

MINUTES OF THE WIO-C MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2012, MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

In attendance

- ✓ Birdlife International, Ademola Ajagbe and Julius Arinaitwe
- ✓ IUCN, Ali Kaka;
- ✓ UNEP, Nairobi Convention, Jacqueline Alder and Nancy Soi;
- ✓ WCS, Nyawira Muthiga;
- ✓ WCS, Madagascar, Christopher Holmes;
- ✓ WIOMSA, Julius Francis;
- ✓ CEA-NIWWF, Peter Scheren and Ralison Harifidy;
- ✓ CORDIO, David Obura;
- ✓ Blue Ventures, Alasdair Harris;
- ✓ Rare Conservation, Patrick Mehlman;
- ✓ Ocean Revolution, Mr. Timothy R. Dykman
- ✓ Conservation International, Ando L. Rabearisoa

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

The chair of the WIO-C, Mr. Ali Kaka called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed everyone and thereafter requested the participants to introduce themselves. The chair took the participants through the agenda and the documentation for the meeting.

Agenda item 2: Confirmation of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and adopted as was.

Agenda item 3: Confirmation of the minutes of the Last meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique in August 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 25 October 2012 were reviewed and adopted as the true representation of the discussions held in that meeting. Thereafter, the Chair led the discussions on matter arising from the previous meeting. The discussions were as follows:

Agenda item 4: Matters arising from the previous meeting

a. Membership committee

Dr. Obura informed the meeting that the membership committee had been constituted and will be in office for one year and thereafter a new team will be constituted. He added that the Committee had developed draft terms of reference but were yet to be finalised. The Chair notified the committee that there were pending membership applications from Ocean Revolution and Conservation International.

The Chair requested Dr. Obura to circulate the TORs for the membership committee to all members of WIO-C for comments by 19 December 2012.

Agenda item 3: WIO-C contribution to the COP 7

a. MFF

The Secretariat WIOMSA thanked the WIO-C members for their contribution in preparation of the technical papers discussed during the science for policy workshop. The Nairobi Convention requested the WIO-C to prepare the documentation for the COP7. The WIO-C

members were thereafter requested to provide comments on the presentations and way forward from the discussions.

IUCN informed the meeting that a call on the consultancy for the development of a large funding for the MFF project had been sent out. Interested members were requested to express interest to support the process.

WWF, WCS, CI and Birdlife international offered to support on critical habitats activities especially in the mangroves ecosystems, and community engagement among other areas.

b. Oil and gas

The meeting was informed of the active engagement by WWF, WCS and IUCN on the ground on oil and gas activities. The WIO-C members were requested to explore development of partnership projects on oil and gas.

WWF offered to take a lead in the oil and gas discussions.

A strategic technical group on oil and gas was constituted that would be packaging information for the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for policy guidance and advice to the WIO governments. The technical group include WWF, WCS, CORDIO, and CI. The Secretariat WIOMSA informed that the technical group could further discuss the issues on oil and gas during the Eighth WIOMSA symposium workshop to be held in October 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique.

c. Green economy

The meeting proposed that the Green Economy discussions to link up with other on-going green economy initiatives within UNEP and the region. The Chair informed that COP7 will give guidance on whether the issue should be taken up further by member states. Dr. Scheren informed the meeting that WWF was working with UNEP to help countries to integrate the concept of green economy in their national strategies such as in Mozambique. WCS, CI and WWF were requested to assist in compiling on-going discussions at the National level to be shared with the WIO region and uploaded to the WIO-C website.

The Secretariat was requested to grant access of the WIO-C website to all members in order to upload content to the website. Birdlife International proposed that an intranet section could also be added to the WIO-C website. The members also proposed that the website should be configured in such a manner that immediately an update is made, an email alert is sent to all members for tracking.

d. Climate change strategy

WIOMSA informed that a draft version of the strategy had been circulated to the members for comments, including a brief on each member of the WIO-C. Once approved, the document will be uploaded to the ABCG website.

The meeting further proposed to conduct a stocktaking exercise on oil and gas to get information on the status of oil and gas discussions in the region. WWF offered to take the lead in the documentation for the stocktaking. The meeting also proposed to have briefs, and brochures published and circulated under the banner of WIO-C.

e. Northern Mozambique channel

WWF, Madagascar, made a presentation of the NMC channel calling for protection of the Northern Mozambique Channel. Harifidy further informed the meeting that WWF prepared a technical paper for COP7, and they had earlier organised a consultative meeting in Madagascar in Nosy Be, to discuss on how to conserve these environment adding that it was a transboundary marine MPA. WWF propose a multi-tier governance structure for the management of the NMC.

The members agreed that more information needs to be generated on the goods and services available in the NMC, and the countries needs to be sensitised on the development of the NMC, and the source of funding the process also needs to be identified. The meeting agreed that information packaging, and the NMC will be further discussed during the WIOMSA Symposium in the 2013.

A technical committee consisting of WWF, and BirdLife International, was constituted and more information on the NMC to be sent out by WWF. The Chair expressed caution on the discussions not to be seen as duplicating the WIO-CC work. The discussion to be further discussed with COI Council of Ministers in February 2013 and WIOMSA symposium in 2013 as well.

i) Finalization of project concepts

WIOMSA presented a list of project concepts proposed for development by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. The project concepts were:

1. Sustainable financing and management of Western Indian Ocean marine ecosystems –(MPAs)
2. Capacity strengthening and technical assistance for the implementation of LBSA Protocol national implementation plans in the WIO region
3. Coastal and Marine resources management in the Mozambique Channel of the Western Indian Ocean (Comoros, Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique)
4. Integration of climatic variability and change into National strategies to develop and implement the ICZM Protocol in the Western Indian Ocean region
5. African Mangrove Ecosystems

The meeting requested WIOMSA to consult with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and to provide more details on the project concepts in order to guide further step towards finalization of the projects.

ii) COP Decisions

The meeting reviewed the draft decisions for COP7. The meeting agreed that the comments or suggestions on the draft decisions to be made in the afternoon during the joint session with the Policy makers and experts workshop.

iii) A Statement by WIO-C to the COP7

A statement by WIO-C was drafted and presented by the Chair of WIO-C during the joint session with the policy makers and experts' workshop.

Agenda item 4: Defining WIO-C Climate change Strategy: What is next?

WIOMSA and WCS informed the meeting that the draft climate change strategy was circulated to WIO-C members for comments. The draft strategy was presented during the policy makers and experts' workshop of COP7. In addition, a draft decision for further action by the contracting parties including the WIO-C members was proposed for consideration and adoption by the COP7.

Agenda item 5: Any other Business

There being no other business, the WIO-C meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.