



**Meeting of the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions
in the Western Indian Ocean (FARI)**

Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, 12-13 December 2017

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FORUM OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN
THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION (FARI)**

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean (FARI) was organized by the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with the Western Indian Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). The meeting was organized pursuant to the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention Decision CP 8/12 on establishment of a platform for Science to Policy Dialogue which urges the Contracting Parties to establish a dialogue platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and action, and to mandate the Forum of national Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) to act as the technical advisory body of the platform. The meeting was a follow-up to the one held on 13 April 2017 in Mauritius. In the Mauritius meeting, the role of FARI in implementation of the WIO-SAP (“Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land based sources and activities”) and SAPPHERE (“Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms”) projects were discussed, including promoting science to policy interface and accessing the support required in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting of the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean (FARI) was called to order at 0910hrs on 12 December 2017 by Dr. Julius Francis, the Executive Secretary of WIOMSA. He welcomed the representatives of the Government of Tanzania and all the participants. He mentioned that the FARI seeks to mobilize academic and research institutions to contribute to policy at national and regional levels. He noted that FARI had achieved a lot in the past particularly in contributing to the national and regional State of the Coast Report and since then its participation had dwindled. He underscored the need to revive FARI and was expecting concrete actions from the meeting. He also mentioned that it was important to see how to get institutions in the Western Indian Ocean region much more involved because there was a lot of underutilized capacity in those institutions.
3. In his introductory speech, Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat at UN Environment, gave the background of FARI and the purpose. He mentioned that FARI was created about 13 years ago in 2004 but its progress had been very slow. FARI was incorporated into Decision CP 7/17 of the seventh Conference of Parties (COP) to the Nairobi Convention which requested the secretariat to hold, and encourage partners to support, regular science to policy dialogues. He also highlighted the other decisions taken, most importantly Decision CP 8/12 of the eighth COP, on establishing a dialogue platform to strengthen links between science, policy and action, and to mandate FARI to act as a technical and advisory body to the platform. Mr. Waruinge noted that there was need to minimize the gap between scientists and policy makers and that FARI could play an important role in the Science pillar of the Science to Policy platform. Scientist could play a role in bridging the information gap to Policy. He mentioned that the meeting would seek mechanisms to identify capacity in the region through institutional and expert mapping and also determine ways of ensuring greater equality in participation by scientists. Mr. Waruinge informed the participants that the Nairobi Convention had two dedicated projects, “Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land based sources and activities” (WIO-SAP) and “Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms” (SAPPHERE) which have specific targets and activities to support the work of FARI therefore the it would be important to see how FARI can influence implementation of the two projects. He ended by urging the participants to be actively involved in seeking a way forward for FARI.
4. Mr. Waruinge welcomed the representative of the Government of Tanzania, the Assistant Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Islam Seif Salum. The Assistant Permanent Secretary took the opportunity to welcome the participants to Zanzibar and thanked the organizers of the meeting for selecting the United Republic of Tanzania to host the meeting. He noted the progress being made by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and WIOMSA in establishing the important forum for scientists working in the WIO region to correct the imbalance that exists in science –to - policy linkage in the region. He mentioned the need for full and dedicated support towards realization of the Science-Policy platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and sustainable development actions in the respective national planning frameworks and priorities of countries in the region. He noted that marine science and policy options for the WIO region have come from outside the region in the past and thus

encouraged FARI to address the dependency of the region by encouraging the scientists in the region to publish and also engage in policy discussions at national, regional and global levels. He also noted that it was the first time that regional scientists were invited to the FARI meeting with an aim of engaging them in the “Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of Marine Environment including Socio-Economic Aspects” (The Regular Process) and expressed confidence that FARI members will find a footing in the Regular Process. He acknowledged that the process of establishing a science-policy platform was not easy however, there was need to expedite regional efforts and collaboratively ensure the success of establishing a functioning Platform and an active Forum. There was also need to prepare for the incoming work streams under Nairobi Convention that will require an integration of both policy and scientific engagement. He urged the participants to think through developing of a mechanism for regional ocean assessment and development of the regional State of the Coast Report.

5. The Assistant Permanent Secretary further mentioned that the WIO region was well endowed with high value coastal and marine biodiversity systems which support sustainable livelihoods for millions of people in the region. However the region has been experiencing degradation of the environment by factors such as population growth, expanding coastal cities, waste water discharge, solid and hazardous waste disposal, marine dumping, risks associated with oil and gas development, overfishing, marine plastic pollution, climate change and ocean acidification among others. In light of these challenges, there was need to seek a transformative way of addressing the issues to safeguard the future of the economy, society and environment. By harmonizing the regional focus, needs and priorities for effective evidence-based planning, the region could respond to the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He mentioned that FARI had a pivotal role to play in providing quality assurance of output of the Science to policy platform, facilitating information sharing among scientists, policy makers and development partners and ensuring alignment with ethical scientific standards. He urged FARI members to use all available scientific resources to influence decision making in their respective domains. He called for greater cooperation and integration among the countries in the WIO region in addressing environmental and sustainability challenges in the region. The Assistant Permanent Secretary concluded his speech by pledging the support of the Government of Tanzania in working together with the Nairobi Convention Work Programme and all other regional partners to ensure sustainability in the development goals of the region. He wished the participants fruitful and successful discussions in the meeting.

Introduction of participants

6. Mr. Waruinge facilitated a brief introduction session where each participant gave the name institutional affiliation, and other key information of participant sitting next to him/her.

Selection of the meeting chair and adoption of the meeting agenda

7. Mr. Waruinge facilitated the process of selection of a chair for the meeting. He recognized the presence of representation of Seychelles, the chair of the bureau of the Nairobi Convention who would usually chair the meeting but requested that the host, Government of Tanzania, chairs the meeting. There was no objection to the proposal and, consequently, Dr. Margaret Kyewalyanga of Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) was unanimously selected as the chair of the meeting. Mr. Waruinge informed the participants that Dr. Kwame Koranteng would be assisting the chair in facilitation of the meeting, particularly in the group sessions.

Introduction and Background of the FARI

8. Mr. Waruinge’s presentation on the introduction and background of FARI highlighted the role of the Nairobi Convention in fostering regional cooperation in the protection, management and development of the coastal and marine environment. He also highlighted the role of the Convention as a platform for regional implementation of global and regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), for coordination of activities that contribute towards sustainable management of the shared marine and coastal resources in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and to catalyze action at national level for emerging issues and sharing of experiences that foster adaptive ocean governance. He mentioned that the WIO region would need to generate information and disseminate the same to relevant institutions.

9. He provided the definition of FARI as a consultative, communication and advisory body accountable to contracting parties of the Nairobi Convention in assessment, and science-based management of marine and coastal environment. He noted that FARI was established under the Fourth Conference of Parties (COP) of the Nairobi Convention Decision CP 4/ parts 3 and 4 which directed the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, in collaboration with other organizations, to facilitate the establishment of the network of academic and research institutions in the region. Mr. Waruinge explained the mandate of FARI as noted through subsequent Nairobi Convention COP Decisions, most significantly the Eight Conference of Parties decision CP 8/12 which requested for the establishment of a dialogue platform to strengthen links between science, policy and action and mandated FARI to act as a technical and advisory body for the platform.
10. He summarised the objectives of FARI as including: Information sharing between academic and research institutions and the Nairobi Convention; Cooperation amongst universities and research institutions in the WIO region; Cooperation and facilitating identification of opportunities for collaborative research in line with the Nairobi Convention Work Programme; Providing critical linkage between research and decision making processes, and Providing quality assurance for the scientific research products by experts in the WIO region.
11. Mr Waruinge noted that the limitations addressed by FARI include: Absence of a mechanism to link research and academic institutions with decision making processes at regional level; Inadequate visibility of many long-standing institutions vis-à-vis strengths and opportunities they could offer; Inadequate sharing and exchange of information among institutions; Inadequate involvement of institutions in regional initiatives.
12. On the scope of FARI Mr Waruinge outlined the following: Thematic Scope - Quality assurance for reports on ocean governance and marine and coastal environment for the Nairobi Convention; Geographical Scope- Western Indian Ocean; Institutional Scope - academic and research institutions, both national and regional involved in development of marine and coastal science in the WIO region.
13. Mr Waruinge also gave the expected outcomes for FARI as including: Providing quality assurance for the Nairobi Convention work programme and other regional stakeholders' reports; Acting as a technical and advisory body for the Science-Policy platform of the Nairobi Convention and the work programme; Identification of new and emergent fields of research, including application of new technologies and innovative research approaches and addressing the fields through partners; Providing expert technical support in peer-review of project papers, management recommendations and policy briefs; and Enhanced sharing and exchange of information between scientists, partners and stakeholders.

Objectives and Expected Outputs of the meeting

14. In a follow-up presentation, Dr. Julius Francis (WIOMSA) gave the following as the objectives of the meeting:
 - To revisit the Terms of Reference (TORs) of FARI and how to strengthen it;
 - To examine how to strengthen FARI's involvement in new regional programmes such as WIO-SAP project;
 - To identify and discuss mechanisms for strengthening the contribution of FARI to the Science-Policy Dialogue in the WIO region;
 - Discuss contribution of FARI in preparation for regional ocean assessment reports; and
 - Discuss new opportunities for FARI in the WIO region.
15. Dr Francis gave the expected outputs of the meeting as: Terms of Reference of the FARI agreed, Membership of FARI discussed and agreed, the organizational structure of FARI agreed, and opportunities for FARI in regional programmes discussed. He noted that these are expected to lead to the revival of the FARI.

Terms of Reference, Membership and Organization Structure of the FARI

16. Introducing the agenda item on the Terms of Reference, membership and Organizational Structure of the FARI, Dr. Julius Francis gave a highlight of the major achievements of the Forum in the past. He noted that under the 'Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean' (WIO-LaB) project FARI: (i) Provided technical support to the project through membership in technical working groups, (ii) Reviewed and validated the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) through a Scientific and Technical Review

- Committee established within the Forum's framework, (iii) Participated in the preparation of the Strategic Action programme (SAP), and was recognized as an important mechanism for coordination of the implementation of the SAP. Under the Agulhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project, FARI participated in the review and validation of the Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDAs) for nine WIO countries and was involved in a number of leadership workshops in the WIO region.
17. Dr Francis provided an update on the FARI, from its establishment in 2004 to date. He highlighted that FARI provides a framework for (i) Facilitating sharing of information between institutions and the Nairobi Convention and other regional processes, (ii) Offering scientific and technical advice on priorities for management, assessment and information dissemination to the regional initiatives, (iii) Enhancing cooperation among universities and research institutions in the region, (iv) Coordinating and facilitating identification of opportunities for collaborative research and (v) serving as a pressure point for enforcing sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources.
 18. He outlined the Functions/ Terms of Reference for FARI as follows:
 - a) Providing quality assurance to elements of the Nairobi Convention Work programme and other regional stakeholders;
 - b) Contributing to the development of the Nairobi Convention Work Programme;
 - c) Identifying new and emergent fields of research, including the application of new technologies and innovative research approaches;
 - d) Providing expert technical support in the peer-review of projects, management decisions and policies;
 - e) Facilitating the sharing and exchange of information and scientists between partners and stakeholders;
 - f) Stimulating high quality science through developing and undertaking co-operative national, regional and international scientific research programmes;
 - g) Contributing to capacity and career building, inter alia through benchmarking of training opportunities;
 - h) Contributing to maintenance of ethical standards in research and the protection of intellectual property rights; and
 - i) Providing co-ordination, review, debate and assessment of the activities undertaken by, or under the auspices of the Nairobi Convention.
 19. Dr. Francis noted that according to the existing criteria (i) Membership is open to all heads of academic and research institutions, (ii) Representation for each institution shall be by the head of the academic or research institution. The institution should formally identify an alternate who may attend meetings in the absence of the member and such alternates should preferably be the deputy to the head, (iii) FARI can seek advice from other individual experts as may be required in an ad-hoc manner, (iv) Governmental institutions, NGOs and regional programmes with mandate to conduct research on marine and coastal issues are eligible for membership of the FARI, (v) Membership is a formal process based on application and admission procedures, (vi) There is no limitation on the number of institutions per country and (vii) membership is voluntary.
 20. He listed the founding members of FARI as: Department of Zoology –University of Nairobi, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Faculty of Aquatic Science and Technology (FAST) – University of Dar es Salaam, Institute of Marine Sciences - University of Dar es Salaam and Oceanographic Research Institute of South Africa (ORI). Regional organizations that joined the Forum were World Conservation Society (WCS), Coastal Research and Development Organization in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO's Regional Committee for the Western Indian Ocean.
 21. Dr Francis also presented the organizational structure of FARI as follows: (i) Chairmanship of FARI is by rotation with the chair selected as one of the heads of the region's academic or research institutions, (ii) The Forum shall elect its own chairperson, normally the head of the institution that is most recent host of the WIOMSA symposium and who shall serve until the next symposium, (iii) the Forum shall establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and determine their composition and terms of reference (iv) WIOMSA is currently the secretariat of the Forum.
 22. Concluding his presentation, Dr. Francis highlighted the following as key questions requiring discussion by the participants during the meeting: (i) Should FARI be formalized with defined membership and organizational structure, (ii) Should the membership be institutional rather than be based on the heads of

institutions, (iii) How will FARI membership be formalized, (iv) How will country representation be selected, (v) How do we get members of working groups and task forces from FARI members, and (vi) How do we strengthen relationships between FARI and the Focal Points to the Nairobi Convention.

WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE Projects: Main Outputs and areas where technical input is needed

23. Mr. Waruinge made a brief presentation on the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects.

24. He informed the meeting that WIOSAP is a five-year Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project to implement the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) developed under the 'Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean' (WIO-LaB) project in the WIO region. He noted that the WIOSAP project presents an opportunity for governments in the region and their conservation partners to jointly implement strategies of protecting the coastal and marine ecosystems from land-based sources and activities in order to obtain essential goods and services from the ecosystems on sustainable basis. The project is implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and executed by the Nairobi Convention with a funding of US\$ 10,867,000. The SAPPHIRE project is also a five-year GEF funded project that seeks to implement the SAP developed jointly under the 'Agulhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems' (ASCLME) project and "South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme" (SWIOFP) project in the WIO region. The components of the project are:

Component A: Sustainable management of critical habitats - protection, restoration and management of critical coastal habitats and ecosystems.

Component B: Improved water quality – the need for WIO region's water quality to attain international standards by the year 2035.

Component C: Sustainable management of river flows – promoting wise management of river basins in the WIO region.

Component D: Governance and Regional Collaboration: strengthening governance and awareness in the WIO region

25. Mr Waruinge also informed that the SAPPHIRE project aims to support and assist the appropriate and formally mandated government institutions and intergovernmental bodies in the region to undertake prescribed actions in order to ensure sustainability of efforts and actions toward long-term management of activities within the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystem (LMEs) as well as the sustainability of associated institutional arrangements and partnerships. The project is implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Nairobi Convention and has a funding of US\$ 8,766,500. The components of the project are:

Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance

Component 2: Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management

Component 3: Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices

Component 4: Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstration

Component 5: Capacity Development to Realise improved ocean governance in the WIO region

26. Mr. Waruinge also presented the structures for the execution of the two projects and the expected outcomes. He also highlighted the areas in the two projects that FARI could make a contribution. Under WIOSAP, he gave Activity D.2.2.2 (Support to regional platforms to coordinate and implement WIOSAP project through partnerships, collaborations, specialized centers of excellence and capacity building; convening regional task forces and working groups for implementation of various project activities ; preparation of technical reports, policy briefs and guidelines among other documents”. Under SAPPHIRE, the following were given “Deliverable 1.1.2 on adoption of a regional STAP or a similar scientific support mechanism with membership of all appropriate scientific institutions including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)”. The STAP would ensure delivery of ecosystem monitoring, capacity building and training, advise national and regional scientific institutions on any strong trends in scientific data requiring fast action at management level, review data handling and analysis/modelling at LME level and ensure effective access and sharing where appropriate. The main areas identified in the projects for Technical input by FARI include: Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), ecosystem monitoring and surveillance, water quality monitoring, ecosystem valuation, support to scientific platforms (applicable to both projects) and river flows assessment (WIOSAP only).

WIOMSA new programme

27. Dr. Julius Francis presented the new work programme of WIOMSA, entitled “Generating the scientific and policy-relevant knowledge for achieving SDG 14 and facilitating implementation of the Paris Agreement in the WIO region. He mentioned that the WIOMSA programme, implementation of which is to begin in January 2018, is structured to support the Nairobi Convention hence some of the activities will be jointly implemented with Nairobi Convention.
28. The Key challenges that the programme seeks to address are: (i) how to enable nations of the WIO region deliver on the global, continental, and WIO sustainability agendas, (ii) How to improve the implementation of the regional agenda through strengthening dialogue between scientists and decision makers, (iii) how to expand and diversify ecosystem knowledge required to support the sustainability agendas and ecosystem-based management, (iv) How to improve and develop human capacity to convert knowledge and ecosystem understanding into actions that support achievement of the SDGs and ecosystem-based management, and (v) How to transform WIOMSA into a sustainable organization. The focus of the work programme was determined by taking into account the global agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement, regional agendas and initiatives as well as the on-going organizational change of WIOMSA. He mentioned that the issues to be covered by the work programme were identified in 2015 when the World Ocean Assessment identified issues at the global level and categorized them into 10 themes. WIOMSA made use of the World Ocean Assessment framework and has internalized it in the region to address the regional issues.
29. Dr. Francis explained that the new work programme will focus on specific targets and indicators of SDG 14 on “Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. He mentioned that WIOMSA has already started work on SDG target 14.2 on managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems by 2020 (Indicator 14.2.1: Proportion of national Exclusive Economic Zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches) and SDG target 14.5 on conserving at least 10 per cent of the coastal and marine areas by 2020 (Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas). The on-going work on these targets will seek to provide baseline information in order to advise governments on management options for various ecosystems in order to achieve the targets. Other SDG targets and proposed indicators to be addressed in the new programme include: Target 14.1 on preventing and reducing marine pollution by 2025 (Indicator 14.1.1: Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density), Target 14.3 on minimizing and addressing ocean acidification (Indicator 14.3.1: Average marine acidity –pH measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations, Target 14.4 on Restoring fish stocks (14.4.1: proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels), Target 14.6 on prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies (Indicator 14.6.1: progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing), Target 14.7 on Increasing benefit from sustainable use of marine resources by 2030 (Indicator 14.7.1: Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the small island developing states,

least developed countries and all countries), Target 14a on Increasing research capacity and marine technology (Indicator 14.a.1: proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology), Target 14 b on providing access for small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and market (Indicator 14.b.1: Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries and Target 14.c on enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources (Indicator 14.c.1: Number of countries making progress in the ratifying, accepting and implementation through legal policy and institutional frameworks)

30. The overarching goal of the new work programme was given as: “By 2020, a regional science to policy platform is established and operationalized, that generates knowledge, builds capacity, mobilizes resources and shares scientific and policy-relevant knowledge to assist the WIO region to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for oceans, islands and coasts and climate change”. The components are: (i) Building a knowledge base – through competitive research grants, (ii) Capacity for ocean governance – through grants for workshop, (iii) Knowledge uptake and actions- through writing workshops, technical working groups and supporting innovative solutions, (iv) Influencing policy and practice-through science to policy platform for SDG 14 targets and (v) Transforming WIOMSA – through strategic and business plans. Cross cutting themes include: Knowledge dissemination and communication, gender mainstreaming, data, information and knowledge management and systems.
31. Dr. Francis mentioned that WIOMSA will be giving grants in three categories, namely the Open grants, Commission grants which are more regional focused and Case study grants which have been recently introduced. He also mentioned that WIOMSA will be separating the Marine and Coastal Science for Management (MASMA) grant programme from the WIOMSA project activities for better coordination and for this reason a Coordinator has been recruited solely for the MASMA programme. He informed the meeting that WIOMSA will mobilize existing capacity through technical working groups to make more impact by performing the task of a regional think tank on various issues.
32. Dr. Francis mentioned that working groups will be key in implementing the work programme as there was need to use the technical capacity in the region to advise countries on important regional issues. The work programme would support technical working groups particularly linking with the Nairobi Convention and also supporting Nairobi Convention in influencing policy and practice. The priority research themes for the new work programme will be: (i) Impacts and mitigation of the risks of climate change, (ii) Socio-ecological approaches for sustainable use of marine living resources , (iii) Aquaculture development, food security and food safety , (iv) Understanding biodiversity and its change, (v) Approaches for sustainable uses of ocean space, (vi) The threats from increased pollution, (vii) Cumulative impacts of human activities on marine biodiversity, (viii) The socio-economic dynamics of inequality; the distribution of access to and benefits from coastal and marine resources, (ix) Integrated management and governance of human activities affecting the coast and ocean and (x) reducing delays in implementing evidence-based solutions.
33. Dr. Francis mentioned that WIOMSA will be coordinating a new programme called the WIO Coastal Cities Initiative which is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through its Global Programmes Department. The initiative aims at strengthening research on how coastal cities and towns are interacting with oceans particularly in terms of impacts to sea level rise, climate change, pollution and special effects on the poor. The initiative will support research and innovation in a set of limited project partner cities, with extensive outreach component communicating results to a larger global cities network. The initiative is scheduled to begin in early 2018 and will focus on major cities in the WIO region and will be working with a network of local government on different activities.

Summary of the 2017 WIOMSA Symposium Session on Ocean Acidification in the Western Indian Ocean

34. Dr. Julius Francis made a brief presentation on the outcome of the ocean acidification session held at the 10th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in October 2017. He said that establishment of an ocean acidification monitoring system was a 3-year initiative taking place in the Western Indian Ocean region to build capacity on Ocean Acidification (OA) and develop Ocean Acidification monitoring sites in the region. The workshop on OA was organized in collaboration with Future Earth Coasts, Nairobi Convention, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO). It aimed at aligning the objectives of diverse stakeholders to promote ocean acidification research and monitoring, in support of SDG target 14.3, to foster links and promote data

collection and experimentation in support of SDG target 14.3 “minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels”.

35. Making a contribution on the subject, Dr. Martin Le Tissier of Future Earth Coasts, mentioned that the Ocean Acidification workshop held in Dar es Salaam was similar to one held earlier in Senegal. The two main goals of the session were: (i) To identify the gaps that exist in terms of policy required in meeting the SDG 14.3 target and (ii) Highlighting the importance of SDG 14.3 to other SDGs such as food sector, and health which are impacted by ocean acidification, and identify the specific capacity needs required at national and regional levels in order to address ocean acidification. He also mentioned the development of a white paper (for the Western Indian Ocean region) by the participants who attended the session. He indicated that the white paper will mirror one developed for the West and North Africa region, thus facilitating a sort of Pan African Network. He further mentioned that the Ocean Acidification Network for Africa was already up and running and would work to support identification of local and regional needs and link them with regional and international support.
36. In the ensuing discussions, the participants requested information on when the monitoring sites for ocean acidification would be announced. They were informed that the new programme will start in January 2018 and the sites shall be decided after that. It was suggested that since the Ocean Acidification programme was a 3-year programme, the government should be involved in order to ensure sustainability through long-term monitoring systems for ocean acidification. The participants were informed that WIOMSA will be working with the Nairobi Convention to ensure that the governments were involved in ocean acidification monitoring and also working with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) experts at national and regional level. The hope was that government institutions would be able to maintain the monitoring sites beyond the life of the project. It was mentioned that during the 3 years of the ocean acidification monitoring, the project will provide support for capacity development acquisition of equipment. It was noted that there is need to take into account government need and that governments should realize the importance of ocean acidification in order to be included as an SDG target. The Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention need to be more aware of ocean acidification in order to consider a decision on it at the next Conference of the Parties. Participants noted that the above-mentioned white paper would be useful in providing guidance on ocean acidification in the region.
37. It was noted that FARI could engage in the WIOMSA work programme by mobilizing capacity of institutions and countries to respond to calls such as research grant applications, and in capacity building to encourage engagement of regional scientists in production of high quality scientific outputs and profiling of areas/issues in which there is need for further technical training. It was suggested that a database on human capacity and expertise needs to be created. It was further noted that FARI could also help in raising awareness on emerging issues such as ocean acidification, marine litter and micro-plastics and impacts of plastic microbeads. Making a contribution on the subject, Mr. Waruinge mentioned that the Nairobi Convention secretariat was working on a database of institutions and experts in those institutions. It was noted that for the database to be effective, there was need to regularly update it as well as the institutional pages.
38. Participants requested for information on whether the Regional State of the Coast Report achieved the desired impact especially in relation to bridging the gap between science and policy. Dr. Francis mentioned that the Report was used to develop a baseline for different ecosystems and that there was a decision on it at the eight Conference of the Parties (COP 8) of the Nairobi Convention. The report was commissioned at the COP and a summary for policy makers was sent to the relevant governments ministries in WIO; there was positive feedback on it. Dr Francis also mentioned that the Report has also helped to identify priorities for the WIOMSA new work programme and that other organizations are also using it to prepare their work programmes.

Group Discussion Session: Role of FARI in WIOSAP project implementation.

39. Dr. Kwame Koranteng introduced the group discussion session. The participants were divided into 3 groups. Each group was to discuss one component of the WIOSAP project as listed in paragraph 24. For each component, the group was asked to list and prioritise the outputs and to select 2 or 3 of these that FARI could contribute to.

Report back on Group Discussions on Role of FARI in WIOSAP project implementation.

40. Group 1, led by Dr. Salomao Bandeira of the Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique discussed the role of FARI in the implementation of WIOSAP component A . Priority outputs, listed in order of importance, are:

- A.1.1.: Participatory Spatial Planning by national institutions
- A.1.2: Development of management plans for at least 5 key critical habitats
- A.1.3: Restoration of at least 1 degraded critical coastal

The following were listed as the proposed contributions of FARI:

- Technical expertise;
- Sharing experiences and networking;
- Data sharing;
- Mainstreaming FARI at the lower level (national level); and
- Strengthening and ensuring sustainability of FARI.

41. Discussion Group 2, led by Dr. Johnson Kitheka of the South Eastern Kenya University, listed the priority outputs of Component B as:

- B.2.1: Harmonized regional framework for monitoring pollution load and water quality
- B.2.3: Strengthen regulatory and human capacity both at national and regional level
- B.1.1: Demonstrate cost-effective municipal wastewater treatment
- B.1.3: Pilot actions to build capacity on water quality management
- B.1.2: Effluents from 3 sites collected, treated, recycled and/or disposed

The following three areas were selected for FARI's contribution:

- B.2.1: Influence development of standards for water quality management through research
- B.1.3: Play a role in scientific adoption of water quality standards in the region
- B.2.3: Building capacity for promoting implementation

42. Group 3 was led by Prof. Mwakio Tole (Pwani University, Kenya) and discussed component C. Selected priority outputs are:

- C.1.1: Environmental Flow Assessments (EFAs) conducted in at least 2 river basins
- C.2.1: Develop institutional arrangements for climate sensitive EFAs

Areas proposed for FARI contributions are:

- Develop criteria for selecting the 2 river basins on which assessment will be done.
- Development of criteria for assessment (quantity and quality aspects) and allocation of water
- Peer review of the assessment and allocation of water
- The group noted that it was important for institutional arrangements to assess the adaptive capacity of the institutions and ability to implement EFA plans. If there are institutional arrangements in place, then Output C.1.1. is the priority output but if there are no clear institutional arrangements in existence then Output C.2.1 is the priority output.

43. In the plenary discussions that followed the presentations, it was noted that spatial planning should take into account both land and sea since activities on land affect the coastal ecosystem. It was also noted that Component C can also address Output A.1.1 on participatory spatial planning by national institutions since the activities on rivers inland affect coastal waters. It was suggested that FARI could review documents prepared by consultants and other authors rather than producing the documents. It could also develop criteria for selecting sites since this would go beyond the mandate of FARI. FARI's mandate should mainly deal

with validation of results rather than producing the results. It was suggested that FARI could think of a structure for creating position papers for water quality standards.

Science to Policy Platform in the Western Indian Ocean Region

44. Dr. Julius Francis (WIOMSA) introduced the agenda item on the Science to Policy platform for the WIO region. He mentioned that the platform is made up of two pillars (the science pillar and the policy pillar) and that FARI would take a lead role in the science pillar. He gave a brief description of the platform and listed the following as including the need for it: To provide an opportunity for policy makers and practitioners to articulate their data and information needs and thereby influence the setting of research priorities; Enhance the understanding of scientists on the regions' decision making processes and improve the contribution of scientists to policy; Lack of a forum for policy makers to review major scientific findings and outputs such as the State of the Coast Report and others on state of birds and sharks, for example; and To foster dialogue and build trust between policy/decision-makers and the scientific community.
45. Dr Francis highlighted the COP decisions that support the establishment of the Science to Policy Platform which include: COP 7 Decision CP7/17 and COP 8 Decision CP8/12. He noted that in the Science to Policy meeting held in Naivasha, Kenya in 2014, discussions on how to operationalize the forums began and was followed by another meeting held in Seychelles in 2016 to further the discussion.
46. Dr. Francis elaborated on the objective of the Science-Policy Platform, the nature and function of the platform, the scope and modalities of operation of the platform, potential participating entities in the platform, and the deliverables of the platform. The deliverables would include: Assessment reports, synthesis reports, summaries for policy makers, technical summary, technical papers and decisions for the COP to make recommendations and approval. He mentioned that it is envisioned that the platform should be up and running by 2018 once there have been discussions and approval of the countries. It was noted that the success of the Science to Policy platform will hinge on the results of sound research addressing policy needs and that there was need for a process of identifying issues at national level that need action.

Group Discussion Session: Mechanisms for FARI contribution to the Science-Policy Dialogue

47. A brief introduction to the group session was provided by Dr. Kwame Koranteng. The three groups were maintained and each discussed: (i) Mechanisms for contribution of FARI to the Science-Policy dialogue in the WIO region and (ii) the role of FARI in emerging regional issues and decision making.

Group Presentations: Mechanisms for FARI contribution to the Science-Policy Dialogue

Group 1

48. Group 1 presented the following:

Mechanisms for contribution of FARI to the Science-Policy Dialogue in the WIO region:

- a) Using language- that can be easily understood by policy makers; not so scientific or technical;
- b) Using tangible impact cases;
- c) Negotiation;
- d) Lobbying;
- e) Discussion group forum; and
- f) Communication (Media, TV, Radio, Posters)

Role of FARI in emerging regional issues and decision making

- a) Niche for issues related to oceans;
- b) Policy gap analysis;
- c) Provision of a database;
- d) Branding of FARI; and
- e) Annual horizon scanning

Group 2

49. Group 2 noted that FARI's mission needs to be informed by the meaning of inclusiveness in the policy making process, the many stakeholders at different levels and reiterative nature of the policy process. The presentation was as follows:

Facilitating the synthesizing and packaging of scientific evidence into accessible products/materials

- a) Establish working groups of scientific experts/think tanks- based on thematic areas
- b) Consultancies- individual experts
- c) Facilitate and engage in consultative process- (i) Facilitate inclusive priority setting issues, (ii) responsiveness – demand driven process (learning form and with Policy Makers) and (iii) participation in key regional forum – Conference of Parties (COP), African Union (AU) , Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC), Common Markets for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and regional Forum for Parliamentary Speakers.

Facilitate dissemination systems

- a. Establish an online forum – data based on research. The database should be easily accessible to policy makers and for those who need the information to inform policy makers.
- b. Develop Policy briefs/newsletter on key issues
- c. Facilitate dissemination sessions with policy makers (e.g. retreats, workshops) to impress on scientific issues
- d. Contract consultants to parliamentary committees where policies are tabled

Group 3

50. Group 3's presentation was as follows:

Mechanisms for contribution of FARI to Science- Policy Dialogue in the WIO region

- Restructuring FARI to facilitate its role to efficiently promote, coordinate and disseminate policy relevant research. The structure would comprise (i) A strengthened FARI secretariat and (ii) FARI research 'nodes' within research institutions and universities (member institutions). FARI should be constituted by a secretariat and member institutions. Each member institution (or at least those who have the capacity) would host a 'node' for FARI- which would comprise of individual or a group of scientists working on policy relevant/applied science. We recognized that not all science is carried out at member institutions is policy relevant. Individual researchers or research centres within member institutions would be recruited into a network of FARI nodes.
- Among the roles of the secretariat would be to disseminate research via a policy forum, to publicize and to "break down" the research output into journalistic articles that can easily be understood.
- Coordinating research enrichment programs for scientists affiliated to FARI nodes, support grant writing
- Motivation for researchers to be a member of the FARI 'nodes' would be:
 - Their research would be publicized; recognition, high citation and impact for individual researchers would follow
 - Scientists would find relevance for their research
 - Research enhancement programs offered through the secretariat
 - Procedure for establishment of nodes and themes:
 - a) Research could be broken down into various themes (5 or 6 are typical) and scientists would self-organize around the broad themes. Each theme would have a leading scientist, committee or a working group as the head. Researchers working on a particular theme could be distributed across various research nodes. They would network through the committees/working groups/FARI communication channels. The nodes would be run by the institutional focal points.
- Mapping of policies and stakeholders at both national and regional scale: There is need to understand the key policies and their 'perceived' relative impact on coastal and marine resources. There is also need to map relevant stakeholders against policies.
 - a) By acting local and thinking regionally
 - b) Creating science forum-these could be online platforms or meetings where scientists and policy makers discuss issues and science.

Role of FARI in emerging regional issues and decision making

- FARI would break down regional issues to local scale and upscale local issues to regional scale
 - FARI would provide an avenue for ‘environmental whistle blowing’ where sensitive issues can be raised
 - Initiation of FARI town hall meetings and discussions -where scientists would meet the general public or key stakeholders to discuss a topic. Such setting would allow for scientific material to be translated into easy to understand material.
 - Host special sessions on FARI emerging issues in relevant symposiums- especially in the management/policy ones such as WIOMSA symposia, Society for Conservation Biology and International Union of Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN’s) International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC).
 - The group noted that the Western Indian Ocean region can learn from other region such as Australia (www.ceed.edu.au) and Ireland (future earth coasts website) and WIOFish (www.wiofish.org).
51. During the plenary discussions, it was noted that instead of whistle blowing, FARI can act as a moderator in discussions on whistle blowing with scientific basis. It was mentioned that FARI should not be seen to participate in lobbying/activism but rather the scientists should be involved in speaking with stakeholders and engaging them, sharing information on current information and understanding the priorities of the stakeholders. It was noted that there is need to think of a mechanism for engagement of parliamentary committees and also the need for representation in regional forums. It was suggested that the FARI horizon scanning should be topical and as needs arise rather than annual.

Role of FARI in supporting and mapping implementation of SDG 14

52. Dr. Julius Francis delivered a presentation on the role of FARI in the implementation of SDG 14. He mentioned that there are 4 SDG14 targets for which activities have been initiated. These are Target 14.1- Prevent and reduce marine pollution by 2025, Target 14.2- Manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems by 2020, Target 14.3: Minimize and address impacts of ocean acidification, and Target 14.5 – Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. He further explained that under Targets 14.2 and 14.5, Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA have ongoing work in the development of a regional outlook on critical habitats and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This involves assessing the status of MPAs in order to set up a baseline looking at sizes, ecosystems, coverage and effectiveness of MPAs in WIO region among other parameters. There have also been activities to determine the size of MPAs that are not formally recognized such as Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). He mentioned that the outlook to be produced will cover the work done and a report, which will contain a chapter for each WIO country, will be produced. FARI will have the responsibility of reviewing this report. Data collected at national and regional level will provide a basis for identification of priority areas for conservation. The report will provide a synthesis information from the outlooks on critical habitats and MPAs and will also provide recommendations for countries to meet the target of 10% coverage of coastal and marine areas for conservation. Dr. Francis mentioned that they are working on the regional outlooks in preparation for the COP 9 of the Nairobi Convention. Countries will be engaged in the process because they have to report to the UN on SDGs and there was already engagement of government agencies working on MPAs. Mr. Waruinge mentioned that the work was directly linked to the WIOSAP project Component A on sustainable management of critical habitats and FARI could consider linking its activity with current reporting mechanisms such as SDGs. There is need to think about how to help countries fast track activities that would help them in their annual reporting on SDGs which was not envisaged in the project development. Dr. Francis mentioned that a good case study will be needed for inclusion in the outlook to demonstrate progress in MPA development in the region.

Role and Contribution of tertiary institutions in policy making

53. Representatives from tertiary institutions in the region were asked to present the experience of their institution in policy making. Presentations were received from South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya. Participants of Future Earth Coasts also presented the work that the organization is doing in Ireland.
54. Ms. Bernadine Everett of the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI), South Africa gave a presentation on the work of ORI in influencing policy in South Africa. She mentioned that although ORI is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), it is recognized by the South African government as a marine research facility and thus has opportunity to influence policy. ORI contributes to awareness building, linkage to school curriculum, capacity building for coastal communities, influencing attitudes of resource users, providing scientific advice to provincial authorities, providing scientific advice and support to national government, providing information and support for legislation and sharing data with other scientists. Ms. Everett highlighted case studies of ORI's contribution to policy which included: Linefish regulation, and Crustacean stock assessment for management, The observer programme for monitoring selected protected areas, Operation Phakisa on unlocking the economic potential of the South African oceans, Development of new MPAs, Representation in management working groups, Leading the Provincial management programme in KwaZulu-Natal for achievement of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in the province, and Development of a boat launch site monitoring system. Ms. Everett noted that ORI is active in keeping abreast with issues and actively engages with the government to see where the institution can provide input.
55. Dr. Javad Mosaheb (Mauritius Oceanography Institute) gave a presentation on oceanographic research for the sustainable development of the ocean economy / policy making in Mauritius. He gave a brief back ground of Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) which is a parastatal under the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping in Mauritius. MOI's mission is to undertake oceanographic and coastal research and development for sustainable management of resources in support of the ocean economy of the Republic of Mauritius. He presented the organization structure of MOI, the present and future research focus areas, MOI's strategic objectives, and the gaps and constrains of achieving the strategic objects. Dr. Mosaheb mentioned the ongoing work under the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) programme which is a European Union (EU) funded project implemented by the African Union Commission. MESA utilizes earth observation and satellite technologies to generate critical products and information services for socio-economic development of Africa as well as sustainable environmental management. MOI has been entrusted by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) to be the Regional Implementation Center for IOC's thematic action "Marine and Coastal Management" under the MESA programme. Data from MESA is used by a wide range of stakeholders, government ministries and research institutions as well as policy and decision makers, the scientific community, NGOs and the local community. MESA's contribution to policy formulation and/ or implementation include: Empowerment of fishers, Aquaculture, Sustainable fisheries resource management, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) and Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM). He mentioned a case study of how MESA data was used for monitoring of Harmful Algae Bloom (HABs) leading to creation of ICAM observatory in Madagascar following the consumption of contaminated seafood which killed 300 people in April 2011.
56. Dr Mosaheb also mentioned that MOI had received a grant for the implementation of the South West Indian Ocean Component of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme. Under the project, MOI will be working with the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Institut Halieutique et des Science Marines (ISHM) of Madagascar, the Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA) and WIOMSA. Associated institutions will include: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa) and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (U.K.). It was noted that there was need for capacity building in the region and also training of trainers since the oceanographic experts in the region were not many and those available need to update their knowledge on emerging areas of research. FARI could provide linkage of scientists to the relevant training in order to build regional capacity for oceanographic research.
57. Prof. Mwakio Tole of Pwani University, Kenya gave a presentation on the role and contribution of tertiary institutions in policy making in Kenya. He enumerated the public, private and non-state institutions that provide policy-relevant research information. He mentioned the challenges of influencing policy in Kenya which include: weak link between research conducted and decision-making processes at the national level, inadequate visibility of research to policy makers, inadequate sharing and exchange of information among institutions, and inadequate involvement of institutions in regional initiatives. He noted that despite these

challenges, there has been some collaboration either at institutional level or among individual researchers in institutions. There have also been various Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) drawn up between institutions but lack of resources has hindered the collaboration, particularly engaging in joint activities.

58. Prof. Tole informed the participants that The National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) is the principal advisor to the government of Kenya on issues pertaining to science, technology and innovation. Institutions engage with NACOSTI through their membership of the various working groups under NACOSTI. The role of tertiary institutions is to teach and to undertake research and extension. The research is mostly dependent on the interests of individual academic staff and research funding agencies rather than prioritized national and regional agenda. The challenges for the institutions include: Ownership of the data – hence the need for stakeholder mapping, Policy makers seeking immediate solutions while research takes years to provide results, and the Competing political considerations versus scientific research. It was noted that FARI could play a major role in building the linkages between science and policy and providing a platform to drive the oceans agenda at national and regional levels.
59. Dr. Martin Le Tissier and Dr. Valerie Cummins of Future Earth Coasts gave a presentation on the work done by their organization in coastal and marine management. Future Earth Coasts is an international project that is based at the Center for Marine and Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI) at the University College of Cork in Ireland. Future Earth Coasts aims to strengthen the science-policy interface and contribute to securing sustainable coastal futures, as well as develop a scientific and technological community from all disciplines for the co-design and co-production of knowledge that will engage with policymakers, business, industry and other stake holders. Future Earth Coasts provides a global platform enabling international scientific collaboration by supporting integrated research, strengthening global partnerships and communicating science to society and society to science.
60. Dr. Cummins mentioned that they hoped to achieve the objectives of Future Earth Coasts through a strategy for the Sustainable Development of World's Coasts. The operationalization of the work involves: identifying a niche and a gap that the niche could address by looking at ongoing processes such as assessments, identifying how knowledge generated could be put into better use to meet specific aspirations and goals such as Paris agreement and the various conventions. He mentioned that Future Earth Coasts seeks to bring researchers together to share knowledge and experience with each other and also to generate capacity to ensure sustainability beyond the life of the project. Dr. Cummins highlighted the geographical areas where they work and noted that there was a gap with regards to the Western Indian Ocean region hence their objective of attending the FARI meeting. They wish to understand the structures in the WIO region in order to see how to engage with the processes there.
61. Dr. Le Tissier highlighted the ongoing work on Ocean Acidification (OA). He mentioned that OA is an emerging issue of global concern and that there are various initiatives seeking to address it. Future Earth Coasts has been working in collaboration with various partners to push the Ocean Acidification Agenda in Africa and in line with this organised an OA training in Dakar, Senegal in February 2017. The goal of the training was to provide theoretical and practical training in the field of ocean acidification and also to create a platform for the exchange of knowledge between OA scientists across Africa and to build on the newly launched OA-Africa Network. He mentioned that they have already began a similar process in the WIO region starting with the Session on Ocean Acidification held during the last WIOMSA scientific symposium (October 2017) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The challenges that Future Earth Coasts face include: Matching of big ambitions and multiple opportunities with organizational bandwidth; Identifying 'win-win' scenarios for Future Earth Coasts, participating institutions and individuals; and ensuring sustainability of the secretariat since donors are reluctant to fund secretariats.
62. Dr. Cummins mentioned that in terms of institutional involvement in policy making, most research in Ireland was directed through the Science Foundation Ireland. Universities influence policy through participation in boards such as the European Marine Board. She mentioned that the Government of Ireland is in the process of setting up an initiative targeting different experts to be able to feed into county and national policy processes. She noted that universities would have an opportunity to contribute to the policy dialogue through that initiative.

Group Discussion Session: Strengthening FARI

63. Dr. Kwame Koranteng provided a brief introduction to the group session. The participants were divided into three new groups and each group discussed one of the following aspects relating to the strengthening of FARI:
- 1) **Membership:** Should the membership be institutional rather than based on heads of institutions? How will FARI membership be formalized? Who will decide on applying members? What criteria should be used for membership?
 - 2) **Organization structure:** Is the current organizational structure still relevant? How will decisions be made? How does FARI relate with the Nairobi Convention's Focal Points at the country and convention level
 - 3) **Strengthen FARI involvement in regional programmes:** How should FARI members' involvement be strengthened? How should partnerships among FARI members be developed and strengthened?

All three groups also discussed the **Terms of Reference for the FARI** seeking to update it and align it to the current priorities and needs of the region.

Group Presentations: Strengthening FARI

Group 1

64. Group One was led by Dr. Agnes Muthumbi (University of Nairobi) and discussed the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the FARI and Membership of FARI. The Group suggested merging of items 2 and 9 of the original TORs since they were similar. The group also suggested that there was need to consider whether FARI members will work in FARI as individuals or as the forum. The Group also noted that FARI may not have the mechanism to protect intellectual property rights and therefore may only play a supportive role in protecting Intellectual Property Rights. The comments and recommendations made by the group are have been taken into account in the harmonised FARI Terms of Reference (Annex 3).
65. On membership of the FARI, the Group proposed the following:
- FARI membership should be institutional such that different experts can attend the meetings depending on the issues to be discussed. Use of institutional heads creates a vacuum in a situation where we have an institutional head who is not an expert in the field being discussed thus limiting their contribution to the process. If the membership is institutional then the head of the institution can nominate an expert that is relevant to the thematic area under discussion.
 - The letter of communication to the institution should be explicit about invitation to the meetings and the expertise required. The letter should be addressed to the head of the institution.
 - In formalizing of FARI membership, a signing up form should be developed by Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA from which a list can be generated by FARI secretariat at WIOMSA. WIOMSA has experience in development of this to cater for the scientists who are its members. There can be different signing-up forms for different categories of membership. Is a list of FARI members currently available?
 - There is need to update the databases of members of FARI
 - The secretariat of FARI will do the vetting of those who apply for membership in FARI. The secretariat should make decisions based on consensus by a pool of people rather than as a one man show.
 - The criteria to be used for selecting membership should be: (1) Research Institutions working in coastal and marine sector-the institutions should have evidence of research and worked a long time in the marine sector (well established), (2) Academic institutions working in the coastal and marine sector – particularly the relevant departments, (3) Non-Governmental Organizations that are duly registered and working in the coastal and marine sector, (4) Individual experts – but with appropriate vetting of relevance of expertise. There should be credibility of institutions i.e. should be legal, have a functional board, have annual reports and not involved in scandals. Any information shared under FARI's banner must be vetted before it is presented to avoid activism that goes contrary to FARI's mandate and agenda.
 - The Nairobi Convention Focal Points must be aware of the list of persons and expertise.

- Institutions wishing to sign-up for membership will provide a list of all their scientists' profiles. The FARI secretariat will create the database of the expertise provided by the institutions and those participating in the various issues- based working groups could be picked from the database once due diligence has been done by the secretariat.
 - For countries with several research and academic institutions, country representation could be done by: (i) Laying down a structure at national level, (ii) ensuring that the expertise selected from the national level is based on the agenda of the FARI meeting, (iii) having a national ad-hoc FARI that meets on a need as basis, (iv) Because many FARI members are already WIOMSA members, WIOMSA can strengthen the national FARI chapters where members can meet and discuss national issues.
66. In the discussions following the Group 1 presentation, it was noted that for some issues, there may not be enough scientists in the region to discuss and make recommendations on it. Ocean Acidification and Micro-plastics were given as examples. It was suggested that since membership of FARI would be institutional, if there is not enough expertise in a particular thematic area then the institution would not be obliged to participate in the thematic meeting but if it is a training then the institution could nominate an expert with closely related expertise to the thematic area to attend and thus build regional capacity in the area.
67. It was noted that for academic institutions, selecting the appropriate administration level for engagement with FARI would be a complex task particularly if there would be cost implications to the institution for membership in FARI. It was suggested that the academic institutions could consider applying for registration of the relevant department or school that deals with marine science, but the department should seek approval from higher level institution management before applying for FARI membership to ensure the management is aware. Once the department or school is registered then all professionals under the department become eligible to FARI. The criteria for registration of a department should be rigorous in order to avoid inclusion of some individual experts from a department who may cause chaos rather than support FARI. There would also be disadvantage of registering at department level in terms of recognizing the relevance of the FARI to the institution and also department staff require clearance at higher level for travel for meetings. It was noted that there is no one-size-fits-all criteria for the registration of the academic institutions therefore there is need for a case by case analysis to determine the most appropriate level for engagement.
68. It was noted that there may be some really good experts that are relevant for marine science (such as socio-economics) but may not necessarily be based in the school of marine sciences or really good experts who move from an institution registered under FARI to an institution not registered under FARI. There is need for provision for the inclusion of such experts in the Forum by developing a criterion for registering exceptional expertise that is relevant to FARI. Opening up FARI membership to individual registration for the sake of exceptional experts may run a risk of allowing all people to register individually therefore caution needs to be taken to ensure that only the exceptional experts would be allowed to join on an individual basis.
69. It was also noted that there needs to be a forum and a quorum for review for example in a situation where those reviewing outputs are not necessarily the best experienced experts in the field. There is need to consider what national institutions must be present and active in the process of reviewing outputs e.g. a position paper in order for the outputs to be accepted by their government as credible and reflective of the government's interests. It was suggested that countries should develop a list of experts from their national institutions and this should pass through the Nairobi Convention Focal Points to be shared with the Forum. This would help to ensure credibility of the reviewers.
70. It was suggested that FARI should take advantage of the opportunities available both regionally and globally to show case the work in the region. FARI could act as a beacon for marine and coastal science experts in the WIO region in terms of the publications and knowledge generated since there are many good projects and activities going on in the region. It was also suggested that FARI should consider a mechanism for inclusion of experts who may be working in the WIO region but are not based in the region. Expertise could be co-opted from such experts.
71. It was noted that FARI has had a role since the Fourth COP in 2004 and over the subsequent years to the Eighth COP in 2015 but has had challenges in performing the technical advisory roles assigned to it partly

due to lack of dedicated funds. However, at present, there is a budgetary allocation for FARI under the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects to enable FARI carry out its functions. It was also noted that FARI has been given the mandate in the Science Pillar of the Science-Policy dialogue platform therefore it will have no need to be transformed into a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee since it already has mandate from the COP Decisions. It was proposed that TORs be developed for the FARI national level representation and for the regional working groups to be established.

Group 2

72. Group 2 was led by Dr. Rose Mwaipopo (University of Dar es Salaam). It discussed the Organization Structure of FARI as well as the TORs.
73. The Group noted that there was a gap in the TORs particularly related to the Science to Policy dimension which is quite central to the role of FARI being the science pillar of the proposed Science to Policy Platform. Other comments and recommendations were considered in the preparation of the harmonised TORs (Annex 3).

Organization structure

74. The group made the following suggestions:

- The *Chair person* (changed from Chairman) of FARI should be the head of an academic or research institution.
- The chair person should be the head of an institution in a country that is most recent the host of WIOMSA symposium
- Subsidiary bodies- Focus here seems to be on the working groups therefore it is proposed that FARI will establish expert task teams with specific Terms of Reference and contribute to working groups in projects such as SAPPHIRE
- FARI Focal Points will: (i) Work closely with national focal points of the Contracting Parties (an iterative process of discussion and feeding the outcomes of FARI and activities to the Nairobi Convention and to other policy makers and stakeholder), (ii) Develop terms to cater for the FARI national focal points, (iii) Facilitate annual national forum/ event at country level where outcomes from this forum could be fed to the national focal point for the Contracting Party and therefore provide an opportunity to prioritize the issues emerging from national level and the region.
- The Secretariat shall: (i) Work as a coordinating office, (ii) serve FARI and the regional interests, (iii) have a permanent presence while the chair rotates, (iv) be hosted by WIOMSA (or in satellite offices), with strengthened human resource (1 or 2 dedicated people to facilitate the delivery of FARI)
- Decision making shall be done by an executive management board/group to be established to address the gap in having an executive decision-making piece. The executive management group shall: (i) oversee the implementation of the FARI work programme determined at the bi-annual meetings and monitor progress, (ii) meet between FARI regular meetings, (iii) be made up of FARI national focal points who are representatives from each of the Contracting Parties, (iv) include the chair and a representative of the Secretariat, (v) report to the Forum.
- In relation to the Nairobi Convention: (i) The FARI national focal points should develop working relationships with the focal points of the contracting parties, (ii) An annual national event is proposed, for members of FARI to exchange views with the national focal point for the contracting parties of the Nairobi Convention, including an iterative process to ensure that the national focal point for the contracting parties can represent FARI interests in the Convention table. It was proposed that the chair of FARI be given a voice in the Conference of Parties to ensure engagement of FARI at that level. There needs to be an interface between the country focal points, the executive group and the secretariat and the chair in a sort of iterative process that links very closely with the national focal points for the contracting parties.

75. In the ensuing discussions it was suggested that the FARI secretariat would be hosted by WIOMSA. It was also suggested that inputs to FARI can be made by other non FARI institutions. It was also noted that as Working Groups are to be established under the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects the role of FARI will be peer reviewing of the outputs produced by those working groups. FARI could however create an ad-hoc experts task team on any issue that required its attention.

Group 3

76. Group 3 was led by Ms. Bernadine Everett (Oceanographic Research Institute) and discussed the mechanisms for strengthening involvement of FARI members in regional programmes.

The group noted that it was important to make FARI relevant to the issues in the WIO region thus making it desirable to various stakeholders in the region. FARI involvement could be varied such as top leadership in the case of Seychelles and multiple pathways in the mainland countries depending on sites, locations, stakeholders and issues being addressed.

77. The Group proposed the following mechanisms for strengthening involvement FARI members in regional meetings:

- Already having FARI members within countries that are involved in regional initiatives and meetings and these can also represent the interests of FARI in the meetings. This would reduce budgetary costs for sustaining FARI;
- Translating jargon on legislation into a format that can be easily understood by the community;
- Take/craft scientific knowledge in a format that can be easily understood by the government;
- Intermediate between different agencies and bodies;
- Attract to FARI top researchers and scientists in the region;
- FARI could help countries to understand global threats at regional/local scale. They could also suggest methods to address global targets, SDGs, Ocean acidification at regional/local scale, linking marine/coastal targets with other environmental targets;
- Address societal challenges that emanate from regional/global issues (climate change that impact fishing communities, farmers in Madagascar suffering from climate change, striking/obvious cases for FARI intervention)
- Matching needs of society/government, FARI as an enabler;
- Awareness creation by FARI such as through sharing success stories/relevant issues, good story telling/ having a 'theatre' that runs regularly

78. The group also identified the following: (i) Need to have legal entity called FARI - to occur through the convention in order to safeguard technical representation or directorate (ii) Funding sources for FARI

79. The Group also considered how to develop and strengthen partnership among FARI members and made the following suggestions (i) Need to have a chair/director who already deals with key stakeholders (ii) Need to establish inner institutional framework, (iii) Improve communication (network, regular forum and meetings, interaction online, media platform, social media depending on the target audience), (iv) Need for a repository/information sharing platform whereby FARI members can consult/exchange upload/get informed – make use of 'cloud storage',

80. Also identified are: (i) Need to lodge FARI as an independent body, (ii) Formalization of FARI representation within country, (iii) Need to look at already existing designed platform in order to adopt a structure for FARI (for example examining the design of Future Earth Coasts' and adapting it for the Western Indian Ocean region); (iv) need for mapping of institutional capacities and expertise.

81. From the ensuing discussions it became clear that FARI is already a body formally recognized by the Conference of the Parties of the Nairobi Convention and, therefore, its decisions have a formal standing within the Nairobi Convention statutes. Also, its decisions have weight in the discussion at the Conference of Parties to the Convention. It was noted that being a formal body, it may not be necessary to legally register FARI as a body since it is recognized under the Nairobi Convention.

Follow-up activities and timeline

82. Dr. Julius Francis (WIOMSA) presented the follow-up activities and timelines for the FARI as follows:

Activities	Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference finalised and and circulated • Meeting report 	Nairobi Convention /WIOMSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up online Platform 	Dr. Joseph Maina
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up core team 	Chair of the meeting (Dr. Margareth Kyewalyanga) and Chairs of the discussion groups (Prof. Salomao Bandeira, Dr. Johnson Kitheka, Prof. Mwakio Tole, Dr. Agnes Muthumbi, Dr. Rose Mwaipopo, and Ms Bernadine Everett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite institutions to apply/confirm membership 	WIOMSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the membership in Task Force/Working Group on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marine Spatial Planning ✓ SDG Work ✓ Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention 	Nairobi Convention/WIOSAP Project Management Unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat strengthening • Part-time coordinator 	Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through a national consultative process, Nairobi Convention Focal points to nominate national FARI representatives 	Nairobi Convention

83. Dr. Francis mentioned that the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA will work to produce a new set of Terms of Reference for FARI taking into account the comments and suggestions. The revised and re-structured TORs is shown in Annex 3. Dr Francis then requested Dr. Joseph Maina to facilitate the setting-up of an online platform for the Forum which will include information on FARI membership, institutions and experts and it will also have a section not open to the public that will be dedicated to the thematic groups and task forces once formed; this will facilitate communication among the experts from the different countries of the region. He mentioned that since FARI had no leadership at the moment, the 6 chairs of the group sessions in the meeting and the chair of the meeting will form a core team to provide interim leadership to the Forum until the formal structure of FARI is set up.

84. He mentioned that in early 2018, Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA will send formal invitations to all the institutions requesting them to apply to become members of FARI. The institutions that will respond and apply will provide information that will go to the database and online platform where they will be recognized as full members of FARI. He noted that in 2018 and leading to the 9th COP of the Nairobi Convention in June 2018, the WIOSAP project will begin the formation of Task Forces and working groups for various thematic areas including Marine Spatial Planning, SDGs and other areas in line with the Convention's work programme.

85. Dr. Francis highlighted the need to recruit a part-time coordinator for the FARI in line with the outcome of the group discussion. The coordinator could be based in the Nairobi Convention Secretariat or in one of the institutions under FARI, but this would be subject to further discussion. The coordinator would clearly define the activities of FARI that can be undertaken with the core team and support the coordination of FARI activities leading up to the establishment of a formal structure of operation for FARI. Nairobi Convention would also write to the Nairobi Convention Focal Institutions and request them to nominate a national FARI representative through a consultative process at the national level. He noted that there was need for a decision-making body for FARI comprising one representative from each country to make decisions once the structure of FARI is up and running. Since there would likely be a number of institutions applying for FARI membership per country, the Focal Institution of the Nairobi Convention can coordinate with the relevant institutions applying in their countries for FARI membership to nominate one representative from among the institutions, to be part of the decision-making body for FARI. Once FARI has members, then there a more permanent structure will be put in place.
86. Mr. Waruinge noted that the representative institutions must first be registered under FARI in order to be involved in decision making at the COP level. Therefore, there is need to synchronize the national membership of FARI with the Focal Institution of the Nairobi Convention since the latter is the custodian of the work programme for the convention. Dr. Francis mentioned that the activities to kick-start FARI should take 6-8 months
87. It was proposed that the finalization of the TORs for FARI should be a separate item from finalization of the meeting report and the TORs should be the first activity to be completed and shared even before the meeting report since the TORs would be annexed to the meeting report. It was noted that there was need to put in specific timelines for each of the proposed activities and to specify the role of the core team. It was suggested that the core team could provide guidance on the criteria for admitting institutions into FARI membership in order to ensure a more consultative process. The core team would also be involved in responding to the requests by the Nairobi Convention and the Project Management Unit for the WIOSAP to provide suggestions of experts for the various thematic working groups.

Closing of the meeting

88. Mr. Waruinge took the opportunity to thank the WIOMSA Secretariat for their continued partnership and support to the Nairobi Convention and especially for making the arrangements for the meeting. He thanked the chair of the meeting, Dr. Margareth Kyewalyanga for the providing excellent leadership, Dr. Kwame Koranteng for effective facilitation of the group sessions and the participants for attending the meeting and actively engaging in the activities despite the fact that a number of them had not engaged with FARI before. He mentioned that the meeting participants would form the core team for moving ahead with FARI. He also mentioned that in the past, FARI had been dependent on the goodwill of experts but now, with the dedication of funds to FARI from the WIOSAP and SAPPHERE projects, FARI could become more sustainable. He thanked the representatives from Future Earth Coasts, Dr. Martin Le Tissier and Dr. Valerie Cummins, for participating in the meeting and noted that the partnership that has begun could be further developed since Future Earth Coasts has much to offer to the region.
89. He mentioned that all participants have been invited to attend the Regional Workshop on the Regular process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment including Socio-economic aspects which is to take place on 13-14 December 2017. He informed the participants that the Nairobi Convention had offered to host the meeting so that contribution from the WIO region to the World Oceans Assessment process would be substantial and recognised. The participation meeting will also lead to greater understanding of the process in the region. He urged the participants to take advantage of the opportunity to present the needs and priorities of the region in the Second Cycle of World Ocean Assessments
90. In her closing remarks, the Chair thanked the Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA for organizing the meeting and the participants for their active participation in it. She then declared the meeting closed at 1710 hrs on 13 December 2017.

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
DAY ONE		
Tuesday 12 December 2017		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of Participants	
Opening Ceremony		
09:00 – 09:15	Session 1: Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat • Representative from Government of Tanzania • Objectives of the meeting and expected outputs 	Nairobi Convention Secretariat/ WIOMSA
Background of FARI		
09:15 – 10:10	Session 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of meeting chair and adoption of the agenda • Introduction and Background of the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions in the WIO Region (FARI) 	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
10:10 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:00	Session 3: Terms of Reference for FARI, Membership and Organization structure	WIOMSA
Existing and Upcoming initiatives where FARI could play a role		
11:00 – 12:20	Session 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE: Main outputs and where technical input is needed • Presentation on the WIOMSA new programme • Summary of outcomes of the Ocean Acidification Session in October 2017 • Plenary Discussions 	Nairobi Convention Secretariat WIOMSA
12:20 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	Session 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of group discussion session I on the role of FARI in the WIOSAP project implementation • Group discussion session on the role of FARI in the WIOSAP project in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Components A, B and C of WIOSAP 	Group Discussion
14:45 – 15:15	Session 6: Group Presentations	Group Representative
15:15 – 15:35	Session 7: Presentation on the proposed Science – Policy Platform	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
15:35 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:00	Session 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Group discussion session II on mechanisms for contribution of FARI to Science-Policy Dialogue 	Nairobi Convention/WIOMSA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion session II on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mechanisms for contribution of FARI to the Science- Policy Dialogue in the WIO region ○ Role of FARI in emerging regional issues and decision making 	Group Discussion
END OF DAY 1		

Day TWO			Wednesday 13 December 2017		
09.00 – 09.20	Session 9: Recap of Day 1		Nairobi Convention Secretariat / WIOMSA		
09.20 – 10.00	Session 10: Group Presentations		Group Representative		
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break				
10.30 – 11.10	Session 11: Role of FARI in supporting and mapping implementation of SDGs 1, 5, 13 and 14		Plenary Discussions		
11.10 – 12.10	Session 12: Role and contribution of tertiary institutions in policy making: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience from South Africa • Experience from Mauritius • Experience from Kenya 		Representatives from tertiary institutions in South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya		
12.10 – 12.30	Session 13: Plenary Discussions				
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch				
Strengthening FARI					
14.00 – 15.00	Session 14: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to group discussion session III on strengthening FARI 		WIOMSA/ Nairobi Convention Secretariat		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Discussion session on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ How to raise visibility/profile of research and academic institutions ➢ How to strengthen FARI members' involvement in regional initiatives ➢ Strengthening collaboration amongst FARI members at the country levels and linkages with Nairobi Convention Focal Points ➢ Organizational structure of FARI at the national level 		Group Discussion		
15.00 – 15.30	Session 15: Group presentations		Group representatives		
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break				
16.00 – 16.30	Session 16: Follow – up activities and timeline		WIOMSA/ Nairobi Convention Secretariat		
16.30 – 17.00	Session 17: Administrative matters and any other business		Nairobi Convention Secretariat		
Closure of meeting (END OF DAY 2)					

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	NAME	AFFILIATION & CONTACTS
KENYA	1. Dr. Agnes Muthumbi	Universtiy of Nairobi Nairobi, Kenya amuthumbi@uonbi.ac.ke
	2. Prof. Mwakio Tole	Pwani University Kilifi, Kenya mwakiotole@yahoo.com , m.tole@pu.ac.ke
	3. Dr. Johnson Kitheka	South Eastern Kenya University Kitui, Kenya kolbio_kolbio@yahoo.com , jkitheka@seku.ac.ke
	4. Prof. James Njiru	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute Mombasa, Kenya director@kmfri.co.ke , jamnji@gmail.com
	5. Dr. Nina Wambiji	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute Mombasa, Kenya nwambiji@gmail.com
SEYCHELLES	6. Dr. Bernard Monnaie	University of Seychelles Mahe, Seychelles BernardMonnaie@unisey.ac.sc , bfmonnaie@gmail.com ,
MOZAMBIQUE	7. Dr. Salomao Bandeira	University of Eduardo Mondlane Maputo, Mozambique salomao.bandeira4@gmail.com
TANZANIA	8. Dr. Shigalla Mahongo	Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute Dar es Salaam, Tanzania shigalla@yahoo.co.uk
	9. Dr. Rosemarie Mwaipopo	University of Dar es Salaam Dar es Salaam, Tanzania ny_lila@yahoo.com
	10. Dr. Margareth Kyewalyanga	Institute of Marine Sciences – University of Dar es Salaam Zanzibar Tanzania mamakevin@gmail.com , maggie@ims.usdm.ac.tz
	11. Dr. Abdalla Ali	State University of Zanzibar Zanzibar, Tanzania abdallaibrahim@suza.ac.tz , aali004@yahoo.co.uk ,
SOUTH AFRICA	12. Ms. Bernadine Everett	Oceanographic Research Institute KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa bernadine@ori.org.za
MOZAMBIQUE	13. Dr. Nilza Dias	National Fisheries Research Institute Maputo, Mozambique nmdias@hotmail.com
MAURITIUS	14. Dr. Javad Mosaheb Iqbal	Mauritius Oceanography Institute Albion, Mauritius jmosaheb@moi.intnet.com
MADAGASCAR	15. Dr. Yves Jean Michael Mong	National Research Center for Environment Antananarivo, Madagascar mong2011@hotmail.fr , yjmmong@gmail.com
	16. Dr. Jamal Angelot Mahafina	University of Toliara- institute of Fisheries and Marine Science Toliara, Madagascar mhafinaja@yahoo.fr

	17. Mr. Jacques Rasoanaina	Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests Antananarivo, Madagascar jacquis415@gmail.com , jacquis415@yahoo.fr
	18. Dr. Rakotonjanahary Vola	Ministry of Fisheries Antananarivo, Madagascar rvolanjanahary@gmail.com
MAQUARIE UNIVERSITY	19. Dr. Joseph Maina Mbui	Macquarie University Sydney, Australia joseph.mbui@mq.edu.au
FUTURE EARTH COASTS	20. Dr. Martin Le Tisser	Future Earth Coasts Cork, Ireland martin.letissier@ucc.ie
	21. Dr. Valerie Cummins	Future Earth Coasts Cork, Ireland v.cummins@ucc.ie
OTHER	22. Dr. Kwame Koranteng	Sakumono, Tema Ghana ka_koranteng@yahoo.com
WIOMSA	23. Dr. Julius Francis	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Zanzibar, Tanzania julius@wiomsa.org
UN ENVIRONMENT	24. Mr. Dixon Waruinge	Nairobi Convention Secretariat Nairobi, Kenya dixon.waruinge@unep.org
	25. Mr. Theuri Mwangi	Science Division- UN Environment Nairobi, Kenya theuri.mwangi@unep.org
	26. Ms. Marlyn Omondi	Nairobi Convention Secretariat Nairobi, Kenya marlyn.omondi@unep.org
	27. Ms. Caroline Cherotich	Nairobi Convention Secretariat Nairobi, Kenya Caroline.cherotich@unep.org , cachebi@yahoo.com

ANNEX 3: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FARI

FORUM OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION (FARI)

Terms of Reference

Background

At the fourth Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention for the protection, management and development of marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (the Nairobi Convention) held in Antananarivo, Madagascar in July 2004, the Secretariat of the convention (UNEP) was directed to facilitate the establishment of a network of academic and research institutions in the convention area in collaboration with other organizations. The network would be a “consultative, communication and advisory body accountable to contracting parties of the Nairobi Convention in assessment and science-based management of marine and coastal environment”.

The decision was to address the challenges of absence of a mechanism for linking research and academic institutions with decision-making processes at the regional level; the inadequate visibility of research institutions in the region; the inadequate sharing and exchange of information amongst academic and research institutions in the region, and the inadequate involvement of regional institutions in regional initiatives.

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat was also directed to “take the offer made by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to serve as the Secretariat of such a network”.

Subsequently, action was taken to constitute the proposed network referred to as “the Forum of Heads of Academic and Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean Region (FARI)”. FARI includes institutions in the field of both natural and social sciences. In related discussions, the words “Heads of” was dropped to allow for delegation to senior experts when the head of the institution was unable to attend a meeting. Also, although, the COP’s decision referred to a “body accountable to Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention”, it was expected that the network would also serve other needs in the area of marine and coastal assessment, monitoring and management.

As an implementation requirement, the WIO-SAP and SAPPHERE projects are expected to establish Working Groups on specific issues. It is proposed that the FARI will peer review the outputs produced by the working groups. In addition, FARI may establish its own ad hoc Expert Task Teams with specific terms of reference as may be required to contribute to the work of the WIO-SAP and SAPPHERE Working Groups.

Over time, draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the FARI were prepared and discussed at various fora related to activities of the Nairobi Convention. The draft TORs were discussed at a meeting of the FARI held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 12 to 13 December 2017. The final Terms of Reference are presented below.

In 2015 (COP 8), Decision 8/12 *urged* Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention to promote science to policy interface in order to enhance informed decision making. It also urged the Parties to *agree* to establish a dialogue platform to strengthen the links between science, policy and action and to mandate the FARI to act as the technical and advisory body of the platform. This decision is reflected in the Terms of Reference of the FARI.

Name

The name of the network shall be “The Forum of Academic and Research Institutions in the Western Indian Ocean Region”, abbreviated as FARI.

Any expert task team established by FARI on specific issues will have a unique name. For example, a team on ocean acidification would be called the FARI Expert Task Team on Ocean Acidification.

Purpose

The main objectives of establishing FARI are:

- i. To communicate, collaborate and co-operate in support of marine and coastal research that contributes towards the wise use of marine and coastal resources and the provision of sustainable opportunities for people of the Western Indian Ocean region, in a healthy environment, and
- ii. To provide advice to the Nairobi Convention and its Contracting Parties, in the assessment, monitoring and science-based management of marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibility of FARI shall be as follows:

- i. Provide a peer review of documents produced from the Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention.
- ii. Identify relevant and emerging fields of *research* that require remedial or policy action.
- iii. Highlight urgent or emerging *issues* arising from science that require management action.
- iv. Promote the application of new technologies and innovative research approaches.
- v. Provide expert technical support in the peer review of development projects, management decisions and policies.
- vi. Facilitate the sharing and exchange of data and information between partners and stakeholders.
- vii. Stimulate high quality science by facilitating the undertaking of co-operative national, regional and international scientific research programmes.
- viii. Contribute to the capacity and career development, inter alia, through benchmarking and facilitating training opportunities, including for young scientists.
- ix. Contribute to the policy and practice of ethics in research in marine science, by acting as honest brokers and through science advocacy.
- x. Advocate for good practice in the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and showcasing where research has been successfully commercialised as a result of effective management of IPR.
- xi. Provide support to the preparation of the Nairobi Convention’s Work Programme and also reviewing, debating and assessing the activities undertaken by, or under, the auspices of the Nairobi Convention.

Membership

The membership to FARI shall be as follows:

- i. Membership is institutional and different experts of a member institution can attend the meetings of the FARI depending on the issue or issues under discussion. The invitation letter to any FARI meeting shall be addressed to the Head of the institution and shall be explicit about the expertise required.

- ii. Academic and research institutions will submit a full list of all relevant staff and their profiles through an application form to be obtained from WIOMSA as the Secretariat of FARI.
- iii. WIOMSA shall evaluate the applications received from the institutions and the Focal Points of the Nairobi Convention will approve the applications for membership in a meeting.

Eligibility criteria

Membership is open to:

- i. Research institutions in countries that are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and working in the coastal and marine sector in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.
- ii. Academic institutions in countries that are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and that have departments with relevant expertise in the assessment and management of the coastal and marine sector in the WIO region.
- iii. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) registered in any of the Contracting Parties that is a member of WIOMSA and is working in the coastal and marine sector in the WIO region may apply for membership following endorsement by the Nairobi Conventions National Focal Point Institution.

Each applying institution or NGO must be a member of WIOMSA.

The academic/research institution or other potential members should have legal documents supporting their establishment and must have a clear management structure with an organogram. WIOMSA shall ensure that all the applicants are not only paying members of the association, but also have a good record of peer-reviewed research and policy publications with good standing at the national level. The focal institutions and National Focal Points of the Nairobi Convention will approve the national experts for the FARI and shall maintain an up-to-date list of members and their areas of expertise.

Selection of members of FARI Expert Task Teams

WIOMSA as the FARI Secretariat will, as and when necessary, announce the formation of Expert Task Teams based on outcomes of FARI technical meetings. Institutions shall be required to express interest and nominate relevant experts in the task teams. The Secretariat shall then compile a list of experts based on the list received from the institutions as well as from its own database of experts, taking into account the need for fair country and regional representation. For countries that have several research and academic institutions in FARI, the selection of experts shall be based on their expertise in the subject matter.

Organisational Structure

Secretariat

The WIOMSA secretariat, strengthened with 1 or 2 persons to facilitate its delivery, will offer secretariat services to the FARI. The FARI Secretariat could have satellite offices supported by experts from member institutions. The Secretariat shall work as a coordinating office to serve FARI and the regional interests.

Chairperson

The Chairperson of FARI shall be a head of an academic or research institution that is a member of FARI - elected for a term of two (2) years with a provision for a subject matter specialist to be nominated to chair specific technical task team meetings. The Chairperson is also expected to lead the expert technical

working group for the COP of the Nairobi Convention. The Chairperson of FARI shall be given a role in the Conference of Parties to ensure engagement of FARI at that level. There shall also be a Vice-Chairperson who meets the same criteria as the Chairperson.

Executive Management Board

FARI will have an Executive Management Board (EMB) consisting of FARI National Focal Points who are representatives of the Contracting Parties, the Chairperson of FARI, and a representative each of the FARI and Nairobi Convention Secretariats.

The EMB shall oversee the implementation of the FARI work programme, monitor its progress and report to the Forum.

Meetings

Regular FARI meetings will be synchronized with the Conference of the Parties of the Nairobi Convention. This means that regular meetings of FARI will be held in the years of the COP. In addition, there could be additional meetings when there is the need to consider emerging issues in the region. All meetings will be scheduled and called by the FARI Secretariat in consultation with the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention.

FARI National Focal Points

To facilitate the work of FARI at the national level, including the preparation of the annual meetings, FARI will have a National Focal Point in each of the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention. The National Focal Point will be appointed by the focal institution of the Nairobi Convention, (which usually is the ministry responsible for environment or marine affairs) in accordance with the Terms of Reference prepared by the FARI Secretariat in consultation with the FARI Executive Management Board and the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention.

The FARI National Focal Point will have the following responsibilities:

- i. Work closely with the National Focal Point of the Nairobi Convention in order to facilitate the feeding of the outcomes of FARI activities to the Convention and to other policy makers and stakeholders;
- ii. Facilitate annual national FARI events in order to enable members of FARI to exchange views with the Nairobi Convention Focal Point. This will enable the latter to also represent FARI interests in the business of the Convention. The national events will also provide an opportunity for prioritizing emerging national and regional issues.

National FARI Chapters

In each Contracting Party of the Nairobi Convention, an ad hoc National FARI Chapter will be established. The national chapters shall hold meetings as the needs arise. Regular contact between national FARI members could be made through electronic media. The National FARI chapters will provide an interface between the National Focal Points, the Executive Management Board, the Secretariat and Chairperson of FARI. The national FARI will be made up of all members of FARI (representing academic and research

institutions and NGOs) in each of the Countries that are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention. They will elect their own chairperson who, ideally, should be the national FARI Focal Point.

FARI and the Proposed Science to Policy Platform

FARI shall be responsible for the science pillar in the Science to Policy Platform of the Nairobi Convention. The proposed Science to Policy Platform (SPP) will be “A multi-stakeholder platform comprising of representatives of formal and informal knowledge generating institutions, practitioners, policy makers, communities and the private sector within the WIO region which serves as an intermediary body to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practice”. The SPP is intended to “support the efforts of the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention to integrate relevant scientific evidence and findings into their efforts to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment in a sustainable manner”. It is also expected to “act as an intermediary or boundary agent between science and society and to facilitate and promote a better understanding of on-going and emerging regional environmental problems and of the strategies needed to address them”.

Thus, the FARI is expected to provide the necessary information for evidenced-based decision making and for the platform’s primary role of knowledge generation and dissemination as well as dialogue and consensus building.

FARI and the SAPHIRE and WIO-SAP Projects

The roles and responsibilities listed above will ensure that the FARI supports the implementation of all projects under the Nairobi Convention starting with the WIO-SAP and SAPHIRE projects. For example, SAPHIRE Deliverable 1.1.3 is on “Adoption of a regional SAP Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) or similar scientific support mechanism, with membership from all appropriate scientific institutions and including Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organisations”. The STAP is expected to provide support to Regional Think-Tanks as required, hold annual meetings and engage in inter-meeting communication and coordination. It is also expected to review incoming data/conclusions and development of Adaptive Management Guidelines and Policy Briefs (including monitoring of results from management and policy decisions).

Many of these are tasks that the FARI is positioned to undertake for the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention as well as for its Secretariat which is also the executing agency of the two projects. Thus the FARI is poised to play the role of the SAPHIRE STAP or to play a significant role in its work.

For WIO-SAP the following are some of the roles that have been proposed for the FARI:

- i. Advice on constitution of task forces/working groups;
- ii. Reviewing and validation of project documentation as well as project proposals at the regional level (the latter to be done by the National FARI);
- iii. Provision of technical support to countries to develop demonstration projects;
- iv. Participation in the national project committees;
- v. Resource mobilization to support follow-up activities;
- vi. Coordinate/support the preparation of outlooks, regional state of coast report, etc.;
- vii. Contribute to the development of area-based planning tools; and
- viii. Reporting to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention.

Amendment, Modification or Variation of the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the FARI or the Executive Management Board and approved by the Convention Focal Points meeting.

Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania

December 2017