

**CONSORTIUM FOR CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE
ECOSYSTEMS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (WIO-C) MEETING**

Place: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,

Date: 4th August 2011

Participants:

- ✓ Birdlife International, Julius Arinaitwe
- ✓ COI/ReCoMaP, Winfried Wiedemeyer
- ✓ Government of South Africa, Potlako Khati
- ✓ IMS, Margareth Kyewalyanga
- ✓ IUCN, Ali Kaka;
- ✓ UNEP, Nairobi Convention, Dixon Waruinge and Nancy Soi;
- ✓ WCS, Nyawira Muthiga;
- ✓ WIOMSA, Julius Francis;
- ✓ CEA-NIWWF, Peter Scheren, Domingos Gove and Ralison Harifidy;

Agenda:

1	Review of objectives and agenda of the workshop	Secretariat
2	Election of Chair and Raporteur	
3	The future of WIO-C	Meeting Chair
	✓ Review of WIO-C purpose/mandate	
	✓ Confirmation of support of members	
	✓ Commitment letters	
4	Operational matters	Meeting Chair
	✓ Secretariat	
	✓ Membership: new members	
5	Discussion on WIO-C engagement in regional initiatives	Meeting Chair
	✓ Principles of engagement	
	✓ Decision making	
	✓ Conditions of operation/conduit	
6	Any other business	Meeting Chair
7	Closure	

Minutes of the Meeting:

1. Agenda Point 1: Review of objectives and agenda of the workshop

The meeting was opened by Peter, as the Secretariat of WIO-C, who welcomed everybody and expressed his concerns for a very long period of inactivity of the consortium. He hoped this meeting should reactivate the participation of the institutions concerned. He also introduced the objective and agenda of the workshop.

2. Agenda Point 2: Election of Chair and Rapporteur

Mr. Ali Kaka, from IUCN was proposed by WIOMSA as the Meeting Chair, which was seconded by everyone. **It was also recommended that he would remain as the chair until the next WIO-C meeting.**

WWF CEA-NI was appointed as the Rapporteur of the Meeting, in its capacity as the Secretariat of WIO-C.

3. Points raised before the discussion of Agenda Items:

- 3.1. COI clarified that, being an intergovernmental organisation, it could not be considered a member of WIO-C, as some documents were indicating, however, it was committed to its agenda, and was willing to actively participate in all discussions and decisions.
- 3.2. The Government of South Africa also stated that was not a WIO-C member, however, was participating in the meeting to be aware on what was going on in the region.
- 3.3. The Meeting Chair asked Peter to give a brief presentation on the creation of WIO-C and what has happened since then until now in order to inform new people presented in the meeting, so that there should be a common platform for further discussions. This was promptly done and was supported by a series of documents distributed to all participants, including a) WIO-C Guiding Principles; b) Draft WIO-C Charter; c) Letter of Commitment.

4. Agenda Point 3: The future of WIO-C

4.1. Review of WIO-C purpose/mandate:

- It was a common understanding that the purpose of WIO-C was not an issue, since **everyone present in the meeting fully and openly endorsed it.**
- On mandate, it was agreed that further discussions should be carried out, although previous discussions had already been done on this issue, including the development of a charter which started in Mombasa and continued in La Reunion. **It was**

recommended to re-circulate the charter, so that everyone could look at it, make comments and send, by email, its final considerations.

4.2. Confirmation of support of members/Commitment letters

- It was discussed that commitment of members was needed. One should recall that a letter of commitment and support for WIO-C was circulated to all relevant potential members, but unhappily only one entity (EAWS) answered at the time. The other institutions did not follow seriously this process. In relation to this issue, it was agreed that
 - ❖ The consortium could continue carrying out its activities while, at the same time, it could be looking for letters of commitment, taking in account that WIO-C has been approved by COP of Nairobi Convention;
 - ❖ **Every institution should review the Guiding Principles and Charter as well as pursue signature and submission of letters of commitment.**

5. Agenda Point 4: Operational Matters

5.1. Secretariat

It was recognised that WWF has been appointed to be the Secretariat of WIO-C, when it was created, and that, during this period, it tried to do the best it could. Everyone also agreed to a continuous need of a Secretariat and for this to be done on a rotational (two years) basis, if necessary.

To this end, Nairobi Convention had asked WIOMSA to sustain a partnership officer, funded by WWF, and proposed **WIOMSA to take over the Secretariat from WWF for the next period. This was supported by all other participants. All institutions were called to support the new Secretariat. It was also clarified that the Secretariat would have a website.**

It was also highlighted that **in case of changing of Secretariat, there should be a preparatory phase of 3 months to 1 year**, due to financial and personnel implications.

5.2. Membership: new members

It was recognised that there was interest from different organisations to join the consortium; however, there were criteria for membership, as these had not yet been agreed.

It was also agreed that WIO-C should not be exclusive and that there should be a decision on proposals for new memberships according to the program that the candidates would be bringing to the consortium.

Regarding the two organisations that had expressed their interest to the secretariat (TNC and CI) to be new members, **the agreement was that, taking in account their relevance to the region, they should be encouraged to apply formally to join the Consortium.** Another potential member referred to was Blue Ventures. Further follow-up on this would be required once the criteria for membership qualification had been agreed upon.

6. Agenda Point 5: Discussion on WIO-C engagement in regional initiatives

6.1. Principles of engagement

This point was again introduced by Peter who raised the need for an initiative to be clearly labelled WIO-C. There should be principles in terms of programme engagement. There was a general agreement that there should be a set of steps/principles (five to six) to get endorsement for acceptance of WIO-C. Dixon proposed some of the principles, like “definition of minimum number of WIO-C members that should be part of an initiative; all initiatives should only be related to marine programmes; etc. It was agreed that Peter would draft a set of Principles for consideration by the WIO-C members, before the next meeting.

Specific reference was made to the WIO Coastal Challenge concept. The members agreed that this initiative has clear potential but that there was need to allow time for the Government of Seychelles to define and start leading the process (as requested by the delegate from Seychelles) first. In general, however, the WIO-C members were willing to become more actively engaged, in particular once the concept was further defined. In this regard, it was noted that certain members were already actively involved in supporting the process.

Nairobi Convention expressed its willingness to see the implementation of some of its activities through WIO-C.

6.2. Decision making

The issues raised here were what kind of conflict resolution mechanisms should be envisaged for issues where there were no agreement, or what kind of voting structure would be adopted if consensus was not reached in relation to a certain aspect. Although it was a general consensus that the occurrence of those situations would be minimum, **it was recognised the need for adoption of mechanisms to address them.**

The agreement reached was that **whatever mechanism that could be created should have an advisory role** rather than a decision one, since the later one could create more problems and very likely would not have a legal power. Furthermore it was agreed that **if an issue comes it could be circulated by the Chair and the Secretariat to all members for no objection, and/or create an ad-hoc committee to address it.**

6.3. Conditions of operation/conduct

Peter introduced this point and stated that it was very important since it would guarantee that all organizations which are part of the consortium are following more or less the same ethical values.

It was a common understanding that that could be achieved by asking any of the members of the consortium and to any applying candidate a charter of the institution, to avoid bringing in those without a code of conduct. This aspect could be added to the criteria for membership.

Nyawira volunteered to produce WIO-Code of Conduct.

7. Agenda Point 6: Any other business

- **Place and Date of the next WIO-C meeting:** WIOMSA Symposium, Mombasa (Kenya) in October 2011.
- **All activities recommended in this meeting, including finalisation of the Charter, Guiding Principles, including those for engagement, Code of Conduct, creation of Secretariat website, etc should be realized before the Mombasa meeting.**
- Birdlife International informed that Wetland International was very interested to be part of WIO-C initiative; however it was waiting an invitation. **There was an agreement that Birdlife International should inform WIO-C Secretariat who to be invited, so that he/she could be contacted to participate in the following meetings.**
- IMS proposed that **the Secretariat, instead of being rotated every two years, as it was earlier indicated, it could take longer time, according to the performance of the Secretariat on duty and the acceptance of the members.** This was agreed by all participants.

White Sands, Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)