

Using Scenarios and Voluntary Commitments to Guide Policy and Practice to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the Western Indian Ocean.

White paper for the Science-Policy Workshop of the 9th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention, 9-11 July 2018. Prepared by: CORDIO and WWF (Northern Mozambique Channel initiative).

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Background

The United Nations Agenda 2030 further enshrines the central role of the ocean for sustainable development through Goal 14 (SDG14), to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources", to lift millions of people out of poverty. The 2017 United Nations Oceans Conference¹ provided a platform to focus countries' and other stakeholders' attention on commitments to achieving SDG14 at national and regional levels. Most countries of the Western Indian Ocean attended the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017, submitting national statements on their commitments to implement SDG 14 through national processes. In addition, countries and organizations responded to the Call from the conference for joint Voluntary Commitments with a more regional scope. Several were submitted, spearheaded by one from the Nairobi Convention Secretariat #15788².

The importance and opportunity for the regional approach in delivering on the SDGs is reflected in multiple African processes, under the label of 'blue economy' or delivering future prosperity from ocean resources. A sustainable blue economy is at the focus of:

- The African Union's Agenda 2063, and detailed in the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy (for 2050);
- The Indian Ocean Rim Association's (IORA) Programme on blue economy;
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The last Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties predated the acceptance of the Sustainable Development goals, though they were anticipated through Decision 8.1 (see Annex 1- Nairobi Convention COP Decisions).

Background

The need for alignment among countries in building a work programme to deliver on SDG14 was emphasized by the PROG project and in regional State of Coast report³. In this context, partners aligned under the NMC initiative developed a work programme with the Secretariat and the Nairobi Convention Focal Points of the NMC countries to focus on:

- a) Engagement of NMC countries in the SDG14 Ocean Conference process. This involved preparation of Voluntary Commitments and attendance at the Ocean Conference;
- b) Supporting a Transformative Scenarios Processes (TSP), through which countries and their partners in the WIO gain agency in creating the future they want, not just adapting to larger scale forces.

The approach used for both the Voluntary Commitments and the TSP combined 3 regional workshops (Seychelles in May 2017, Maputo in November 2017, and Zanzibar in March 2018) and attendance of country and organization representatives at the UN Ocean Conference (New York, June 2017). Almost 100 participants were involved in the three workshops from 8 countries of the region, with regional and international partners. Participants came from government, major NGOs and civil society, and from multiple sectors including fisheries, environment, tourism, maritime transport and planning⁴.

Objectives

The process focused on two complementary objectives:

- Developing Voluntary Commitments focused on national level actions for achieving SDG14, in alignment with regional processes and Strategic Action Plans, and global goals;
- Developing scenarios of possible futures for the NMC and WIO in general, to support alignment of planning processes within and among countries, and holistic achievement of SDGs in the context of blue/ocean economy.

The Voluntary Commitments

The Voluntary Commitments established national pathways for building work in the priority areas of the regional Strategic Action Plans. In the Seychelles workshop, four priority themes were identified (see Table below), with priority deliverables under each. In Maputo these were developed into an Action Plan, comprising 2020 and 2025

¹ <https://oceanconference.un.org/>

² <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>; see Voluntary Commitments #15788, #15334 and #17618.

³ See <https://www.prog-ocean.org/> and UNEP-Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA 2015. The Regional State of the Coast Report: Western Indian Ocean. UNEP and WIOMSA, Nairobi, Kenya. 546pp

⁴ reference to reports and website

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objectives for each deliverable, with suggested actions, priority areas and cross-cuts across them⁵. This Action Plan was then submitted into national validation processes, which continue to date. From the last workshop (Zanzibar), it was decided for the Voluntary Commitments to be carried forward to preparation work for the Nairobi Convention COP 9, and in particular through the Nairobi Convention Bureau/Focal Points meeting in Nosy Be (April 2018).

Ocean Governance	Fisheries	Pollution	Climate change
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Sectorial Agreements and Strategies 2. Regional Planning framework (MSP, etc.) 3. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) protocols 4. Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment frameworks 5. Regional Coordination Mechanism 6. Regional Monitoring, Surveillance and Reporting Framework 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective MCS system at both national and regional level 2. Fisheries management plans for key shared fish stocks based on strong sustainability safeguards 3. Fisheries development plans and related technologies for currently underdeveloped shared fish stocks 4. Fisheries accord, minimum terms, FAA 5. Investment in value addition 6. Exchange of experience 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination center for contingency planning and emergency response 2. Capacity building 3. Policy harmonization 4. Knowledge management and sharing 5. Regional trans boundary collaboration on relevant marine management tools. 6. Adoption of indicators to assess, evaluate and monitor impacts of pollution 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A joint road map on the implementation of the regional strategy is agreed during the next NC COP 2. One pilot project per sector (tourism, fisheries, extractives, etc.) explore innovative mechanisms to encourage integrated approach to combat climate change. 3. One project of resilient and sustainable coastal cities/small islands is promoted within the WIO

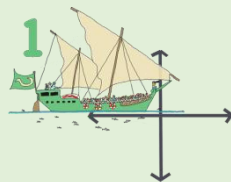
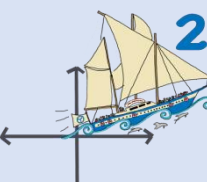


Western Indian Ocean future scenarios

Participants identified two key uncertainties they felt would determine future outcomes in the region:

- **Level of governance** (good vs. poor, integration vs. fragmentation)
- **Wealth and degree of investment** in a country (high vs. low, from international and domestic sources).

After these, a range of additional drivers were identified and woven into the narratives, including climate change, health, education, migration, insecurity and other factors.

These two axes allow for four basic scenarios (of low/high governance and low/high investment), extending the two-scenario models developed in the State of Coast Report⁶ and Northern Mozambique Channel background document⁷, the four scenarios are summarized below.

	<p>Scenario 1: Slow but sure. A traditional, self-contained country that must transform and open up to face modern challenges, and meet the needs of its modernising, more connected and more educated youth. This is a difficult story of good governance and intentions, held together by a strong cultural identity and pride, but facing continuous challenges due to limited resources.</p>	<p>Scenario 2: Riding the wave. A country endowed with natural resources and wise leaders with long traditions, but forward-looking. The country seems to have everything going for it - good governance and financial means, broad based civil society engagement and attraction of long term committed investors offering multiple options and enabling positive outcomes.</p>	
	<p>Scenario 4: All pain no gain. A country with few natural resources, struggling to advance. Petty political conflicts dominate, fuelled by tribal populist leaders with no governance vision for the country. With few assets to capitalize and little technical or political ability to make the most of what it has, the country attracts second-tier and 'shark' investors out to make a quick return, and with no interest in long term shared benefits.</p>	<p>Scenario 3: Pirate ship. A country endowed with riches that have attracted outsiders for centuries, creating a wealthy elite, but with little investment in social institutions and governance. With new extreme wealth from natural gas, the country spirals towards state capture by the political and economic elite, with a winner-takes-all economy. Poverty grows as the environment and social capital decline.</p>	

⁵ Delivering Regional Voluntary Commitments to SDG14 in the Northern Mozambique Channel (2017) Workshop Report. Maputo, Mozambique: 20-23 November 2017

⁶ UNEP-Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA. 2015. See footnote 3.

⁷ Obura DO at al. (2018) The Northern Mozambique Channel. In: World Seas: an Environmental Valuation, Volume II: The Indian Ocean to the Pacific, Second Edition. Editor: Charles Sheppard. Elsevier

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The scenarios can now be used in regional and national processes for visioning, such as for Marine Spatial Planning, such as in the Northern Mozambique Channel FFEM-funded project. Further technical work will be done to explore key indicators linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (such as ecosystem health, incomes, jobs, etc.) to demonstrate more tangibly the consequences of each scenario to countries. They may also be used in exploring and promoting Blue Economy pathways in different project and sectoral contexts.

Recommendations

On the basis of this work to support SDG14, and thereby all Sustainable Development Goals in the NMC and the WIO, we make the following recommendations:

Technical Recommendations

1. Encourage countries and national projects to use the Voluntary Commitments and scenarios in project development and planning, to build consistency and synergies among the projects and countries.
2. encourage the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and all project implementation teams contributing to reaching the regional SAP objectives to use the Voluntary Commitments and scenarios in implementation, to forge similar alignment as in (1),
3. Use the scenarios as foundations for technical studies and processes preparing the ground for national and trans-boundary MSP in the region.
4. Use the scenarios as tools to underpin efforts to achieving the Voluntary Commitments.
5. Countries, projects and partners show and disseminate the scenarios through workshops and stakeholder engagement processes, to stimulate discussion and engagement, and give a voice to stakeholders that might not traditionally be involved in policy processes

Policy Recommendations:

- A. Call on the Nairobi Convention contracting parties to validate the Voluntary Commitments concerted action plan, developed in the Maputo regional meeting on SDG14 in November 2017, during the COP9.
- B. Call on Parties, in the context of their national processes, to organize high level policy briefings on the Voluntary Commitments and scenarios to the highest technical and political levels possible of government and across sectors. The purpose of this is twofold:
 - a. To embed the wide technical experience of the participants in the scenario workshops to higher decision-making and political levels, giving a firmer foundation to future decisions, and strengthening ongoing processes; and
 - b. To enrich the scenarios with reflections and perspectives of higher-level decision makers, and making them increasingly relevant and valuable at national and regional levels.
- C. Encourage use of the scenarios in vision-setting for expanding work on Marine Spatial Planning (from local to national levels), Integrated Ocean Management and Blue Economy, to maximize the chance for regionally integrated actions and mutual support and synergies for Sustainable Development.
- D. Call on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and Focal Points to foster dialogue with economic sectors and blocs⁸, to establish the WIO scenarios as a foundation for integrating environment in development, and expanding awareness and support for sustainable ocean development/blue economy.

Annex 1 - Relevant Nairobi Convention COP Decisions

Decision CP8/1: Preparation of a New Work Programme for the Nairobi Convention, 2018- 2022; 2.

Decision CP8/5: Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050

Decision CP8/10: Blue and Ocean Economy

Decision CP8/11: National and Regional State of Coast Reports

⁸ In particular SADC, COMESA, IOC, EAC, AU and IORA.