Shaping the Future of WIO-C

Results of Survey to WIO-C members and other conservation NGOs active in the WIO-C Region

Summary of Responses – 30 April 2009

1. Introduction

The survey on Shaping the Future of WIO-C was intended to get a rapid overview of the breadth and balance of opinion concerning the future activities and operations of WIO-C. The survey included 18 multiple choice questions covering perceived benefits of WIO-C, activities, membership, secretariat, governance, and promotion. Space was provided for comments on each question, as well as for additional comments at the end of the survey.
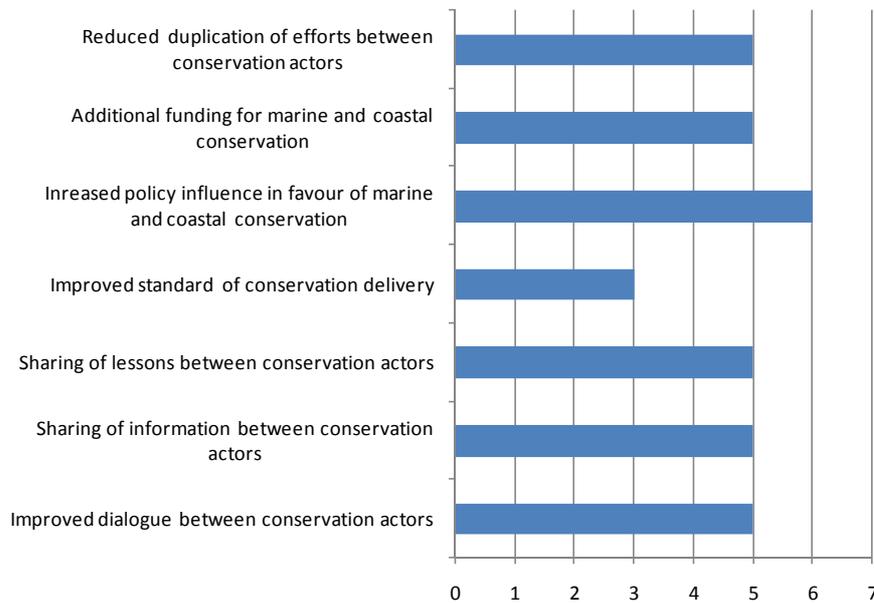
The survey was established online through *SurveyMonkey* and was open for four weeks from to 26 March to 22 April. The link for the survey was sent to 15 potential respondents.

In total nine responses were received from eight organisations or programmes active in marine and coastal conservation in the WIO-Region *(Birdlife International, CORDIO, IUCN, UNEP WIOLaB Programme, UNESCO IOC, Wetlands International, WCS, WWF).* However, three respondents did not answer any of the questions due to poor internet connections and time constraints.

The following straightforward account of the responses is intended to serve as a basis for further discussion on the development of operational guidelines for WIO-C.
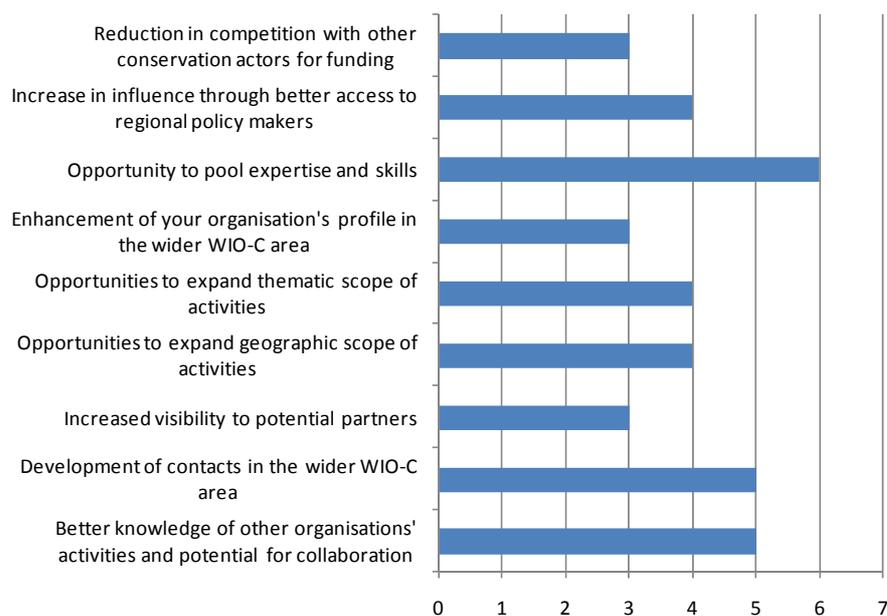
2. Why WIO-C?

2.1. What general benefits should WIO-C bring to marine and coastal conservation in the region? (N=6)

Reduced duplication of efforts between conservation actors — 5

Additional funding for marine and coastal conservation — 5

Increased policy influence in favour of marine and coastal conservation — 6

Improved standard of conservation delivery — 3

Sharing of lessons between conservation actors — 5

Sharing of information between conservation actors — 5

Improved dialogue between conservation actors — 5

Four respondents provided additional comments in addition to selecting one or more of the options provided.
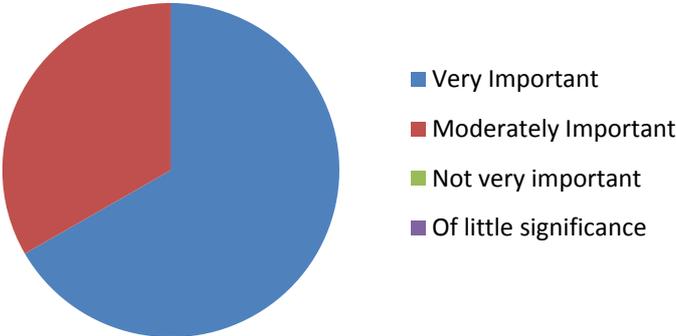
- Mechanism for joint planning of programmes, projects and activities
- Create a structure where all stakeholder organisations can join efforts and share a vision towards marine and coastal conservation.
- Some linkage with Development actors for necessary and important links especially on livelihoods
- NB rather than tick everything that COULD be important I have ticked the highest priorities

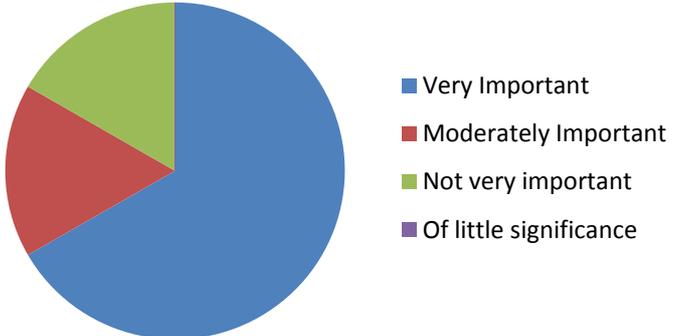### 2.2 What specific benefits could WIO-C bring to your organisation? (N=6)

Reduction in competition with other conservation actors for funding — 3

Increase in influence through better access to regional policy makers — 4

Opportunity to pool expertise and skills — 6

Enhancement of your organisation's profile in the wider WIO-C area — 3

Opportunities to expand thematic scope of activities — 4

Opportunities to expand geographic scope of activities — 4

Increased visibility to potential partners — 3

Development of contacts in the wider WIO-C area — 5

Better knowledge of other organisations' activities and potential for collaboration — 5

2.3. Overall, how would you rate the potential value of WIO-C:

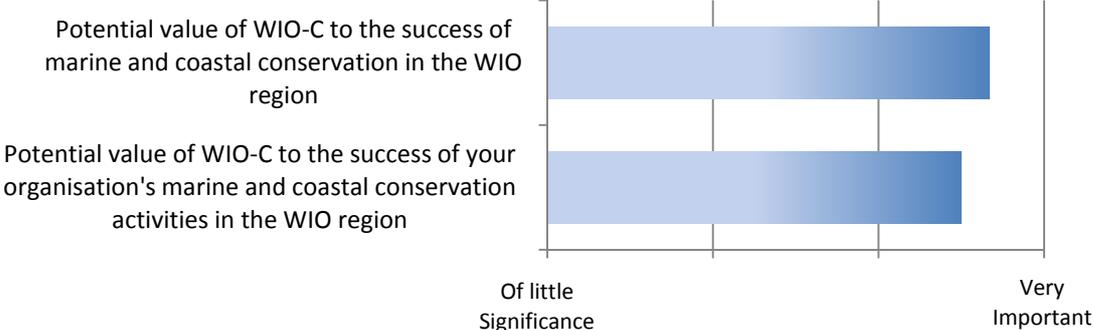**a. To the success of marine and coastal conservation in the WIO region? (N=6)**

- Very Important
- Moderately Important
- Not very important
- Of little significance

b. To the success of your organisation's marine and coastal conservation activities in the WIO region? (N=6)

- Very Important
- Moderately Important
- Not very important
- Of little significance
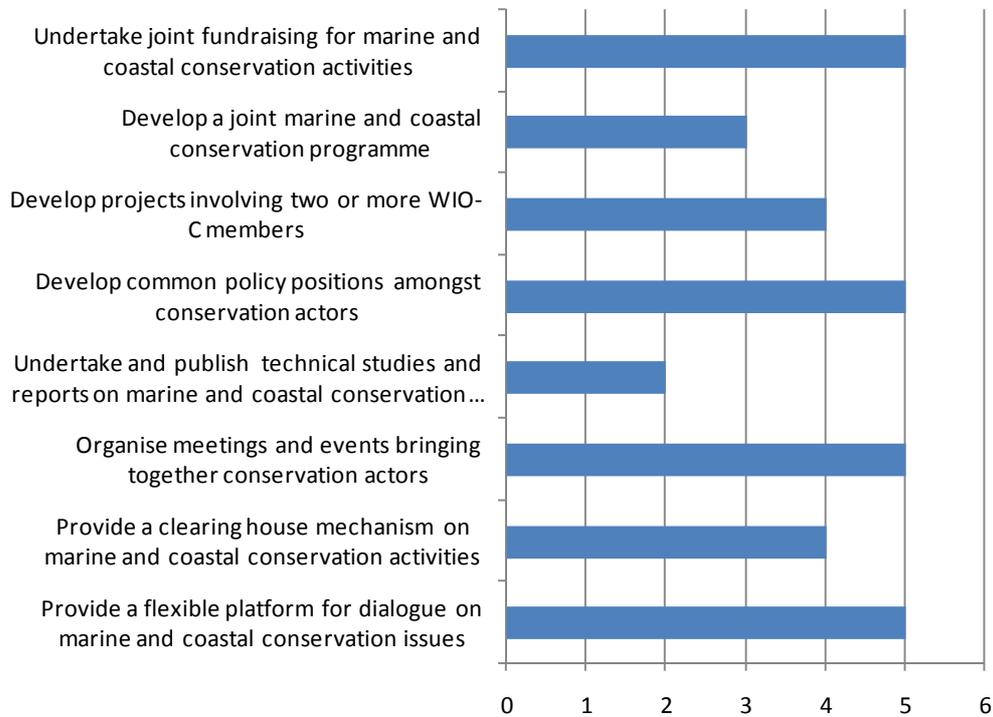
One respondent added a comment:

- I consider WIO-C a very important mechanism for the engagement, by the UNEP/Nairobi Convention Secretariat, in the implementation of its work programme, in particular the Strategic Action Programme developed under the WIO-LaB project

Comparison a & b

Potential value of WIO-C to the success of marine and coastal conservation in the WIO region

Potential value of WIO-C to the success of your organisation's marine and coastal conservation activities in the WIO region

Of little Significance — Very Important

3. WIO-C Activities

3.1. What tangible facilities and outputs should WIO-C provide through joint activities and/or efforts of the secretariat? (N=6)
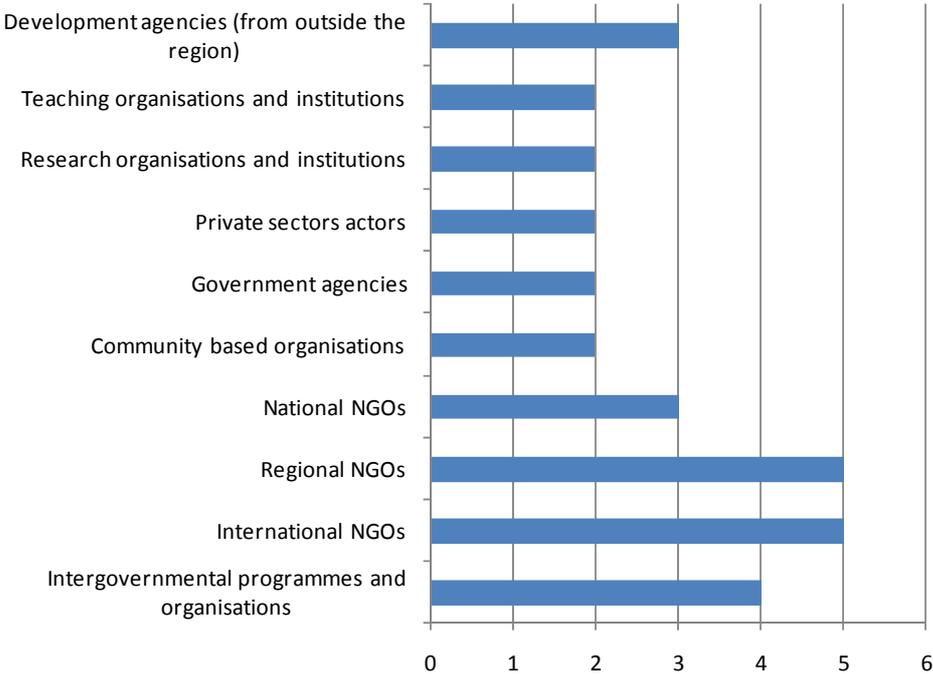

Two respondents provided additional comments in addition to selecting one or more of the options provided.

