDG14 summit in NY in 2017, he called on the NMC countries to seize the opportunity to set goals especially as they relate to oceans protection. Sweden has been supporting research and other initiatives in NMC via WWF, WIOMSA, and Nairobi Convention. He noted that the NMC is an important challenge and opportunity for livelihoods to which Sweden will continue supporting concrete action on sustainable ocean management and will dialogue with governments in the NMC. Sweden is willing to support the forward looking roadmap to June 2017 with the necessary funding and will keep all informed on progress towards the Conference.
31. In the discussions that ensued, **Tanzania** and **Mozambique** noted the generous support of the Swedish Government to the countries and the support promised towards the June 2017 Ocean Conference. At the regional level many of the products realised by the Nairobi Convention have come through Swedish support.
32. **Madagascar**, as a champion of the NMC partnership, acknowledged engagement in the preparatory February technical meeting to be held in New York. **Seychelles** will also participate in the process, noting that the Minister of Environment is one of the champions of SDG14. **Mauritius** requested to be included in the preparatory meeting as the country will be reporting on SDG 14 in the June conference. **Kenya** informed of participating in the June 2017 meeting while **South Africa** expressed willingness to participate in the NMC initiative.
33. Concluding the segment, **WWF-Madagascar** expressed the need to showcase the NMC position and partnership and the WIO region as a whole during the UN oceans conference. It will be important to domesticate the messages that will be delivered during the conference, and through the Nairobi Convention, identify delegation for New York technical meeting in February 2017. **Blue Ventures** called on relevant Contracting Parties to be part of NMC initiative to demonstrate a great example of working together in ocean governance.

## BUILDING POLITICAL WILL BASED ON ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT (WIO ECONOMY REPORT)

34. **WWF-Madagascar** delivered a snapshot of the Western Indian Ocean Economy Report to be launched from January 2017. Titled *“Reviving the Western Indian Ocean Economy – Actions for a Sustainable Future”* the assessment provides an economic value of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, its population and ocean resources available, and scenario analysis of threats on WIO resources. The report’s main theme is on the implementation of SDG 14 and useful for advocacy and demonstrating value of ecosystems. Seven action points have been recommended in the report.
35. The regional launch of the WIO economy report will begin on 24 January 2017 in Madagascar and may follow through during PROG national consultations in Tanzania, Union of Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and other WIO countries. It is expected that the report will undergo internalization in countries and as such senior government officials and decision makers will need to be briefed of the report findings.
36. **Somalia** noted with concern that the assessment does not include France and Somalia owing to the fact that World Bank 2014 data was used to develop the report. Nevertheless, Somalia requested that all flags of WIO countries be included in the report. **Mauritius, Mozambique** and **Seychelles** acknowledged willingness to be involved in the regional launch of the report. **Kenya** thanked WWF for the well compiled report with hard figure necessary to prioritise the management of coastal and marine resources while **South Africa** was eager to receive the report



as the country embarks on initiating coastal development programmes. **Madagascar** requested for a French version of the main economy report for wide distribution. The summary report will be available in French and Portuguese during the regional launch while the main report will be translated at a later stage.

## WRAP UP SESSION

37. Dixon Waruinge, the head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat thanked all participants, the Contracting Parties focal points for the active participation and contributions. On the issue of SDG 14 he reiterated the words of Birdlife International – and thanked Sweden for continued support in the region and willingness to support the roadmap to the UN Ocean Conference 2017. The invitation by Madagascar through WWF to the launch of the WIO Economy report in January 2017 is most welcoming. National launches were encouraged, beginning with Tanzania during the second or third week of January 2017 to coincide with PROG national consultations. The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as part of the WIO Consortium expressed willingness to engage and to participate in the regional efforts to show that NGOs in the WIO region have agreed to work together with the governments. He thanked all and closed the meeting at 4:00 pm and invited all participants for an evening cocktail courtesy of WWF.

## Annexes

- a. **List of Participants**
- b. **FFEM Proposal**
- c. **SDG 14 Conferences draft messages for domestication by countries**