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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 Fourth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP4)

Annex II

Decisions of the meeting of the heads of delegation

The Contracting Parties

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

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

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

Acknowledging with appreciation the major role of the United Nations and other international organizations, such as Coastal Resources Centre-University of Rhode Island (CRC-URI), the Coastal Zone Management Centre, the Netherlands (CZMC), the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) (UNESCO), and non-governmental organizations, such as Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), the Indian Ocean Commission, the Secretariat for Eastern African Coastal Area Management (SEACAM) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Nairobi Convention,

Taking note of activities underway through the International Coral Reef Initiative (including the International Coral Reef Action Network) and other major coral reef projects and the recommendations of the ICRI regional workshop for the Indian Ocean held in Maputo from 26 to 28 November 2001, aimed at ensuring effective management of these fragile ecosystems,

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

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

Also recognizing that the ecoregion conservation approach offers an appropriate mechanism for the management of large-scale ecosystems and also provides a platform for bringing together stakeholders to set conservation strategies and mobilize resources,

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

Recalling articles 4 and 6 of the Convention relating to species of wild fauna requiring special protection and the protection of migratory species as listed in annexes II and IV of the Protocol concerning protected areas and wild fauna and flora in the Eastern African region,

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

Acknowledging the contribution to the African process through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Medium Sized Project for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, to the implementation of the objectives and work plan of the Nairobi Convention and appreciating the work of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of (IOC) (UNESCO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in facilitating this project,

Also recalling decisions CP 1/4, and CP 2/1 of the first and second meetings of the Contracting Parties authorizing the review, updating and restructuring of the Convention and its protocols to reflect development in international environmental law and emerging issues subsequent to adoption of the Nairobi Convention,

Appreciating the efforts of the Contracting Parties in developing strategic action plans in response to the decision of second meeting of the Contracting Parties (CP.2/5), which calls upon the secretariat of the Nairobi Convention to discuss with the Global Environment Facility secretariat and other sources the possibility of developing comprehensive portfolios of project activities for the Nairobi Convention.

CP 3/1 New biennial work programme (2002-2003)

Approve the proposed work programme prepared by the Ad Hoc Legal and Technical Working Group at its second meeting, held in October 2001 (UNEP(DEC) EAF/CP.3/6), the components of which focus on assessment, management, coordination and legal aspects, and cross-cutting issues,

Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support implementation of the work programme and continue collaborating with other institutions and partners within the region to ensure cooperation in implementation of the work programme and the exchange of views on the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment, in order to avoid duplication of effort,

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

Also request the regional and national institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are partners of the Nairobi Convention to implement activities that are complementary to or in support of the work programme in coordination with the secretariat of the Convention.

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

Urge all Parties to the Nairobi Convention:

(a) To consider joining the International Coral Reef Initiative, to establish national bodies to coordinate coral reef activities within each country and to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies where appropriate;

(b) To implement relevant recommendations of the ICRI Indian Ocean Regional Workshop, held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 26 to 28 November 2001.

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

Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To establish a coral reef task force to coordinate work on coral reefs throughout the region, including development of a regional action plan with particular reference to the work programme of the Nairobi Convention and to initiatives and projects being implemented within the region;

(b) To collaborate with regional bodies such as the Indian Ocean Commission to ensure that skills, expertise and monitoring methodologies developed by the Contracting Parties are shared across the region;

Also request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop regional guidelines within the framework of integrated coastal management for the prevention and mitigation of shoreline changes,

Recommend that the Contracting Parties develop legislation and plans for the prevention and mitigation of shoreline erosion,

Further request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To follow up on the offer of Reunion (France) to host a consultative workshop on shoreline changes in Reunion;

(b) To seek relevant partnerships, including consultations with donors, such as the Netherlands and others, and relevant organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO), to provide technical and financial support for activities under the shoreline changes component of the work programme.

CP 3/4. Protection of endangered species

Also recommend that the Contracting Parties take action to conserve sea turtles in the Convention area, including joining the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and participate in activities under the memorandum of understanding on conservation and management of sea turtles in the Indian Ocean,

Reaffirm the need to maintain the status of the Indian Ocean as a sanctuary for the protection of endangered marine mammals in the region and call for the renewal of the Indian Ocean Sanctuary created in 1979,

Also request regional and international organizations to facilitate the development of a regional initiative to protect the dugong, involving all the countries of the region.

CP 3/5. Other management measures

Urge all Contracting Parties:

(a) To participate actively in implementation of the Global Programme of Action strategic action plan on sewage for the Eastern African region and other relevant activities aimed at the reduction of pollution of the marine environment from land-based activities;

(b) To implement the Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity and monitor and evaluate progress made in managing marine and coastal resources of the region;

Also request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support various regional initiatives aimed at developing and implementing capacity-building programmes in the area for socio-economic research and assessment.

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

Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To expedite the process of revision of the Convention and its protocols as well as the development of a new protocol on land-based activities;

(b) To carry out consultations with the Contracting Parties on legal and coordination issues in the work programme back-to-back with regional and global meetings on the environment, in view of financial and time constraints.

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

Decide to establish a forum of the focal points of the Nairobi Convention to review implementation of this work programme and urge the secretariat to develop and submit to the fourth meeting of the Contracting Parties the terms of reference for the subsequent functioning of that forum,

Also request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop procedures for the establishment of regional activity centres in specific priority areas, and to note the offer of SEACAM to act as a regional activity centre for the Convention,

CP 3/8. Partnerships

Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To further develop and implement joint activities with international and regional organizations and other partners to implement the objectives and work programme of the Convention;

(b) To ensure further that effective implementation of joint programming and processes of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions;

(c) To invite to meetings of the Contracting Parties the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, the European Commission and other bilateral and multilateral agencies with a potential to become partners.

CP 3/9. Project development

Endorse the African process through the GEF Medium-sized Project on Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and, in this regard, call upon the six participating countries from the Eastern African Region to facilitate development of the second phase of the project, and upon the other two countries not yet involved to make proposals for the partnership conference,

Equally endorse the efforts being undertaken by the secretariat to revive and update the Global Environment Facility PDF/B project on preparation of a transboundary diagnostic analysis and strategic action programme for the Western Indian Ocean with special focus on land-based activities,

Call upon the Contracting Parties to participate in and facilitate the development of these projects in coordination with the secretariat of the Convention,

Request all Contracting Parties to inform the secretariat about all other relevant projects to enhance coordination and information exchange.

CP 3/10. Financial matters

Urge all Contracting Parties to fulfill their financial obligations towards the Convention in meeting their current and outstanding pledges to the Trust Fund in order to stimulate implementation of the work programme,

Request the Vice-Chair responsible for resource mobilization to call periodically on Contracting Parties and undertake missions to member states to remind and encourage the relevant national authorities and institutions to make timely payments of their annual and outstanding pledges to the Trust Fund of the Convention,

Approve the financial report for 2000-2001 and the budget for the biennial work programme (2002-2003).