- All of the above outputs are possible, but I have ticked those that I think WIO-C 'should' provide
- Support joint marine and coastal conservation initiative at the donor level

4. WIO-C Membership

4.1. Which kinds of organisations could be full members of WIO-C? (N=5)

Two respondents selected all of the ten options given. These and one further respondent added further comments to their selections.

- No objection to any of the above being members of WIO-C - the important thing is those who are full members are able to commit to whichever principle responsibilities are finally agreed. It will most likely start small. There might be a decision to stick to a 'core group' which meets/ communicates regularly and is responsible for passing the message on to others (in the PRCM we have 5 'founding members', although PRCM not has 100+ members in total)
- Development organizations from within the region working with communities in the WIO for useful linkages
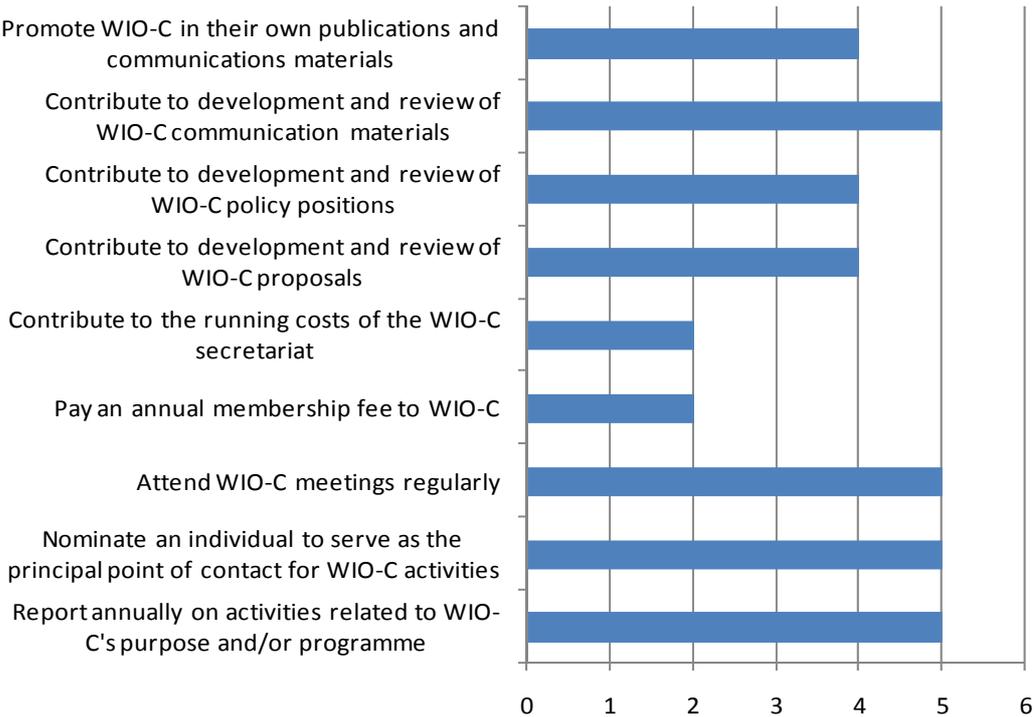- Why not donor agencies?

4.2. Which kinds of organisations could be recognised as partners of WIO-C? (N=5)

Two respondents provided additional comments in addition to selecting one or more of the options provided.

- See comment in 4.1 ("*No objection …*"). It is important to consider the role of government and development agencies / donors carefully since the WIO-C must have their support to be successful, but whether they are members or partners, will depend whether the principal responsibilities of members are appropriate to them.
- Industry associations e.g. for tourism, fisheries…

4.3. What should be the principal responsibilities of members? (N=5)
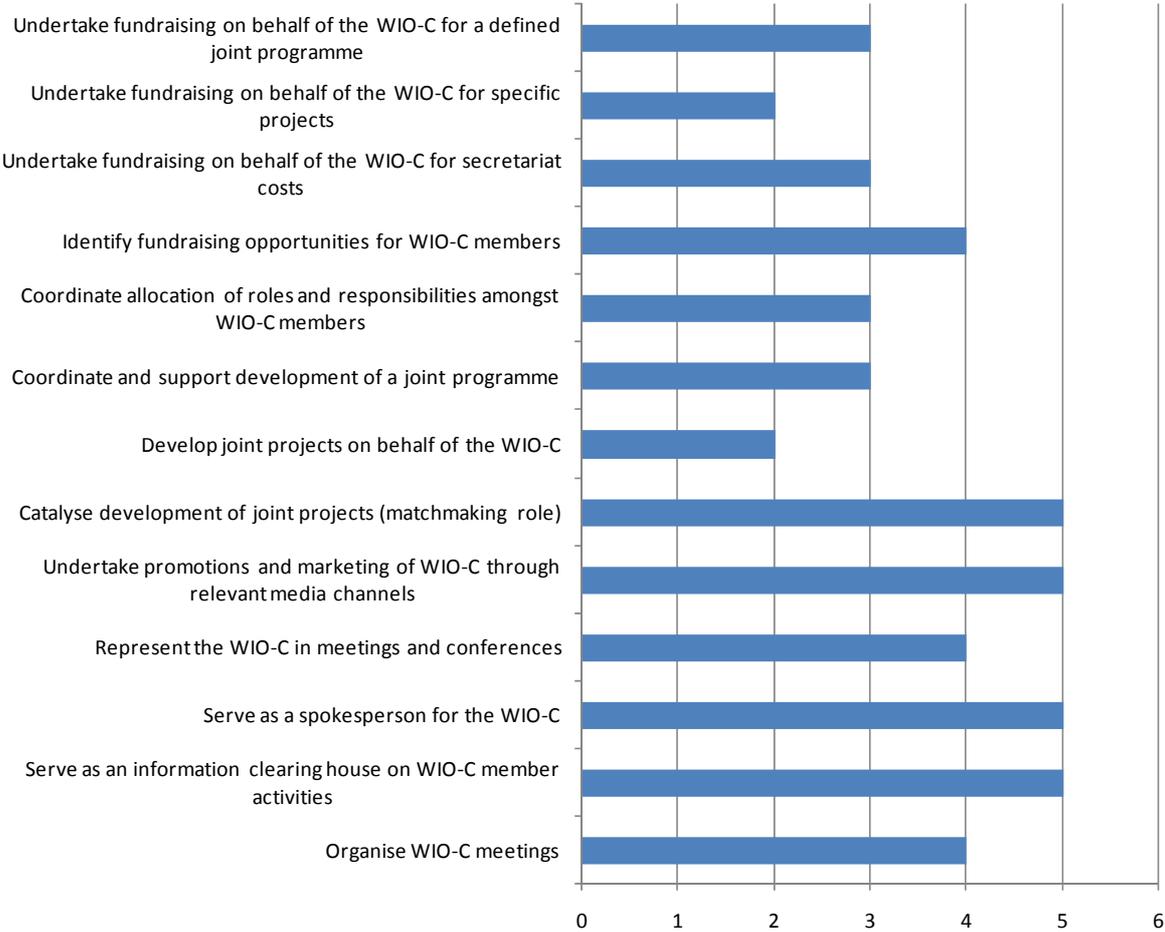

One respondent added:

- Important to try and interest a donor partner in this initiative early, who may be able to cover some of the administrative costs. The alternative is to ask members to contribute to the running costs of the secretariat (preferable to membership fee) but this might mean full members are hard to come by (depending on amount). Early reports should be fairly light and help to build up WIO-C's communication materials. Policy positions might come later.
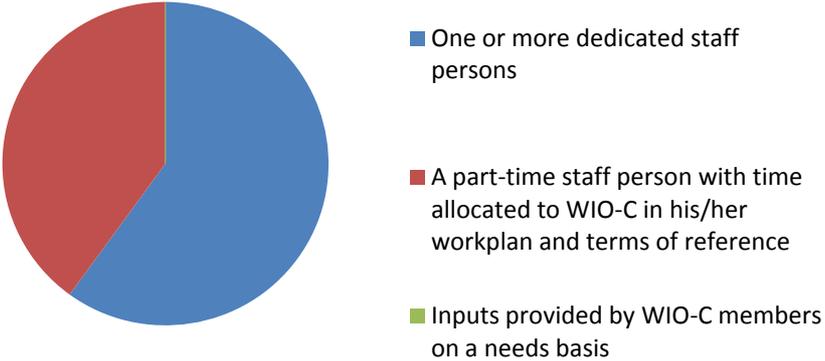
5. WIO-C Secretariat

5.1. What should be the principal roles of the WIO-C Secretariat? (N=5)

One respondent added:

- All the above is true, but it should equally be the role of each member to represent WIO-C in meetings and promote the partnership, including fundraising, wherever possible
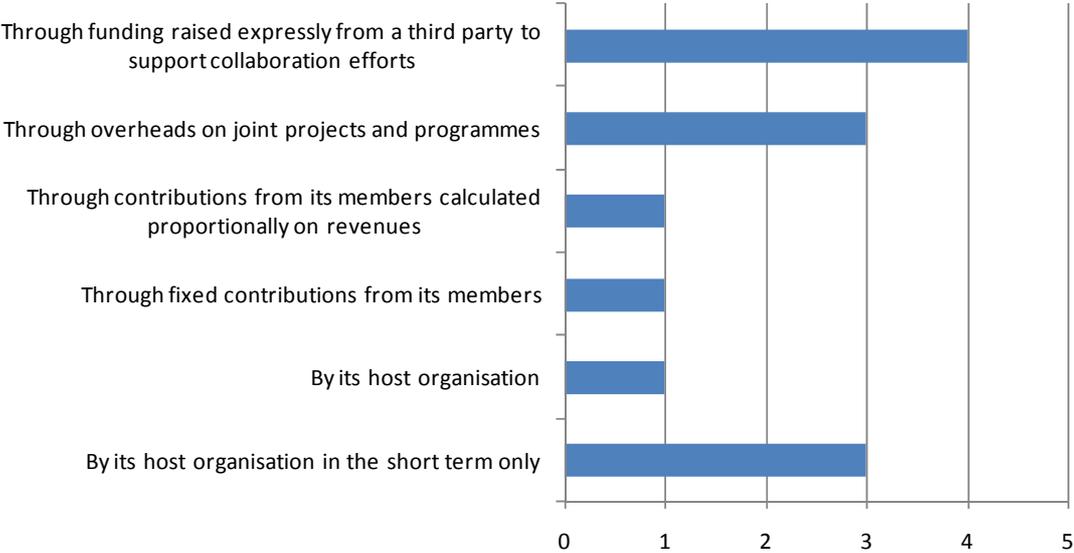
5.2. What are the (realistic) staffing requirements of the secretariat? (N=5)

- One or more dedicated staff persons

- A part-time staff person with time allocated to WIO-C in his/her workplan and terms of reference

- Inputs provided by WIO-C members on a needs basis

With reference to the option of a part-time staff-person, one respondent added:

- I think this is what is realistic for the first phase of WIO-C

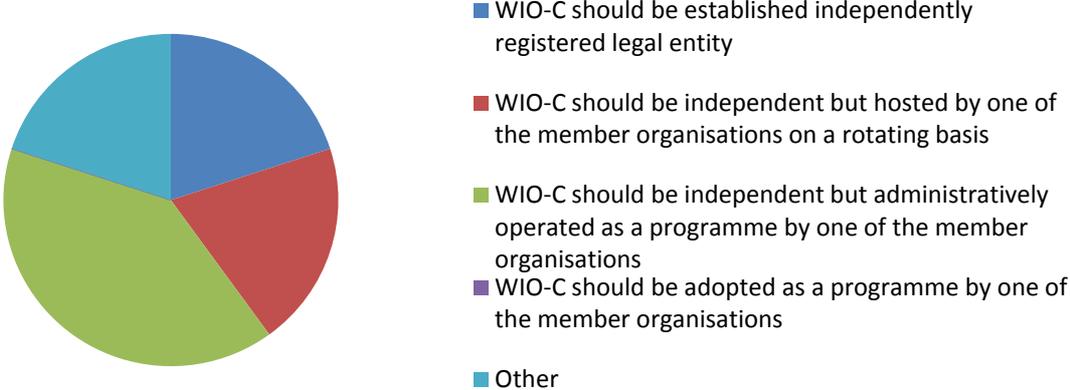**5.3. How should the secretariat be funded? (N=5)**

Two respondents provided additional comments in addition to selecting one or more of the options provided.

- [Third party funding] is my preference. Realising this might not be immediately possible, any of the other options are possible, but should be reviewed on an annual basis
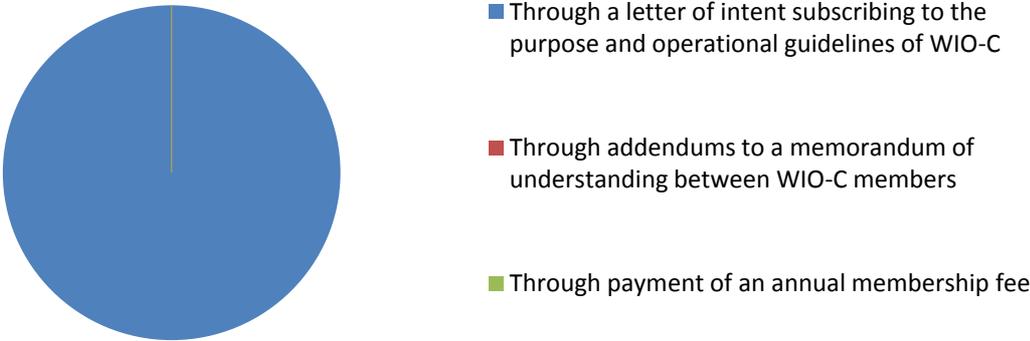- Voluntary contributions from members.

6. Governance

6.1. Considering the nature of WIO-C activities and secretariat, how should WIO-C be established in a legal and administrative sense? (N=5)

- **■** WIO-C should be established independently registered legal entity

- **■** WIO-C should be independent but hosted by one of the member organisations on a rotating basis

- **■** WIO-C should be independent but administratively operated as a programme by one of the member organisations

- **■** WIO-C should be adopted as a programme by one of the member organisations
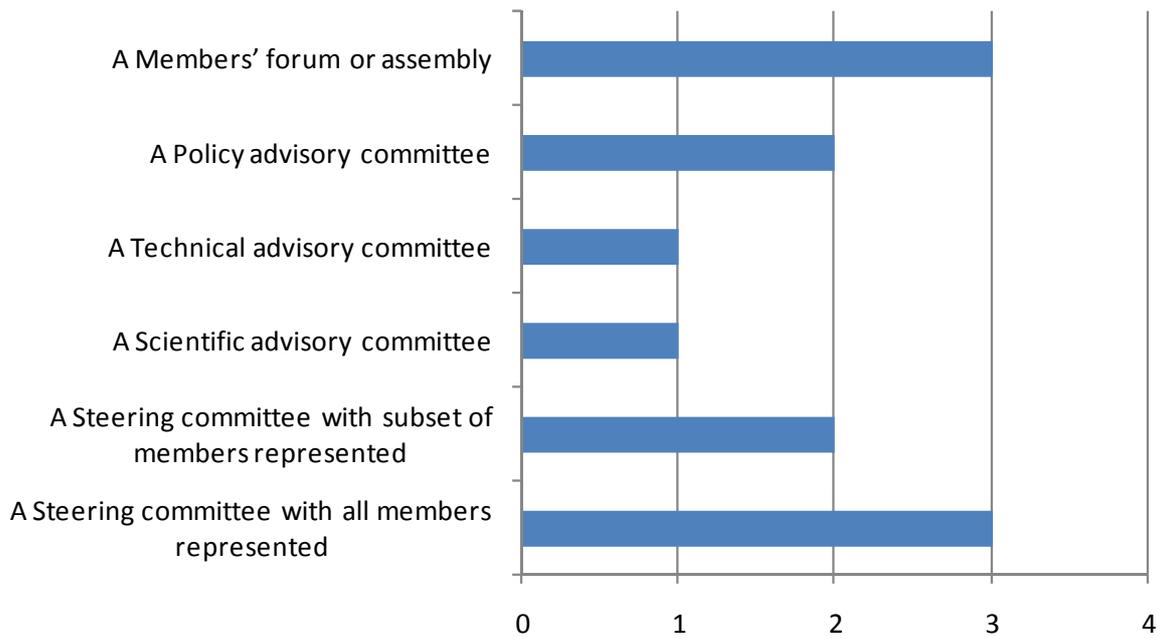
- **■** Other

One respondent noted under 'other':

- Initially independent but administratively a programme by a member inst, with time perhaps independent hosted by a member inst.

6.2. How should members join WIO-C? (N=5)

- **■** Through a letter of intent subscribing to the purpose and operational guidelines of WIO-C

- **■** Through addendums to a memorandum of understanding between WIO-C members

- **■** Through payment of an annual membership fee

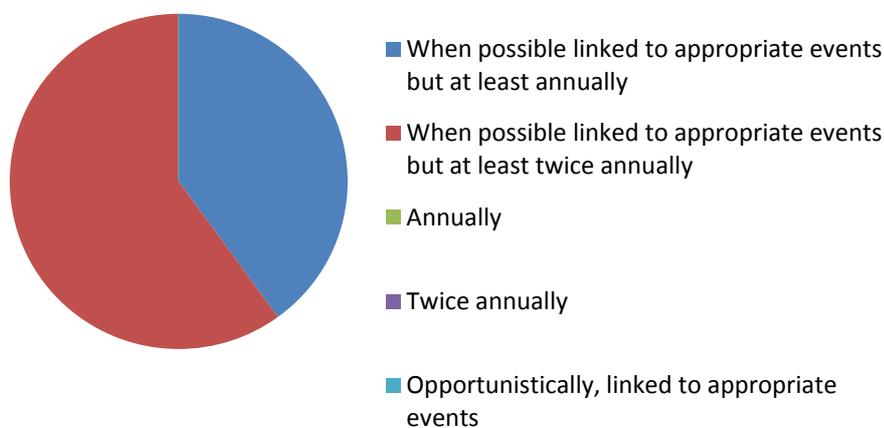**6.3. What kind of governance bodies should be established for WIO-C? (N=5)**

Two respondents selected the options of a *steering committee with subset of members represented* and *a members' forum or assembly*. The remaining three respondents selected *a steering committee with all members represented*, in two cases together with various other options. One respondent added:
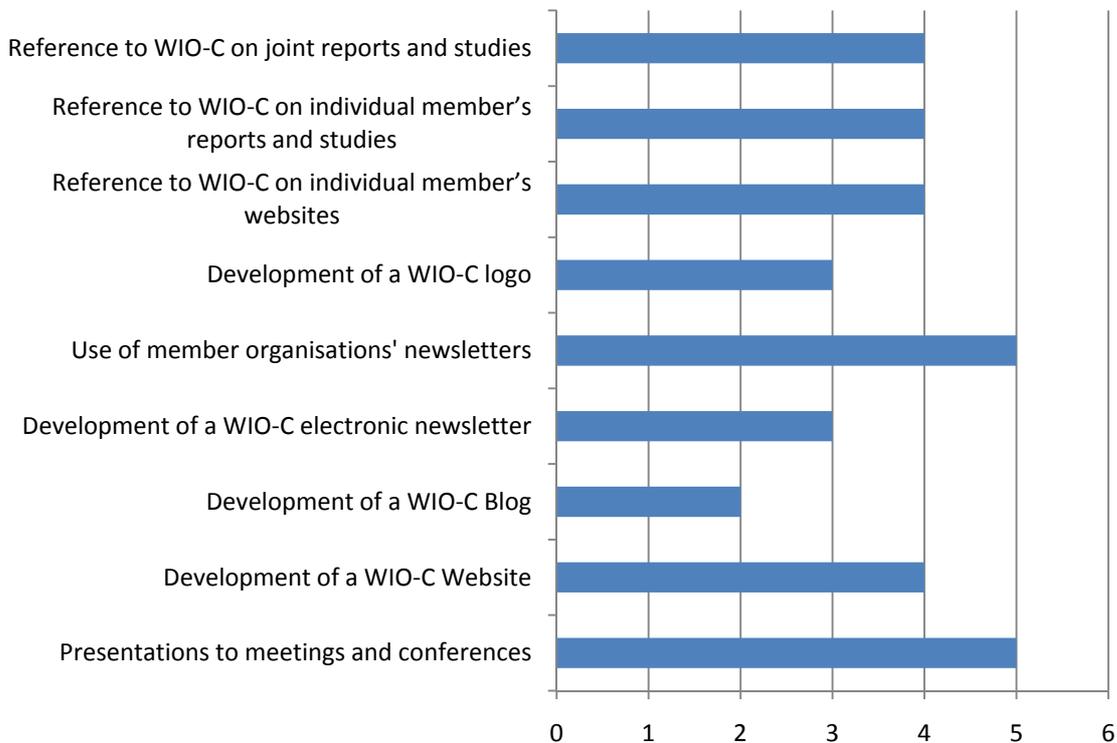
- All advisory committees are possible but WIO-C should try to avoid having too much bureaucracy. Members assembly may not be possible early on due to costs (if there are lots of members)

6.4. How often should the principle coordination body (e.g. steering group) of the WIO-C meet? (N=5)

7. WIO-C Promotion

7.1. What mechanisms should the WIO-C employ to build awareness of and promotes its activities? (N=5)

8. Additional Comments

8.1. Please add any additional comments related to the above questions or to the wider operations of WIO-C? (N=5)

Three respondents provided additional comments:

- WIO-C is still at its early stage and has not yet achieved the momentum required for it to be sustainable. There appears to be a 'wait and see' attitude by many of the members. At this point in time, therefore, we will need a champion to drive the process. Also, catalytic funding would be required in order to develop opportunities; ref also to the experience of PRCM. Once activities are ongoing and funds are coming in, WIO-C will stand a good chance of developing into a very useful tool.

- I have ticked preferences as required but am not against many of the options given. WIO-C will be obliged to start small because of funding issues - the main focus will need to be to start small, but have a big voice

- As general comments, WIO-C structure should be simple at very low cost but operational and effective through its members and partners contribution. In this sense, voluntary members and partners contribution is very crucial. We could start small and then later if funds permitted, extend the activities and the governance bodies.