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

Mahe, Seychelles 22-24 June 2015

Decisions of the Seventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP7)

Annex: VII: Adopted Decisions for COP7UNITED
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**The Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention
for the Protection, Management and Development of
the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western
Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention)**

Maputo, Mozambique 10 to 14 December, 2012

Adopted Decisions for COP7

Preamble

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (Nairobi Convention),

Noting with appreciation the Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of the Secretariat and efforts made by the Contracting Parties to implement the Work Programme for 2011 to 2012 as well as the preparation of the proposed work programme for 2013 to 2017;

Noting also the progress made in the preparation of the new action strategy for the Western Indian Ocean Region;

Noting the progress made by the Contracting Parties and partners in the development of a protocol on integrated coastal zone management including the Guidelines for drafters and negotiators;

Noting also the outcomes of various global and regional meetings and processes including the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012 and the 14th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment held in Arusha, September 2012;

Recalling the adoption of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities in the Western Indian Ocean Region during the sixth Conference of Parties as well as subsequent efforts to ratify and implement the Amended Convention and Protocol;

Recalling also past decisions of the Contracting Parties endorsing ecosystem approaches to coastal and marine management, particularly CP5/2 and CP5/3, and in this regard, appreciating the progress made in advancing ecosystem based marine and coastal management approaches, including the need for identification and description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, valuation of ecosystem goods and services and establishment of marine protected areas;

Acknowledging the potential for accelerated socio-economic growth following the exploration and production of oil and gas in the Western Indian Ocean region and the need for regional and national environmental and safety safeguards;

Noting the outcomes of the Climate Change Conference held in Mauritius in March 2011;

Emphasizing that the green economy pathway will enhance the countries' abilities to increase sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, job creation as well as enhancing social inclusion while maintaining a healthy environment;

Acknowledging the contribution of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge in galvanizing political, financial and technical commitments and actions on climate change adaptation, resilient ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods and human security.

Acknowledging the work of BirdLife International in the preparation of a report on birds as indicators of ecosystem health in the West Indian Ocean region;

Acknowledging the work of Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, Worldwide Fund for Nature, Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean, Western Indian Ocean Consortium, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Indian Ocean Commission and the World Heritage Centre for preparing technical papers for discussions and in the development and implementation of the work of the Convention and in the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the West Indian Ocean region;

Decide

Decision CP7/1: *Work Programme for 2013-2017*

1. *To adopt* the work programme for 2013-2017 and call for its implementation by Contracting Parties with the support of partners and other stakeholders.
2. *To request* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners, to finalize, in a consultative manner and taking into account international best practices, a new strategy and action plan for the implementation of Nairobi Convention and report to the next Conference of Parties.
3. *To request* the Secretariat to develop and support implementation of priority projects, including but not limited to financing and management of, marine protected areas, capacity strengthening for implementing of the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities, marine governance in the Mozambique Channel, climate change adaptation using integrated coastal management as an adaptation strategy, capacity building in public private partnership for blue carbon and oil and gas, WIO mangrove ecosystems, shark conservation and in this regard, invite partners including the Global Environment Facility to support their implementation.

Decision CP7/2: *Implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities*

1. *To urge* the Contracting Parties to ratify or accede to the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities as well as take measures to implement the instruments.
2. *To urge* the Contracting Parties to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities within the context of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities, with the support of United Nations Environment Programme and other partners.
3. *To urge* Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Secretariat to develop a project on capacity strengthening and technical assistance for the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities as well as national implementation plans in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Decision CP7/3: *Development of a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management*

1. *To agree* to negotiate a protocol on integrated coastal zone management and present an agreed text for consideration for possible adoption at the next Conference of Parties serving as the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

2. *To request the Secretariat to facilitate meetings on negotiations on the protocol on integrated coastal zone management and its Conference of Plenipotentiaries.*

Decision CP7/4: Review of the Protocol on Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora

1. *To urge Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to recognize or designate important bird areas in their respective territories as a tool for conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, and use information on birds as indicators of ecosystem health.*
2. *To request the Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners to initiate the process of reviewing and updating, the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes and report progress at the next Conference of Parties.*
3. *To request the Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners to facilitate the review of annex II of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region for consideration at the next Conference of Parties.*

Decision CP7/5: Strengthening National Reporting

To adopt the national reporting template annexed hereto and to agree to use the template to report to the Secretariat and Contracting Parties progress made in implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

Decision CP7/6: Strengthening Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Based Management, Valuation of Ecosystems Goods and Services and Assessments

1. *To urge the Contracting Parties to enhance their capacity in ecosystem based management, undertake valuations of ecosystems and in this regard, request the Secretariat to provide technical support to the Contracting Parties.*
2. *To urge Contracting Parties to apply ecosystem based management, undertake valuation of ecosystem goods and services and carry out ecosystem assessments in their efforts to manage marine and coastal resources including those with transboundary aspects.*
3. *To urge Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Secretariat to develop a project on sustainable management of mangroves forests, marine algae, coral reefs, sea grass, biodiversity conservation and associated ecosystems goods and services.*
4. *To urge all parties to support the establishment or strengthening of national and regional networks of experts including those on mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass.*

Decision CP7/7: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

1. *To urge the Contracting Parties to participate in the process of recognising and describing, within the context of Convention on Biological Diversity and in partnership with the relevant United Nations agencies, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas within their exclusive economic zones and areas beyond national jurisdiction as an approach to management of marine and coastal ecosystems.*
2. *To request the Secretariat, in partnership with the Secretariats' of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, International Maritime Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and other partners, to support Contracting Parties to participate in the process of recognising and describing ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and where feasible, establish marine protected areas.*

Decision CP7/8: Environment Management for Oil and Gas Exploration

1. *To urge Contracting Parties to take into account environmental concerns during exploration and production of oil and gas, including establishing contingency plans and mitigation measures to address negative, chronic and accidental impacts on the marine and coastal environment.*

2. *To urge* Contracting Parties in collaboration with other governments, scientific institutions, the oil and gas industry, private sector, civil society and in particular the Consortium for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in the West Indian Ocean, and other partners to facilitate the collection and sharing of information and best practices on the management of environmental impacts of oil and gas exploration and production particularly on transboundary resources.
3. *To call upon* Contracting Parties to carry out strategic environmental assessments for oil and gas exploration and production in the marine and coastal environment, and to collaborate where transboundary assessments are needed.
4. *To request* the Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners, to facilitate the development of regional guidelines addressing transboundary environmental impacts of oil and gas exploration and production for consideration at the next Conference of Parties.

Decision CP7/9: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

1. *To call upon* the Contracting Parties to take urgent adaptation and mitigation measures to address the adverse effects of climate change on marine and coastal areas.
2. *To request* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties, the West Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and other partners, to facilitate the finalization of the regional strategy on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation in the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region and report progress to the next Conference of Parties.
3. *To urge* Contracting Parties to mainstream climate change into national programmes and policies.
4. *To request* the Secretariat to develop in consultation with other partners, programmes and projects on climate change adaptation and mitigation so as to enhance ecosystem resilience, reduce vulnerability to communities and ecosystems, and enhance the adaptive capacity of affected communities and ecosystems.
5. *To urge* Contracting Parties to develop a project on integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies for implementation of integrated coastal management programmes in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Decision CP7/10: Financing and Management of Marine Protected Areas

To urge Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Secretariat to develop a project on sustainable financing and management of marine protected areas in the Western Indian Ocean.

Decision CP7/11: Marine World Heritage Sites

To encourage Contracting Parties with the support of the Secretariat the World Heritage Centre and other partners, to propose, where feasible, new marine world heritage sites and build capacity in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Decision CP7/12: Conservation of Sharks

1. *To call for* regional collaboration, in consultation with the Secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Convention on Migratory Species, regional fisheries management organisations and other partners, on the conservation and management of sharks.
2. *Request* the Secretariat in collaboration with the Contracting Parties to prepare a regional status report on the state of sharks especially on matters of institutional, legal and capacity and report to the next Conference of Parties.

Decision CP7/13: Mangroves for the Future

To request the Contracting Parties to endorse the Mangroves for the Future Partnership and engage in dialogue to develop this initiative further in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Decision CP7/14: Green Economy

1. *To urge* the Contracting Parties to develop and implement green economy policies in accordance with national sustainable development plans, strategies and priorities taking into consideration the contribution of the natural blue capital.
2. *To request* the Contracting Parties to share information on best practices on green economy strategies, tools and methodologies that relate to marine and coastal resources.
3. *To request* the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties and support of partners, to conduct a study on green economy tools and methodologies applicable for the Western Indian Ocean region, subject to availability of resources.

Decision CP7/15: *Contribution to the United Nations Regular Process*

1. *To agree* to support and actively contribute to the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, Including Socio-economic Aspects by nominating national experts or institutions to be part of the Pool of Experts and by providing the necessary information for the process and the assessment of marine environment.
2. *To request* the Secretariat to facilitate the holding of regional meetings of experts for the purpose of exchanging and consolidating information in accordance with Article 18 (2) of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region with the aim of preparing the state of the coast reports that will contribute to the United Nations Regular Process.

Decision CP7/16: *Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge*

1. *To request* Contracting Parties and other partners to support and encourage participation in the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge as a means to mobilise political will and resources necessary to achieve the objectives of the Challenge and its strategic work.
2. *To request* the Secretariat and invite the Indian Ocean Commission and other partners to continue supporting the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge through their respective work programmes.

Decision CP7/17: *Science to Policy Engagements*

To request the Secretariat to hold and encourage partners to support regular science to policy dialogues to provide continuous interaction between the scientists, civil society, private sector, policy and decision makers.

Decision CP7/18: *Support to the Federal Republic of Somalia on Management of Coastal and Marine Environment*

To request the Secretariat and partners to facilitate development and implementation of programmes and projects in support of Somalia's effort to improve management of marine and coastal environment.

Decision CP7/19: *Strengthening the Operational Functioning of the Secretariat*

1. *To request* the United Nations Environment Programme to undertake a comprehensive functional review of the Secretariat in order to guide Contracting Parties on potential additional support to the Secretariat for consideration at the next Conference of the Parties.
2. *To agree* on the need to second national staff to serve in the Secretariat for the implementation of the work programme and request the Secretariat to provide information to Contracting Parties on specific staffing needs for the work programme.
3. *To request* the Secretariat to circulate in all official languages, at least six weeks prior to the session of the Conference of Parties, appropriate documentation for that session

Decision CP7/20: *Financial matters*

1. *To commend* the Contracting Parties who have made their contributions to the Trust Fund and urge Contracting Parties to make their contributions promptly.
2. *To mandate* the Secretariat to invoice Contracting Parties annually for the current year's contributions.

3. To mandate the Secretariat to negotiate with the Contracting Parties on agreeable terms and schedule the payment of arrears either in full, by installment or in kind to the Trust Fund and report to the next Conference of the Parties.
4. *To urge* Contracting Parties to enhance their contributions to the Trust Fund by providing additional voluntary contributions in cash or kind in order to stimulate implementation of the work programme.
5. *To approve* the financial report for the biennial 2010-2012, the budget for 2013-2017 and staffing structure of the Secretariat.
6. *To agree* to establish a reserve fund for the sustainability of the Nairobi Convention and request the Secretariat to work with other governments and partners in the mobilisation of funds and report at the next Conference of the Parties.
7. *To agree* that the reserve fund shall consist of (a) funds from the Trust Fund as shall be determined from time to time by the Conference of Parties, (b) such other funds as may be received from partners and other sources with the approval of the Bureau and specifically designated for the reserve fund.
8. *To request* the Secretariat to present at each Conference of the Parties a detailed report on the utilisation of the funds, work outputs and outcomes for the reporting period distinguishing activities undertaken in projects, the Trust Fund and other funds.