



**United Nations  
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Programme**

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**The Eighth Conference of the Parties  
to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection,  
Management and Development of the  
Marine and Coastal Environment  
of the Western Indian Ocean Region**

Mahe, Seychelles 22-24 June 2015

**Decisions of the Third Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP3)**

After discussions the following the decisions were adopted:

## **DECISIONS**

### **The Contracting Parties**

Noting with appreciation the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program on the work accomplished by the secretariat to implement the biennial programme of work for 2000-2001 and the efforts made in developing a new programme of work for 2002-2003;

Taking cognisance of the work carried out by the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

Noting further the importance of the Jakarta Mandate adopted under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Acknowledging with appreciation the major role of the United Nations and international organisations such as IMO, UNESCO-IOC, WWF, ICRI, CZMC, CRC-URI, and IUCN; and non-governmental organisations such as the Indian Ocean Commission, SEACAM, WIOMSA, and CORDIO, in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Nairobi Convention;

Taking note of activities underway through the International Coral Reef Initiative (such as the International Coral Reef Action Network), and other major coral reef projects, and noting the recommendations of the ICRI Regional Workshop for the Indian Ocean held in Maputo 26-28.11.2001 aimed at ensuring effective management of these fragile ecosystems;

Recognizing that coral reefs and related fragile ecosystems of the region are increasingly under stress from both localised human threats and global climate change and thus are a major cause for concern;

Also recognizing that shoreline erosion and land-based pollution equally constitute major threats to the marine and coastal environment within the Convention area;

Recognizing further that the ecoregion conservation approach offers an appropriate mechanism for the management of large scale ecosystems and also provides a platform for bringing together different stakeholders to set conservation strategies and mobilise resources;

Aware of the need to take into account social and economic factors in the management of marine and coastal resources;

Recalling article 4 and 6 of the Convention relating to species of Wild Fauna requiring special protection and the protection of migratory species as listed in Annexes II and IV of the Protocol concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region;

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Mozambique to extend the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park to protect dugong and other species;

Acknowledging the contribution of the African process through the GEF MSP *Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa* to the implementation of the objectives and work plan of the Nairobi Convention, and appreciating the work of ACOPS, UNESCO-IOC and UNEP in facilitating this project;

Recalling decision CP.1/4, and CP.2/1 of the First and Second Meetings of the Contracting Parties authorising the review, updating and restructuring of the Convention and its Protocols, to reflect development in international environmental law and emerging issues subsequent to the adoption of the Nairobi Convention

Appreciating the efforts of the Contracting Parties in developing TDAs/SAPs in response to the Decision of COP2 (CP2/5), which calls upon the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to discuss with the GEF Secretariat and other funding bodies the possibility of developing comprehensive portfolios of project activities for the Nairobi Convention;

### **CP.3/1 New programme of work for 2002-2003**

- 1 Approve the proposed work programme prepared by the Ad Hoc Legal and Technical Working Group at its second meeting, held in October 2001 (UNEP(DEC) EAF/CP.3/6), the components of which focus on the following thematic areas:

- (a) Assessment;
- (b) Management;
- (c) Co-ordination and legal aspects;
- (d) Cross-cutting issues;

2 Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

- a) Support the implementation of the work programme;
- b) Continue collaborating with other institutions and partners within the region to ensure cooperation in the implementation of the work programme and the exchange of views on the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment in order to avoid duplication of effort;

3 Urge Contracting Parties to implement country-specific actions in support of the work programme;

- 4 Request the regional and national institutions and non-governmental organizations as well as private sector that are partners of the Nairobi Convention to implement activities that are complementary to or in support of the work programme in co-ordination with the Secretariat of the Convention;

### **CP.3/2 Protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems**

1. Urge all parties to the Nairobi Convention to:

- a) consider joining ICRI, to establish national bodies to coordinate coral reef activities within each country and to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies where appropriate;
- b) Implement relevant recommendations of the ICRI Indian Ocean Regional Workshop, Maputo, Mozambique 26-28.11.2001

2. Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

- a) Establish a Coral Reef Task Force to coordinate work on coral reefs throughout the region, including the development of a regional action plan, with particular reference to the work program of the Nairobi Convention and to initiatives and projects being implemented within the region;
- b) Collaborate with regional bodies such as the Indian Ocean Commission to ensure that skills, expertise and monitoring methodologies developed by the Contracting Parties are shared across the region.

