

# WIO-C Consultative Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa

19 November 2008

## Participants

Gina Bonne (IOC)  
Emma Greatrix (Wetlands International),  
Sarah Humphrey (consultant to WIO-C)  
Abdulrahman Issa (IUCN)  
Ali Kaka (EAWLS)  
Amani Ngusaru (WWF)  
Peter Scheren (Wio-LaB) (Part of meeting only)  
Ross Wanluss (Birdlife)  
Dixon Waruinge (Nairobi Convention) (Part of meeting only)  
Amanda Younge Hayes (Scribe)

## 1. Opening Remarks

Amani introduced the meeting and welcomed the participants. The meeting was intended to look in more detail at the operationalisation of WIO-C, both in the context of the current opportunity presented by WIO-Lab and in the longer term.

Issa was invited to Chair the meeting and accepted.

Amani described the background to the formation of WIO-C, outlined its history, objectives, partners, funding, potential roles and progress to date. The table of action points was reviewed.

Ali noted that the accomplishments of WIO-C have been mainly a result of the efforts of the secretariat, with members contributing on an ad hoc basis (for example to the successful launch of WIO-C). The member organizations have not been contributing much at all.

Issa noted that if WIO-C is to convince the Nairobi Convention that it is an effective platform to implement the WIO-LaB SAP, it needs to be able to demonstrate a serious contribution on the part of its members. How can we make members participate effectively? Looking into the past may be informative: what was missing such that members who agreed to be part of the process just disappeared? WWF very generously housed the secretariat, contributions were supposed to be made by other members as well. Why hasn't it happened?

Amani suggested there is a need to reach a common understanding on what's in it for the partners to participate? What's the glue that binds people together? What has been the experience of PRCM? Perhaps it will take an inner core of really committed members, carrying an outer layer along. WWF made a commitment to co-ordinate partners, but we need something more. We need to find a person who can run the secretariat functions.

There was a brief discussion on the scope of WIO-C's mission. This does include fisheries and several partners are active and interested in this area. Although fisheries issues are not directly addressed by the WIO-LaB there may be other opportunities to link to the Nairobi Convention processes in this area including with two sister projects. ASCLME will address artisanal fisheries and SWIOFP will address open ocean fisheries.

## 2. Experience of PRCM

Emma was invited to introduce the experience of the PRCM<sup>1</sup> - the West Africa Regional Coastal and Marine Programme, in which Wetlands International actively participates through their Dakar Office.

There were a number of lessons learnt in the first phase and these could be explored further.

- PRCM had support from the outset from the Dutch Embassy and a private foundation – this funding provided much of the glue.
- In terms of co-ordination, there is a co-ordination unit in Mauretania, consisting of a co-ordinator, a M&E officer, and a communications officer. There is a facilitator for each of the 3 area components – conservation, fisheries and integrated coastal zone management. There used to be 7 areas, which was too many.
- It's better to be much more focused. Each facilitator spends half their time on PRCM issues and the other half on issues related to their own organisation's programme.
- Membership is NGO and Intergovernmental organisations.
- The second phase is supported by the original two donors plus one more. PRCM works with individual donors on specific projects and events.
- Governance: the co-ordination unit is the executive agency, governed by a steering committee consisting of 4 members, being the fisheries commission, the heads of 3 regional networks (e.g. the network of MPAs), and a rep of the hosting country of the forum.
- The forum is held every 18 months to discuss the activities held and progress, and to validate the plans for the next 18 months.

## 3. Strengthening the Consortium

The reasons for development of the Consortium were restated, ranging from sharing lessons to concerted policy, communications and fundraising work. NGO programmes in this region remain fragmented despite the potential for synergies. There are now many excellent examples of where joint programmes are able to attract the attention and resources needed to meet their ambitious targets. WIOMSA<sup>2</sup> and related initiatives such as FARI<sup>3</sup> and the regional forum were highlighted as models that have strengthened the scientific community and voice in the region.

It was agreed that there is a need to institutionalize the Consortium if this is to operate effectively. There is a need for a structure of the consortium that would help facilitate and follow-up joint actions, and enable every member to participate effectively. For example, the structure should help take the WIO-C efforts beyond EAME and should include inputs from other programmes and donors.

At the same time there is a need for a strengthened secretariat to facilitate joint action, increased trust and confidence, to provide guidance and leadership amongst equals. This should include programme co-ordination at implementation and reporting levels. We need to look at how to achieve this strengthened secretariat, looking at current structure, reflecting on why the WIO-C as not garnered the enthusiasm of its members and planning ahead.

The proposed consultancy is intended to look at these aspects based on bilateral discussions with the various members, and to develop a series of options.

### 3.1 Funding for the Secretariat

At the moment the secretariat is supported by WWF but there is not a dedicated staff position. The onus on the host to cover secretariat costs also limits options for hosting. Ideally the secretariat would have core funding in a similar way to PRCM. Several further options were discussed.

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<sup>1</sup> *Programme Régional de conservation de la zone côtière et marine en Afrique de l'Ouest*

<sup>2</sup> The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

<sup>3</sup> Forum of Heads of Academic/Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean

### *3.1.1 WIO-LaB Support*

Peter reiterated that WIO-LaB could possibly provide support including through staff time. WIO-Lab could allocate a certain percentage of time of a person from now till December 2009 and support to WIO-C could be built into a staff persons TOR. However, if there's a staff member of the secretariat, the reporting lines will be to the Nairobi Convention. Funding has not yet been secured after 2009, but it is proposed that the funding could go on after WIO-LaB ends.

Looking ahead, Peter suggested following up with ASCLME and the SWIOFP project, including in the coming days meetings.

It was noted that capacity needed is to respond to all 3 programmes: WIO-LaB, ASCLME and SWIOFP. There should possibly be contributions from the 3 programmes to build the capacity to engage with all 3 SAPS over time, not just to the WIO-LaB. ASCLME has already written to all the organisations to ask how we will work together

WIO-C is of interest to the projects as it offers a mechanism to work with NGOs in the region. WIO-C can look at the activities of the programmes and select areas it can assist with.

Peter noted that it is yet not known whether the ASCLME and SWIOFP projects will include NGOs on their steering committee. He suggested that WIO-C could ask for partnership in the context of these projects' stakeholder involvement plans.

### *3.1.2 Member Contributions*

There was a brief discussion on member contributions but there are practical difficulties, at least in the short term, due to the nature of project funding that many of the organizations rely on. For example, Gina noted that IOC receives contributions from member states for the core costs of the IOC, but has to raise external funding for any other projects and initiatives.

It was acknowledged that a token membership fee would make the members feel more committed and give them more of a stake in the future of WIO-C. One way in which members can contribute is by covering their costs for participation in meetings. It was suggested that this should be built into the commitment letter.

### *3.1.3 Combined Fundraising for Core and Programme Support*

There was a brief discussion on how to generate core support, building on the example of Dutch embassy and other support to PRCM which now includes coordination costs and a 'bucket fund' for activities. Nairobi provides a good point of access to possible partners in this respect.

A donor forum, donor tour, or presentations at relevant meetings and events could be organized once there are clear proposals in place.

It was proposed that each member should act as an ambassador for WIO-C and should discuss it with our internal organization. Targets need to be developed in a participatory process to develop proposal for donors. We can go to donors with proposals identified in the process. The WIO-LaB SAP provides an opportunity to market and raise funds.

## **3.2 Broadening the membership**

WIO-C has always intended to expand its membership but as yet there is no mechanism in place to make this happen. Structural options include create another membership layer in addition to founding or core group of members or simply having a single general category of membership, while

acknowledging for record the significant role of the founder members. Additional structures such as the WIO-C steering group could be formalized.

PRCM, with its two tier structure, contends with the issue that it's a small group with access to a pot of money that they share amongst themselves. In the latest phase, 30% of all programme funds must go through local partners. There is representation by the forum president and one head a thematic network in steering committee but the four NGOs are strong and have their agenda. There isn't much continuity in terms of the Forum president, who comes from the hosting country - a role which rotates.

There is potential for a more democratic structure and new members have potential to provide leadership in the same way as existing members. However it was recognised that those members with greater responsibility or who make stronger contributions to WIO-C are unlikely to totally relinquish control as they are accountable to their own donors.

The different roles and responsibilities of NGO and other members were discussed briefly and it was suggested that a future structure may take this into account.

In terms of process it was suggested that prospective member organisations send applications for membership to the secretariat and sign the letter of commitment, and then the steering committee would endorse it.

It would be important to establish criteria for membership and to manage expectations. It may also be important to make a case as to why members should come forward and contribute and fundraise for programmes such as WIOI-LaB in the face of their own competing priorities.

It was agreed that the proposed consultancy address these issues, including developing an understanding as to why letters of commitment from the founder members have not yet been forthcoming.

#### **4. Co-ordinating input of NGOs into the development of the WIO-LaB SA**

Many of the NGOs are already implementing actions in support of the SAP that are not currently recognized in this context. There was discussion on completing the contributions matrix circulated by the WIO-LaB project that looks at contributions to the WIO-LaB Targets and Actions and it was noted that the NGOs would have the opportunity to work together on this during the Regional Workshop. The table provides an opportunity to recognize ongoing contributions and explore future contributions.

Peter noted that the project team would like to see all contributions in time for its meeting on 9 December, which means there is limited opportunity for further consultations at this stage.

It was agreed that the WIO-C secretariat would chase up contributions which would also serve as input to developing a joint WIO-LaB proposal. This work would be supported by the proposed consultancy.

As discussed in the morning's meeting, NGOs also have the opportunity to strengthen the content of the SAP through regional and national level processes. The forthcoming regional workshop would provide an opportunity to comment on the targets and milestones.

Ideas were developed for the content of the statement to the forthcoming Regional Workshop, which is attached as Annex 2.

#### **5. Environmental Education Programme**

Amani introduced a proposal he had developed on environmental education (EE) and awareness raising, which is one of the ongoing WIO-LaB activities. He had circulated a memo to members suggesting that they engage with WIO-LaB on this issue but had had no response from other WIO-C

members. The proposal has now been approved and is at the contracting stage. The current proposal includes publication of schoolteachers' guide books (a revision of a WIOMSA book), and the environmental education curriculum development and mainstreaming into schools with an initial focus on Kenya and Mozambique. There is potential for sub-contracting to WIO-C members. This initial project will end in June 2009 but the door is still open to submit further proposals to WIO-LaB.

The proposal also includes the consultancy to develop WIO-C input to the SAP and to look at strengthen WIO-C. This work is cofounded by WWF.

Peter noted that the current initiative builds on an assessment completed by WIOMSA in 2005. He had hoped for a stronger response to WIO-C members to the opportunity presented through the secretariat.

There was some discussion on why the response was limited and various other environmental education activities were discussed including those of CORDIO, the Kenya Beach Management Units, IOC and IUCN. Materials are available in different languages.

It was suggested that the net be cast wider to include other organizations (e.g Birdlife and Wetland) in a further round.

Peter clarified that any further support in this area would need to be approved by the WIO-LaB Steering Committee. On this basis he suggested that initially any further submissions should be in the form of brief concept notes.

There was a general acknowledgement of the need to ensure communications between the WIO-C secretariat and members are flowing smoothly and that members should be responsive to such opportunities and share appropriate information.

## Action Points

	When	Who	Status
WIO-C Secretariat to seek partnership with ASLME and SWIOFP Programmes, including possible NGO seat on their Steering Committees	When appropriate	Amani	
Send revised contributions matrix to WIO-C secretariat reflecting updated targets and milestones after regional meeting	Asap	Peter	
Circulate revised contributions matrix and compile results	1 & 8 Dec	Amani (& Sarah)	
Complete contributions matrix	5 Dec	All	
Provide concept notes to WIO-C Secretariat for extension of EE programme	Asap	All	
Circulate the draft Minutes of the meeting to participants and wider WIO-C group	5 Dec	Amani	

## Annex 1. List of background documents

- Report from First Meeting of the WIO-C Consultative Forum, April 2007
- WIO-C Letter of Commitment
- WIO-C Guiding Principles (Draft)
- Draft ToR for Advancing WIO-C
- Draft WIO-C Project Concept: Environmental Education and Awareness Raising on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources