

Logistical Note

2nd GFCR Regional Convening 10-13 February 2024

Welcome Note

The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), CORDIO, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) welcome you to participate in a regional convening for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). The GFCR/GCRMN workshop for the Western Indian Ocean aims to bring together all GFCR and GCRMN partners in the region, including scientists, data-holders, and coral reef monitoring experts with an aim to:

- Review the preliminary results for the WIO and prepare a regional plan for writing of the GCRMN WIO chapter as part of the global 2025 GCRMN report. Data collected by GFCR programmes should be included in the regional chapter.
- Strengthen & build capacity on monitoring & analysis protocols, including use of MERMAID
- Establish a workplan for the regional WIO Coral Reef Technical Working Group

Venue for the Workshop

Hosting city: Stone Town, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania

Meeting venue: Maru Maru Hotel
P.O. Box 4053, 397
400, Gizenga Street
Shangani, Stone Town, Zanzibar, Tanzania
P: +255 24 2238516/7/8
W: www.marumaruzanzibar.com

Coffee break and lunch will be provided to participants during 10th – 13 th February 2025. If you have special food requirements (medical, dietary, and religious), please inform UNEP GFCR organizers through Ms. Janet Opati (janet.opati@un.org) by 17 January 2025 to accommodate your request or find a suitable solution. Dinners are not provided.

Event dress code: Business casual

Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservation and settling the bill directly to the hotel. It is also highly recommended to book your accommodation as soon as possible as there may be low availability due to East Africa's premier music festival, Sauti za Busara, taking place in Stone Town from 14-16 February 2025.

Here is a list of possible accommodation in walking distance to the hotel:

- [Maru Maru Hotel](#), distance is 0m
- [Emerald Palm](#), distance is 20m

- [Bellissimo Boutique Hotel](#), distance is 100m
- [Spice Palace Zanzibar](#), distance is 180m
- [Antonio Garden Hotel](#), distance is 200m
- [La Neisha Hotel Zanzibar](#), distance is 350m
- [Al-Minar Hotel](#), distance is 450m
- [Al Johari Hotel and Spa](#), distance is 500m
- [Kuti Hotel](#), distance is 600m
- [The Island Stone Town Hotel](#), distance is 700m

Visa and Travel Requirements

Flight Arrangements: UNEP will provide the most direct economy class flight ticket for delegates. Please note that if you decide to upgrade your flight or extend your stay in Kenya, any costs related to the change of your return date (tickets), including meals, accommodation will be regarded as personal deviation. **Official arrival date is Sunday 9 February 2025 for those attending MERMAID training (GFCR partners only), and 10 February for those attending the GCRMN data workshop only, and official departure date is Friday 14 February 2025.**

Visa: Entry Visa is a requirement for entrance to Tanzania except for East Africa block members and other countries with special agreement with the government of URT. Since December 2018 Tanzania operates an Online Visa Program. It is highly recommended that participants check visa requirements well in advance. Updated information on visa requirements is available on The Immigration Department of the Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs website. **Participants are fully responsible for securing their entry visa before departing from their country of duty, including transit visa, if required.**

The online system requires participants to create an application ID and provide an answer to the Security Question. The application requires personal information, contact, address, employment, passport information, travel information, documents, declaration, and payment. Please have the following documents ready for the application:

- Passport size photo
- Passport bio page
- Return Ticket
- Invitation Letter

The visa application should take **ten days** to process.

Citizens Of The Below Countries Do Not Need A Travel Visa To Enter Tanzania:

Exempt nationals include those from Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Hong Kong, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Citizens Of The Below Countries Need A Travel Visa To Enter Tanzania:

For citizens of the United States, Australia, United Kingdom, all mainland European nations and countries not exempted.

Citizens Of The Below Countries Need A Visa Prior To Arrival In Tanzania:

Citizens of certain countries require a referred visa issued prior to arrival. These include Afghanistan, Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Palestine Refugees, stateless individuals, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

Travel insurance: The island of Zanzibar requires all travelers to buy travel insurance for \$44 and should be included in terminal costs covered by UNEP and UNDP sponsored participants. The link to buy the travel insurance is [here](#).

Vaccination requirements: Yellow Fever vaccine is mandatory when travelling to Tanzania, including Zanzibar and Pemba Islands. Please be prepared to show the international Yellow WHO-vaccine certificate/card upon international arrival.

Health: UNEP will assume that as an invited participant to a GFCR meeting, you are in good health and have no illness that might prevent you from travelling to or participating in the meeting. It is your responsibility to inform UNDP or UNEP of any such health impediment prior to accepting the invitation to participate in the above meeting. UNDP and UNEP accept no responsibility for the death, illness or injury of any participant while attending the meeting.

Transportation

Participants should make their own arrangements from the airport to the hotel. Participants can easily catch taxis from the airport.

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

UNDP and UNEP sponsored participants will be paid daily subsistence allowance (DSA) while in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The DSA will be provided in the form of direct deposits or cash card to participants. Participants who have been issued with Swiss Cards are advised to carry them.

Please Note: It is a UN requirement that the participants produce their boarding passes as proof of travel. The DSA rate for Zanzibar, Tanzania is US\$182 per night. Any participant who is unable to stay for the duration of the workshop is requested to inform UNEP and UNDP as soon as possible, so that their daily subsistence allowance can be adjusted accordingly.



Agenda

Monday 10 February

<i>MERMAID training</i>	
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 1 Walkthrough of M&E tool on MERMAID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Workshop objectives • Introduction to MERMAID • Walkthrough of the new M&E tool on MERMAID Collect
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 2 Reporting GFCR Programs on MERMAID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFCR project set up on MERMAID • Creation of targets / baseline / first mid-year report with existing spreadsheets from GFCR Programs • Q&A and feedback from Convening Agents after interacting with reporting tool <p>Session 3 Use Case of Miamba Yetu Program (TBC with WCS Tanzania/Kenya)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MERMAID x WCS Tanzania can showcase what the results from MERMAID can provide for their annual narrative reporting, fundraising/grant reports and organization communication products, i.e., graphs, maps, etc.
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Open to GFCR and GCRMN participants</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 4 How MERMAID is supporting GFCR programs and GCRMN reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MERMAID in the context of GFCR/GCRMN • Use case of Blue Alliance - GFCR Program • Using MERMAID as one tool for the GCRMN Regional and Global Reports with Jérémy Wicquart (GCRMN Technical Coordinator) - how does he integrate data from MERMAID into the GCRMN synthetic dataset? <p>Session 5 <i>How MERMAID is used for reef surveys</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walkthrough of MERMAID Collect, Dashboard, R package mermaidr</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee/Tea Break
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Session 5 (continued) <i>How MERMAID is used for reef surveys</i> <i>Walkthrough of MERMAID Collect, Dashboard, R package mermaidr</i></p>



Tuesday 11 February

9.00 – 9.15	High-Level Opening Hon. Minister Shaaban Ali Othman, Minister of Blue Economy & Fisheries
9.15-10.30	Opening Session Purpose and objectives of the Regional Convening - Gabriel Grimsditch, UNEP Presentation on Global Fund for Coral Reefs - Maxime Philip, UNCDF Presentation on REEF+ and the Community of Practice workshop - Andrew Rylance, UNDP Presentation on the GFCR M&E Framework and GCRMN workshop Current status and progress on the GCRMN Global and Western Indian Ocean Questions and Answers
10.30-11.00	Coffee/Tea Break - Group photo
11.00-12.30	Session 1 Workshop objectives - UNEP Synergies between the GFCR & the GCRMN - UNEP Introduction of WIO Coral Reef Technical Working Group - CORDIO East Africa & Nairobi Convention Current status of GCRMN data sets in the WIO - CORDIO East Africa & ICRI
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Session 2 A presentation on M&E for the GFCR - UNEP Protocols for coral reef monitoring & data analysis in the WIO – including standardization of monitoring sites - CORDIO East Africa & ICRI
15.30-16.00	Coffee/Tea Break
16.00-17.30	Protocols for coral reef monitoring & data analysis in the WIO – including standardization of monitoring sites CORDIO East Africa



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Wednesday 12 February

9-10.30	Session 4 Insights from country coral reef coordinations - 10 minutes each Kenya - Juliet Karisa Tanzania - Rose Salema Mozambique - Erwan Sola Madagascar - Gildas Todinahary National Coral Reef Assessment (NCRA) Regional node activities from the five countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Comoros - CORDIO East Africa SocMon plans for the region – Dr. Innocen Wanyonyi
10.30-11.00	Coffee/Tea Break
11.00-12.30	Session 5 Identification of capacity gaps in the region – what role can GCRMN & GFCR play in addressing these CORDIO East Africa and ICRI
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Session 6 Review of preliminary analysis and Plan for writing regional WIO chapter CORDIO East Africa & ICRI
15.30-16.00	Coffee/Tea Break
16.00-17.30	Session 7 Communication and products around the WIO chapter CORDIO East Africa, ICRI, UNEP
17.30-19.30	Time off
19.30	Group Dinner

Thursday 13 February

9-10.30	Session 8 Establishing a workplan for the WIO Coral Reef Technical Working Group CORDIO East Africa & Nairobi Convention
10.30-11.00	Coffee/Tea Break
11.00-12.30	Session 9 Next steps on writing the regional chapter CORDIO East Africa, ICRI & UNEP
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Session 10 Future collaboration between the GFCR & the GCRMN in the region and beyond UNEP
16.00-17.30	Plenary room - Feedback session between groups Plenary presentation where each parallel provides an overview of discussions and results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCRMN group presents Western Indian Ocean Report Chapter storyboard Ideas to full group • REEF+ business group presents solutions <p>Q&A on the earlier presentations with the aim of cross-pollination, encouraging all to think about how to monitor and measure a solution's positive impact on the ecosystem</p>
17.30-19.30	Time off
19.30	Dinner

Communication

Personal phone calls will be at the participants expense. However, wireless internet will be provided in the meeting venue thus participants will have access to the internet during the meeting. To call Tanzania from abroad, the country code is +255.

Currency

In Tanzania, the local currency is the Tanzanian shilling (TZS). As of 7 January 2025, the exchange rate is US\$1 equals approximately TZS 2486.15. US Dollars are widely accepted in tourist areas in Tanzania, and you can exchange money at many authorized banks and bureau de change if you need Tanzanian shillings for your transactions.

There are not many ATMs in Zanzibar and recommended to take out cash at the airport.

Credit Cards

Most major credit cards (MasterCard, American Express and VISA) are widely accepted. In addition to credit cards, it is advisable to carry easily exchangeable currency in cash.

Banking Hours

Banks are open from Monday to Friday between 0800hrs to 1630hrs.

Languages

English and Swahili are Tanzania’s official languages. The meeting will be conducted in English without interpretation

Weather and Time Zone

The average temperature in February is about 25°C – 33°C in Zanzibar.

Power Plugs and Outlets

In Tanzania the most common plug type is Type D and Type G, which has two flat parallel pins and a grounding pin. Tanzania operates on a 220V supply voltage and 50Hz. You are advised to carry a power plug adapter if your appliances do not conform to the above specifications.

UNDSS Travel Advisory for United Republic of Tanzania (URT)

Security situation: Zanzibar is in the Indian Ocean approximately 52 km from Dar es Salaam. Zanzibar consists of Zanzibar Island, also known as Unguja Island, Pemba Island, and many smaller islets. Zanzibar is known for its 97% Muslim population. Women are advised to dress modestly when off the resort premises and out of Stone Town. Extra caution should be taken during the Muslims’ holy month of Ramadan.

Cultural awareness: As a majority of the population is Muslim, individual behaviour of visiting Staff must comply with the Islamic culture, in particular during Ramadan period where non-Muslim are advised to avoid eating/drinking publicly.

Emergency Contact information: UNDSS Security Operations Centre (24/7) : Cell: +255 747 777 666 & +255 767 800 186 | Office : +255 222 195 107 | Sat Phone: +8821621118661 email: soc.tz@one.un.org

For more information, please contact

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