### **CP.3/3 Controlling shoreline changes (coastal erosion)**

1. Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop regional guidelines within the framework of Integrated coastal Management for the prevention and mitigation of shoreline changes,

2. Recommend that the Contracting Parties develop legislation and plans for the prevention and mitigation of shoreline erosion;

3. Further Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

- a) Follow up on the offer of Reunion(France) to host in Reunion a consultative workshop on shoreline changes;
- b) Seek relevant partnerships, including consultations with donor governments like the Netherlands Government and others and relevant organizations such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to provide technical and financial support for activities under the shoreline changes component of the work programme;

### **CP.3/4 Protection of Endangered Species**

1. Recommend that the Contracting Parties take action to conserve sea turtles in the Convention Area, including joining the Convention on Migratory Species, and participate in activities under the Memorandum of Understanding on Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in the Indian Ocean;
2. Reaffirm the need to maintain the status of the Indian Ocean as a sanctuary for the protection of endangered marine mammals of the convention region and call for the renewal of the Indian Ocean Sanctuary created in 1979;
3. Request regional and international organisations to facilitate the development of a regional initiative to protect the dugong involving all the countries of the region

#### **CP. 3/5 Other management measures**

1. Urge all Contracting Parties to:
  - a) Participate actively in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action's Strategic Action Plan on Sewerage for the Eastern African region and other relevant activities aimed at the reduction of pollution of the marine environment from land based activities;
  - b) implement the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and to monitor and evaluate progress made in managing marine and coastal resources of the region;
2. Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support various regional initiatives aimed at developing and implementing capacity-building programmes in the area of socio-economic research and assessment.

#### **CP.3/6 Revision of the Convention and its protocols and negotiation of a new protocol on land-based sources of pollution**

Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

1. a) Expedite the process of revision of the Convention and its protocols, as well as the development of a new protocol on land-based activities;
- b) Carry out consultations with Contracting Parties on legal and coordination issues in the work programme back-to-back with regional and global meetings on the environment, in view of the financial and time constraints.

#### **CP.3/7 Strengthening the institutional mechanism of the Nairobi Convention**

1. Decide to establish a forum of the focal points of the Nairobi Convention to review the implementation of this work programme and urge the Secretariat to develop and submit to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP the TOR for the subsequent functioning of this forum;
2. Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop procedures for the establishment of Regional Activity Centers in specific priority areas and to note the offer of SEACAM to act as a Regional Activity Center for the Convention.

#### **CP 3/8 Partnerships**

Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to:

- a) Further develop and implement joint activities with international and regional organisations, and other partners to implement the objectives and work programme of the Convention,
- b) Ensure further that the effective implementation of joint programming and processes of the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions,
- c) Invite the World Bank, GEF, European Commission and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies, with the potential to become partners, to Meetings of the Contracting Parties.

### **CP 3/9 Project Development**

- 1 Endorse the African the process through the GEF MSP on *Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa* and in this regard call upon the six participating countries from the Eastern African region to facilitate the development of the second phase of the project and the other two countries not yet involved, to develop project interventions for the Partnership Conference;
- 2 Equally endorse the efforts being undertaken by the Secretariat to revive and update the PDF/B GEF project on *Preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme for the Western Indian Ocean*, with special focus on land-based activities;
- 3 Call upon the parties to the Convention to participate in and facilitate the development of these projects in co-ordination with the secretariat of the convention;
- 4 Request contracting parties to inform the secretariat on all other relevant projects to enhance co-ordination and information exchange.

### **CP.3/10 Financial matters**

1. Urge all Contracting Parties to fulfill their financial obligations towards the Convention in meeting up with their current and outstanding pledges to the trust fund in order to stimulate the implementation of activities in the work program;
2. Request the Vice Chairman responsible for resource mobilization to periodically call on Contracting Parties and undertake contact missions to member states to remind and encourage relevant national authorities and institutions to make predictable payments of their annual and outstanding pledges to the Trust Fund of the convention.
3. Approve the financial report for 2000-2001 and the budget for the biennial programme of work for 2002-2003.

## **K. VENUE OF THE FOURTH MEETING**

The Chairman asked delegations present to make proposals or offers for the venue of COP 4 which is to take place in November 2003. France offered to host the meeting in Reunion but indicated that this would be confirmed as soon as possible.

Tanzania offered an alternative venue for the Fourth Conference of Parties.

## **L. OTHER MATTERS**

- Dr. M. Ngoile (Tanzania) made a presentation of the recommendations from the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Seas held in Montreal 22-26 November 2001, for consideration by the 3<sup>rd</sup> COP of the Nairobi Convention. These are:
- Each Regional Seas Programme was requested to input and revise the document entitled "Regional Seas: A Survival Strategy for our Oceans and Coasts", to be presented in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, as a contribution from Regional Seas Conventions.
- The revision will state the vision and the expected achievements of individual Regional Seas Programmes within a ten-year time frame.
- Preparation of the review material should follow the format of the document referenced above and in a manner that draws attention on the importance of the Regional Seas Conventions on the sustenance of the coasts and oceans
- In spite of the fact that the timeframe to prepare a vision document is short, the preparation should involve all stakeholders in order to ensure ownership of the document by the Contracting Parties of the Conventions. Therefore, the recommended approach and timeframe are as follows: