

Scoping workshop on review of the state of critical habitats and Marine Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean region

19-22 June, 2017

Berjaya Beau Vallon Resort & Casino, Mahe, Seychelles

The GEF-funded project, 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP) is aiming to make a major contribution to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets 14.2 and 14.5 by reviewing critical habitats in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

A key aim of the WIOSAP programme is to develop tools and guidelines for vulnerability assessment and spatial planning. These tools and guidelines are intended to be used by the institutions in participating countries to both conduct ecosystem vulnerability assessment studies and support coastal monitoring and spatial planning processes at a national level. The outputs will contribute to building the capacity for relevant institutions to undertake vulnerability assessments and to support management and monitoring of the state of coastal ecosystems in the participating countries.

To initiate the programme the Nairobi Convention is partnering with WIOMSA to organize a 4-day expert scoping workshop that will develop a process for the review the state of critical habitats and MPA's across all participating countries. The scoping process will also aim to align the project activities to the targets under SDG goal 14, in particular Targets 14.2 and 14.5. The process will also be informed by the obligation under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Strategic Goal C, Target 11, to increase MPA coverage for coastal and marine protection in the region to 10% by 2020. This includes further enhancing the use of ecosystem-based and other large-scale approaches to managing the coastal and marine ecosystems.

Title: Scoping workshop on review of the state of critical habitats and Marine Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean region -WIOSAP Programme contributing to achieving Targets 14.2 and 14.5 by reviewing critical habitats in the WIO region.

Venue: Seychelles

Dates 19-22 June 2017.

Objectives:

- i) To develop and agree a process for the conduct of an overview of existing regional MPA's as part of the implementation of the SDG Target 14.5 that will lead to:

- Establishment of authoritative databases on: the most critical habitats and the biodiversity most at risk; MPA coverage (size, maps, and the conservation value of the MPA's from a biodiversity and socio-ecological values)
 - Determination of the management effectiveness of MPAs including adaptive management processes and requirements
- ii) To develop and agree a process to undertake a regional critical habitats inventory in the context of biodiversity and existing and emerging economic activities that will lead to:
 - Determination of participating countries' future options for achieving 10% MPA coverage
 - Advising countries what they need to do to achieve the 10% target based on identification of critical habitats that require protection, and on the consequences of failing to meet the target
 - A consistent monitoring and reporting framework at national and regional levels

Expected outputs

- i. Structure of the database and how to link that with the Nairobi Convention Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), including:
 1. What is required to populate products under the protocol on Protected Fauna and Flora of the Nairobi Convention and investment requirements and opportunities for these activities
 2. Digital maps for critical habitats within MPA's and management approaches and critical habitats outside MPA's and novel approaches for their management
 3. Determination of criteria for identification of most critical habitat for demonstrating Marine Spatial Planning/Ecosystem-based Management (EBM)/Integrated Coastal Management in WIO.
- ii. Structure for a regional assessment report/overview (outlooks) of the status of the existing MPAs in the region
 1. Who are the authors; structure; audience and message for the products
 2. Timelines for preparation of the outlooks
 3. how to monitor the establishment and development of the network of protected areas (for targets SDG14.2 and 14.5) and to adopt guidelines to facilitate the establishment and development of that system and to increase co-operation among the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention
 4. Messaging for SDG 14.2 and 14.5.