

Progress Report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 - 2020



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Guidance: Please provide any updates since the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (GMRS) held on 30 September - 1 October 2016 up to date

I. Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 -2020 since 2017 up to date

1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG target 14.1.

No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action / project	Results	Delivery date
1.1	Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment through development of guidelines, toolkits indicators, and ecosystems monitoring, as well as identification of region-specific emerging issues through research	The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (sustainable 'data shop')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse as a sustainable 'data shop', providing accurate and relevant data and information for improved management and protection of the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region. Updated Website including Country articles, Newsletters and News Roundup; Regional knowledge management undertaken effectively; Existing information on critical habitats, water quality, and environmental flows integrated into the existing Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism; Informative policy briefs developed based on existing information Regional communications strategy developed and implemented; and awareness of target groups raised 	2017 – 2020
		World's Ocean Day on 8 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminated information on major issues facing the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and how the Contracting Parties are working to sustainably protect, manage and use their marine and coastal resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several narratives from partner institutions outlining progress, challenges, and recommendations were shared on the day from CORDIO, Birdlife International, Jomo Kenyatta University, World Wide Fund for Nature, University of Nairobi, Indian Ocean Commission, Wildlife Conservation Society, and The Nature Conservancy. The online campaign increased audience engagement by 76%. 	2019
		Developing the environmental guidelines and toolkits related to the project on 'Implementing the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WIOSAP project, executed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, developed a number of guidelines (in May 2019) for implementation of related on-the-ground initiatives for healthy marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seagrass ecosystem restoration guidelines in response to incidents of seagrass degradation and loss 	2019



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		Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources – (WIOSAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mangroves ecosystem restoration guidelines ○ Guidelines on methodologies for the valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems ○ Climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit for near-shore marine socio-ecological system in the Western Indian Ocean ○ Guidelines on Environmental Flows Assessments in the context of coastal and marine socio-ecological systems, and the land-sea socio-ecological dynamics. 	
		Nairobi Convention Western Indian Ocean Regional Outlook on Marine Protected Areas; Regional Critical Habitats Outlook	The Nairobi Convention has developed the Western Indian Ocean Regional Outlook on Marine Protected Areas. The Marine Protected Areas Outlook provides regional baselines on protected areas in response to the call under SDG target 14.5 to conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020. A regional Critical Habitats Outlook will be launched in 2020, addressing SDG target 14.2 on sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems	2019, 2020
		Regional stocktaking on oceanographic data and scientific research in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region	As part of Nairobi Convention’s SAPPHIRE project (implemented by UNDP and executed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat), the project held a series of partnership workshops on oceanographic data and scientific research in 2019 . National data centres, scientists, policy makers, and partners identified priorities of countries in using, managing and owning their coastal and marine data findings. The stakeholders agreed on mechanisms and partnerships to improve data collection, sharing, and archiving. The SAPPHIRE project has initiated an ambitious process to revise the national status of marine environment diagnostic analyses (MEDA) reports that are necessary to inform policy and decision making within National Action Plans (NAP). NAPs are the mechanism through which transboundary policy reform can be operationalized and realized in national policy harmonization or change.	2019
1.2	Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues and facilitate science-policy interactions emphasizing socio-economic impacts and promoting	Developing a regional strategy or action plan or both on the management of marine litter in the Western Indian Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of the Western Indian Ocean action plan on marine litter and microplastics in 2018 followed the 2018 Nairobi Convention Decision CP.9/3 on ‘<i>Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean</i>’, the Convention’s LBSA protocol and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions 1/6 of 2014 and 2/11 of 2016 on “Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics”. The Regional Action Plan supports achievement of SDG target 14.1 on prevention and reduction of marine pollution, of all kinds. ● The plan has 5 action areas: 	2018-2020



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	relevant practices, tools, technologies and measures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Institutional Action: Establish a regional forum to coordinate stakeholder participation in marine litter management in the form of a WIO Marine Litter Working Group. The working group held its first meeting in June 2019. ○ Policy and Legal Action: Review, evaluate and compare, strengthen and/or enact new jurisdictional measures to address marine litter ○ Operational Actions: e.g. improve port reception facilities to effectively manage ship-generated waste; eliminate, change or adapt products for environmental benefits, maintain zero pellet loss or prohibit pellet loss, identify probable 'hotspots' of land and sea-based sources for plastic and microplastics; maintain clean environmental compartments ○ Education and Outreach Actions: Promote the 3 Rs (Reduction, Re-use and Recycling); encourage product labelling; establish a Clearinghouse Mechanism on effective strategies and practices for waste management ○ Monitoring, Research and Reporting Actions: Design standard methodologies for studying, monitoring and reporting on marine litter and microplastics for the WIO region including its sources, types and impacts; update baseline data on marine litter and microplastics in the WIO region; promote research on alternative biodegradable materials ○ Capacity Development Actions: Develop human capacity and infrastructure ○ Country Enabling Actions: e.g. manage human behaviour on marine litter. The activities will be demonstrated in 2019-2020 in Madagascar and South Africa. 	
		Management critical habitats, marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Nairobi Convention's WIOSAP project will be implementing several demonstration projects in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries to address land-based sources of marine pollution. At least 10 of these on-the-ground projects have been approved by the Project Steering Committee for implementation in Seychelles, Mauritius, South Africa, Madagascar and Kenya: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Management of critical habitats</u> ○ KENYA: Towards integrated spatial planning for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in Kilifi County, Kenya ○ KENYA: Enhancing stakeholder capacity on use of ICZM as a tool for conservation of the coastal and marine environment through a demo ICZM Project in Malindi –Sabaki Estuary Area 	2019 - 2021



No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action / project	Results	Delivery date
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MAURITIUS: Habitat restoration and attraction of seabirds to Ile aux Aigrettes ○ MAURITIUS: Coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius ○ MAURITIUS: Vulnerability assessment of blue carbon ecosystem (Seagrass) around the island of Mauritius ○ SEYCHELLES: Community-based ecological coastal rehabilitation using an ecosystem approach in Praslin, Seychelles Management of water quality entering the marine environment ○ KENYA: Improving Mtwapa Creek water quality by use of constructed wetland technology for wastewater treatment model in Shimo la Tewa Prison ○ MADAGASCAR: Strengthening regulatory framework and national capacity for monitoring effluent discharges, water, and sediments quality in coastal and marine areas of Madagascar ○ SEYCHELLES: Improving Water Quality by use of Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment at a Farm in Mahé Island, Seychelles ○ SOUTH AFRICA: Improvement of ecosystem health and water quality by implementing a Source to Sea based approach to tackle marine litter in five priority river systems in Durban, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa 	
		<p>Environmental management for oil and gas development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early in 2017, and through support from the WIOSAP project, the Nairobi Convention developed a regional oil and gas capacity building programme in the Western Indian Ocean, a need made clear from the several offshore oil and gas activities and infrastructure currently underway in the region. The programme focuses on the sharing of environmental standards and regional guidelines for oil and gas exploration and exploitation, as well as on identifying common issues and key actions needed to strengthen governance in the oil and gas sector for effective mitigation of environmental impacts. ● The Nairobi Convention, in collaboration with the Government of Norway, organized a regional workshop on Managing Environmental Emergencies in the Oil and Gas industry in the Western Indian Ocean in October 2017. The workshop acted as a preparatory session to lay the groundwork for environmental management for oil and gas development in the Western Indian Ocean region, with the aim of generating policy, business and civil society actions that will contribute towards the sustainable management of the oil and gas resources in the Western Indian Ocean. 	<p>2017-2019</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2018, the Nairobi Convention organised a regional training on oil pollution shoreline clean-up assessment and response, in collaboration with UN Environment Post Conflict and Disaster Management, Geneva; Oil for Development programme, Norway; the International Maritime Organisation and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited. The training focused on assessment and response to incidents where oil reaches the shoreline – providing an understanding of how oil affects the local environment, the different vulnerabilities present in the region and how to prioritize response actions. • A subsequent regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), will be held in November 2019. The workshop will bring together governments and focal points responsible for oil spill preparedness and response issues to promote the implementation of the IMO International Convention and the Protocol adopted in 2000 on oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation to pollution incidents by hazardous and noxious substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol). The workshop will conclude a regional mutual assistance agreement for cooperation and response during a spill incident and will develop a regional plan to implement the agreement in the Western Indian Ocean region. The meeting further plans to address the issue of the establishment of a regional centre for spill preparedness and response. 	
		Establishment of a Platform for Science to Policy Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairobi Convention organized the Western Indian Ocean regional science to policy workshop in May 2019. The meeting sought to establish and operationalize the Science to Policy Platform as a core structure within the Nairobi Convention. The proposed Scientific Technical and Advisory Panel (STAP) was mainstreamed into the Science to Policy Platform whose membership was expanded to include other sectors and experts such as river basin management experts and social scientists. • In July 2018, the Convention had organised a Science to Policy meeting, which provided concrete policy recommendation to the decisions of the ninth Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties (August 2018) on marine litter, amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora, and on development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks. Other policy and science gaps identified ranged from the contribution of critical habitats to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), sustainable ports development, innovative approaches to dealing 	2017 - 2019



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			<p>with land-based pollution, threats from ocean acidification, building partnership for coastal cities, to anthropogenic underwater noise pollution in the marine environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Science to Policy Platform was defined in a meeting held in October 2016 as a “A multi-stakeholder platform comprising of representatives of formal and informal knowledge generating institutions, practitioners, policy makers, communities and the private sector within the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region which serves as an intermediary body to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practice. The terms of reference, membership, operating principles and deliverables of the platform were also identified. The platform will continue to deliver assessment tools and guidelines, assessment reports, synthesis reports and their summaries for policymakers, technical papers and policy recommendations for decision making. 	
1.3	Raise issues at global level and facilitate regionalization of outcomes of the GPA IGR4 and mandated global partnerships	Demonstration of new approaches of managing the use of coastal and marine ecosystems	A two-day regional training workshop on the LBSA Protocol of the Nairobi Convention was held in December 2018. Organized in collaboration with the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (GPA), the workshop highlighted global, regional and national interventions in combating land-based sources and activities in the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region and the challenges in combating pollution of receiving waters. Monitoring tools developed by the GPA for managing marine pollution, including the Technology Matrix for Wastewater; the Nutrient Management Toolbox; and the Ecosystem health score card were made available to the countries and practitioners for possible adoption to support interventions and to promote shared learning across the region. Updates on efforts leading to the ratification of the LBSA Protocol were received from each country. Countries in the region are at different stages of implementation of interventions of the LBSA Protocol and this provides an opportunity for promoting shared learning and for addressing national challenges. The meeting targeted regional experts and policy makers. The workshop also validated the regional action plan on Marine Litter.	2018
		Establish cooperation with partners to establish a marine litter regional technical working group in the	The Nairobi Convention Secretariat, WIOMSA and other partners set up a Group of Experts on Marine Litter and Microplastics, which met for the first time in June 2019. The meeting approved the Terms of Reference and agreed on the mode of operation; established the group’s leadership and produced a list of planned and on-going initiatives on marine litter and microplastics; priority actions and a draft three-year workplan. The Group will provide a forum for sharing and exchange of information, policy guidance and advice to the Nairobi	2019-2020



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		Western Indian Ocean region	Convention and other regional frameworks. Additionally, the Group will synthesize information on marine litter from different sources and peer-review marine litter related publication and reports.	
		Banning some types of plastics entering the marine environment	Notable progress has been achieved in several Western Indian Ocean countries that have adopted policy measures in response to the marine plastics menace. Decrees banning plastics (specifically, single use bags, light-weight plastics and plastic carrier bags) have been declared in Mozambique (2016), Mauritius (2016), Kenya (2017), Seychelles (2017), and Tanzania (2019). Madagascar and South Africa declared bans or taxes before 2016.	2017 - 2018

2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.

No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
2.1	Support mainstreaming of climate change into regional and national policies and institutional frameworks	Implement the regional programmes on the transition to resilient blue economy pathways in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation	After bringing attention to climate change issues on coastal and marine environment and developing the regional climate change strategy in 2015, the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention, by Decision CP.9/9 of 2018 on climate change adaptation and mitigation, has a raft of measures. The decision urges Contracting Parties to support the Climate Change Strategy, to address the impact of ocean acidification, to consider undertaking climate change vulnerability assessments of their urban coastal areas, and to establish contingency emergency framework plans for disaster risk management. Further, the decision calls for development of programmes and projects on the resilient blue economy and blue growth in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation.	2019 - 2020



No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
		Developing programmes and projects on the resilient blue economy and blue growth in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation to support implementation of the Climate Change Strategy	A collaborative partnership project to promote responsible ocean governance and fisheries management for sustainable blue growth in the Western Indian Ocean region (Decision CP.9/7(f) of 2018) was funded in 2018 and seeks to build resilience against climate change, increase resilience to climate change pressures and the adverse effects of climate change on fisheries. Regional and national capacity on adaptation to climate variability and change will be enhanced for the coastal fishing communities. The project will support a review of a Western Indian Ocean specific adaptation technology needs, based on existing science and national plans and with a focus on the needs of youth, women and men within artisanal fishing communities, including mapping of risks and possible responses to extreme climatic events.	2018-2020
		Addressing impacts of ocean acidification, including through the development of capacities and enhancement of scientific cooperation in partnership with research and academic institutions, regional monitoring and adaptation actions;	In October 2017, the Nairobi Convention, in collaboration with WIOMSA, Future Earth Coasts, Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), IAEA Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre (OA-ICC), IOC-UNESCO, and NOAA Ocean Acidification Program held a two-day workshop on Ocean Acidification (OA) on developing regional capacity for ocean observations in support of SDG target 14.3. Marine scientists planning to conduct or already conducting ocean acidification observations in the WIO, local policymakers (ideally government funding agencies), other stakeholders (aquaculturists, fishers, conservationists, marine resource managers etc.) attended the workshop. The workshop addressed the latest research findings, possible socio-economic impacts and potential solutions arising from OA, data needs, technical capacity transfer and collaboration within the region. A white paper on ocean acidification for the WIO was developed by key research institutions in the region.	2019
2.2	Assess the impacts of climate change and the resilience of people, society and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas to propose adaptation strategies	Developing funding proposal to address in the Western Indian Ocean region.	The Nairobi Convention is developing a climate change project for funding on “ <i>Transition to a Resilient Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean Region</i> ”. The project’s aim is to increase the adaptive capacity of governments and communities in the WIO to address the impacts of climate change through a blue economy framework approach. The project is a direct result of high-level guidance provided by the member countries through the development and adoption of the Nairobi Convention’s Climate Change Strategy, which expresses a common vision for adaptation in the WIO region. The project also builds on lessons learned from pilot projects undertaken in the past, whose successes now need to be implemented at scale to enable region-wide adaptation. In terms of climate change vulnerability, WIO countries are	2022



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			generally classified as highly vulnerable, thus making the proposed project critical and of high priority to governments.	
2.3	Create or support climate research, policy networks and inter-regional knowledge exchange towards a better understanding of climate impacts on the marine and coastal environment	WIOSAP project on development of tools and guidelines for vulnerability assessment to climate change	The Nairobi Convention, in collaboration with the IUCN and WIOMSA, will be organizing the Western Indian Ocean Regional Ocean Acidification workshop in October 2019. The invited participants are the regional scientists, representatives from sectors likely to be affected by Ocean acidification, leaders in environmental protection and management agencies, and representatives from national and regional NGOs. The Workshop builds on the outcomes of the October 2017 Acidification workshop on developing regional capacity for ocean observations in support of SDG target 14.3. The workshop will take stock of current regional knowledge and actions on ocean acidification and develop a regional Action Plan for the WIO region that will guide how the region will respond to this challenge. The Plan will benefit from the recent regional action plan developed for Latin America and the Caribbean and the October 2017 White Paper for the WIO region. Additionally, the Convention’s WIOSAP project has developed a climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit for near-shore marine socio-ecological system in the Western Indian Ocean.	2021
2.4	Facilitate access to instruments for climate financing at national and regional levels	Developing funding proposal to address in the Western Indian Ocean region.	The Nairobi Convention is developing a climate change project for funding on “ <i>Transition to a Resilient Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean Region</i> ” (see 2.2 above). The project’s aim is to increase the adaptive capacity of governments and communities in the WIO to address the impacts of climate change through a blue economy framework approach. The Convention will initially seek funding from the Global Climate Fund (GCF).	2020



3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.

No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
3.1	Promote application of guidelines, rules and regulations for exploitation and exploration of living and non-living resources within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and develop such instruments, where necessary, based on the ecosystem approach	Nairobi Convention projects	Several guidelines and toolkits have been developed, a few of which are listed here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seagrass ecosystem restoration guidelines in response to incidents of seagrass degradation and loss • Mangroves ecosystem restoration guidelines • Guidelines on methodologies for the valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems • Climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit for near-shore marine socio-ecological system in the Western Indian Ocean • Guidelines on Environmental Flows Assessments in the context of coastal and marine socio-ecological systems, and the land-sea socio-ecological dynamics 	2020
			There are protocols, action plans and strategies, some of which are underway that are based on the ecosystem approach. These include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification of the LBSA Protocol • Adoption of the ICZM protocol • Amendment of the Protocol on Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora • Regional of marine litter Action Plan adoption at national level • Regional ecosystem monitoring indicators • Marine protected areas Outlook • Critical Habitats Outlook • Ocean governance strategy • Marine Spatial Planning Strategy • Management Strategy for High Seas Areas and ABNJ • Blue Economy Strategy 	2020
		Negotiations on the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) that	In March 2019, Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention finalised the negotiations on the Protocol for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), following the third round of negotiations in November 2016 and the second round in March 2016. The Protocol, which will be adopted through a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2020, aims at promoting the sustainable use of resources; conserving the integrity and value of ecosystems, and	2020



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			preventing and mitigating the effects of natural and human threats to coastal and marine environments. The protocol also provides a framework to promote regional and national ICZM and enhance cooperation for sustainable development.	
		Capacity Building on Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Indian Ocean region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) capacity building for Somali nationals is slated to be held in Seychelles in November 2019. The workshop targets high-level policy officials related to planning and management of the respective sector in Somalia. Organized by the WIOSAP project and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), the workshop seeks to promote MSP as a tool for integrated planning and development at both national and sub-national level within Somalia. The workshop is expected to lead to an enhanced understanding on the application of MSP, and the necessary policy, institutional and technical requirements for MSP adoption in Somalia. The workshop will develop a common roadmap on MSP in the country and conduct the first stock-taking exercise for river basin management of the Jubba-Shebelle region. • A regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Policy workshop held in March 2019 enabled governments and partners to identify new opportunities to accelerate the momentum in MSP implementation. The workshop identified the need for a high-level policy decision for implementation of MSP, (ii) the need for clear goals and objectives for MSP, and (iii) identifying policies that support MSP. At the institutional level, the meeting also called for the (i) establishment of an institution responsible for MSP with legal mandate and authority, (ii) the need for wholistic, effective and coordinated MSP avoiding sector-based approaches, and (iii) establishment of intersectoral committees that can serve to steer the MSP process, share information and facilitate implementation and monitoring of the process. The Workshop called on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to work with partners in the establishment of a Regional Technical Working Group on MSP to support the development of a Regional MSP Strategy. • The Nairobi Convention, in collaboration with IOC of UNESCO and WIOMSA, organized two regional training courses on marine spatial planning in September and October 2018. The training course presented the concept of Ecosystem-based Management, including its application to data, information and national needs on decision support tools, which are essential for integrated management of coastal zones. 	2018-2020



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The November 2017 MSP training for policy makers and practitioners set the stage for implementation of MSP in the region. The training was part of the activities supported by the WIOSAP project, which includes deliverables on the development of marine spatial plans and associated capacity building. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nairobi Convention laid the principles for 'Marine Spatial Planning of the Western Indian Ocean Blue Economy' in 2017. The paper recommended key actions, including (i) supporting an increasing role for the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention in defining a Blue Economy for the Western Indian Ocean; (ii) agreeing that the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are champions for establishment of MSP as a tool for the implementation of the Blue Economy; (iii) that the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention seek to embed ecosystem-based MSP within the larger context of national legislation and policies; (iv) recognizing the role of MSP alongside, and in concert with that of ICM; (v) supporting and ratifying the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol for the Nairobi Convention; and, (vi) improving regional and national integration of climate change adaptation, ICM and MSP. 	2017



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		Establish collaboration between the Nairobi Convention and relevant regional economic/trade organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting between Nairobi Convention and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in April 2019 agreed on a mechanism for collaboration. The meeting prioritized opportunities for collaboration, including (i) policy and strategy-coherence, harmonization and institutional capacity development, (ii) programmatic interventions such as natural capacity assessment and development of the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism, and (iii) programmatic interventions such as shared learning and knowledge management, harnessing scientific research for policy and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). The workshop established working relationships with Regional Economic Communities, Commissions, Fisheries bodies and regional scientific bodies in the WIO region to support and facilitate regional economic integration, promote sustainable development and governance in the member states. A recommendation from the meeting was to establish a “core group” as a way for the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities, Commissions and partners to communicate on agreed initiatives. 	2019
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was concluded with the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) in March 2019 to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration with the Nairobi Convention in areas of common concern and interest. SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention will henceforth collaborate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management of current and emerging negative environmental impacts that can affect fisheries ○ Promotion of the application of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) for the sustainable use of marine resources ○ Promotion and application of area-based management tools such as EAF, MSP, ICZM in identification and protection of vulnerable marine areas in the region ○ Adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change ○ Promotion of policy coordination between the fisheries and environment sector ○ Support States in the development, promotion and implementation of Blue Economy / Blue Growth Initiative, approaches and strategies • The Nairobi Convention expects to conclude MoUs with IOTC, SIOFA, IGAD, SADC, COMESA and EAC 	2020



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		Implementation of the 2030 Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the Contracting Parties in respect to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and within their mandates, the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties, donors, development partners, and NGOs active in the coastal and marine areas registered a voluntary commitment for implementation of SDG 14 at the Ocean Conference https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=18313. The overall aim of the partnership is to reduce marine pollution, demonstrate and enhance ocean governance and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems for a prosperous WIO in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of the strategic action programme to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems through implementation of the agreed priorities; ○ Implementation of the Western Indian Ocean strategic action programme on policy harmonization and institutional reforms towards improved ocean governance and transition to a low carbon pathway; ○ Sustainable management of shared fish resources and collaborative management of marine and coastal resources in the Northern Mozambique Channel; ○ Improved governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction to promote the blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean Region. 	2017-2020

4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.

No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
4.1	Support science-policy dialogue, science-based decisions and provision of regional guidelines	Decisions of the Ninth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairobi Convention held the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) to the Convention in August 2018. The Conference of Parties adopted fifteen decisions touching on: Ratification, accession and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities; Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean; Development of a protocol on integrated coastal zone management; Amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected 	2018



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			<p>Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region; Ocean governance; Environmental management for oil and gas development; Climate change adaptation and mitigation; Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy; Development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks; Science-policy dialogue; Enhancing cooperation, collaboration and support with partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preceding COP9 was a Science to Policy forum in July which identified policy relevant scientific themes aligned to the Nairobi Convention priorities as identified in the various Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs), the Convention’s Work-Programme and the Climate Change Strategy. The Science – Policy dialogue proposed and recommended policy decisions for the Ninth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention. In addition, policy and science gaps were identified ranging from the contribution of critical habitats to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), sustainable ports development, innovative approaches to dealing with land-based pollution, threats from ocean acidification, building partnership for coastal cities, and emerging anthropogenic underwater noise pollution in the marine environment. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several Senior Leadership Renewal workshops were held in Seychelles, Tanzania and Kenya and brought together senior leaders in relevant government ministries, including focal point ministries of the Nairobi Convention to strengthen their capacity to provide oversight to the implementation of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols and projects. The workshops focused on various leadership attributes related to the coastal and marine environment. 	2017-2018
4.2	Support member states with developing integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation to enhance chronological	Decisions of the Ninth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The September 2019 Ocean Governance workshop brings together key stakeholders in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region to achieve the specific objectives for improved ocean governance. The workshop will map ocean governance needs and priorities of the WIO region countries; discuss the message to be presented at future meetings such as the Marine Regions Forum and the 2020 Ocean Conference. The meeting will also survey mechanisms to contribute to ocean governance discussion at the Africa continent level at the African Union. The WIO ocean governance strategy will be expected from the workshop and will be aligned to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the ongoing global discussions on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ); the ocean 	2019



No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
	consistency and coherency across sectors		dimension of the Paris Agreement; the UN Decade for Ocean Science and other global ocean governance initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the July 2019 Marine Science Symposium (organized in collaboration with WIOMSA) the Nairobi Convention, together with partners, hosted a special session on Ocean Governance in the Western Indian ocean region and identified problems, priorities, and stakeholders for the development of a regional Ocean Governance Strategy. The session discussed the institutional set-up, themes, and concerns for the strategy; and began to align the strategy with other global processes. 	
4.3	Enhance information exchange and interregional cooperation towards common goals	Nairobi Convention Programme of Work 2018-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen on promoting partnerships, collaborations and information sharing, the Nairobi Convention facilitated the establishment of the network of academic and research institutions in the region to support regular science to policy dialogues and to provide continuous interaction between scientists, civil society, private sector, policy and decision makers. The Convention has developed the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM) at www.nairobiconvention.org to provide accurate and relevant data and information, improve the coordination and participation of countries in the management of their coastal and marine resources and to enable countries develop a comprehensive information base and access services to quickly provide information to decision makers. The CHM has been populated with relevant data and information, and has an associated community of practice for the many working groups and task force of the Convention. The Convention has an up to date website at www.unenvironment.org/nairobiconvention for weekly dissemination of marine and coastal news relevant to the Western Indian Ocean, for reporting on events and progress in the implementation of the Convention and its projects 	2017-2020
4.4	Encourage multi-stakeholder participation including NGOs and the private sector to promote compliance with Regional Seas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work programme for 2018–2022 maintains a momentum of strengthening and increasing the linkages between partners, programmes and projects. The highly collaborative work programme reflects the increased coordination among stakeholders working on marine and coastal issues that includes the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean, other regional non-governmental organizations and a range of national and research institutions. The Consortium partnership is designed to improve information exchange, synergy and 	2018-2020



No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
	instruments, existing guidelines and regulations of ocean management		<p>coordination between non-governmental organizations working on coastal and marine environment issues, and to move towards a joint programmatic approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case in point of stakeholder participation was the Nairobi Convention regional training for Eastern Africa Countries on oil pollution shoreline clean-up assessment and response in November 2018. The training was in collaboration with UNEP’s Post Conflict and Disaster Management, Norway’s Oil for Development programme, International Maritime Organization, and International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited. The training attracted regional governments, NGOs, researchers, private sector and academia and focused on assessment and response to incidents where oil reaches the shoreline and its effects on the marine and coastal environment. Participants were also informed on clean-up techniques appropriate for different shoreline types and how to perform shore surveys and surveillance using the Shoreline Clean up Assessment Technique (SCAT) principles. 	
4.5	Ensure the highest standards of Secretariat performance in support in administration of the Conventions and Action plan	Support for the implementation of projects and Strengthening the operational functioning of the secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairobi Convention has and continues to implement a number of projects. The GEF-funded WIOSAP project and the SAPPHIRE projects are underway. Other projects include the “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the areas beyond national jurisdiction by the FAO and UNEP”, and “The conservation and sustainable exploitation of seamount and hydrothermal vent ecosystems of the South-West Indian Ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction and collaborate by the IUCN”. Projects in the pipeline include (i) the Northern Mozambique Channel funded by the FFEM of France, the SIDA-funded “Partnership project for marine and coastal governance and fisheries management for sustainable blue growth” and the EU-funded project on “Capacity building of the Nairobi Convention framework” for regional cooperation in the protection, management and development of the region’s marine and coastal environment for sustainable socioeconomic growth and prosperity. • The Convention has recruited competent staff to support the implementation of the Convention’s projects and continues to actively engage leading experts in the region to support the implementation of the Convention. • Further, in order to optimize the coordination and delivery of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and programme of work, the Secretariat has, in consultations with 	2017-2020



No	Action by Nairobi Convention Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
			<p>Contracting Parties, established an Ad-hoc technical and legal working group, the Forum of Academic and Research Institutions, as well as the Consortium for the Conservation of the WIO Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat, through the planned joint Nairobi Convention - IMO oil spill emergency preparedness workshop in November 2019, will address the issue of the establishment of a regional centre for spill preparedness and response, an issue which continues to be raised by Member States as a priority need for the region, and seek an agreement on both the remit or mandate, as well as the likelihood of a sustained funding mechanism for the establishment of such a Centre • France has considered providing direct support to the Secretariat through the secondment of a national staff member to the Secretariat. 	

II. Challenges with the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020

- a. Lack of comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation of the behaviors of actors and the performance of institutions towards solving the problem of protecting the Western Indian Ocean coastal and marine environment.
- b. No profound evaluation and analysis existed before 2017 – 2020 Regional Seas Strategic Directions; it is therefore difficult to evaluate the direct environmental impacts of the strategic directions within Nairobi Convention;
- c. No additional resources were allocated for the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020;
- d. Lack of additional on-the-ground research hampers documenting the exact impact of the 2017 – 2020 Regional Seas Strategic Directions;
- e. While Nairobi Convention is collaborating with many existing environmental regimes in the Western Indian Ocean, most of these regimes have a specific scope of issues and countries that they address. Several gaps still exist in the implementation of policies related to coastal zone management, the protection of marine biodiversity, and the management land-based sources and activities.
- f. Progress on each strategic point is not measurable because no clear quantifiable goals have been set.

III. Lessons learnt (2017 – up to date)



- a. The Nairobi Convention cross-sectoral approaches to promote cooperation in ‘marine ecosystems’ at the regional level and in partnership with various organisations have been successful. Thus, they are good models of synergies between fisheries management and environmental management. These projects are as follows:
 - i. The Partnership project for **Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth** between Nairobi Convention and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission of UN Food and Agriculture Organisation is aimed at cooperating on fisheries management (through the SWIOFC) and on environmental protection (through the Nairobi Convention). The project’s main areas of focus will be to gain benefits from a coordinated and mutually-reinforcing intervention on both fisheries and environment conservation beyond what could be obtained by uncoordinated interventions in a singular field. The project aims to improve food security, increase resilience, and reduce poverty of poor fisheries-dependent coastal communities.
 - ii. The European Union has provided funding to the Nairobi Convention and three other Regional Seas Programmes to implement the **ACP Marine Environment Agreements Project** aimed at empowering key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and reap the benefits of improved environmental management. Key action areas include strengthening governance frameworks for the Convention and its protocols; developing a regional Marine Protected Areas network; and reducing marine litter.
 - iii. The Fonds Francais pour L’Environnement Mondial (FFEM) has provided funding for a **Project on Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel**, which aims to maintain ocean biodiversity to secure sustainable futures and livelihoods for coastal communities and economies. The project will enhance marine spatial planning applications; adopt best practices in the oil and gas sector; and develop models for community-based resource management. The Nairobi Convention will coordinate the project in partnership with the World Conservation Society, CORDIO and World Wildlife Fund – Madagascar.

IV. Any other issues / decisions / case studies / experiences to be shared

- i. **The Nairobi Convention is leveraging the strong power of national demonstration projects** in the implementation of its projects: The Convention’s GEF-funded WIOSAP project strives to reduce land-based stresses by protecting critical habitats, improving water quality, and managing river flows. To this end, the project is funding several demonstration projects in the WIO countries to address various land-based stresses. The National Implementation Committees (NICs) of the project have so far reviewed more than 50 concepts for demonstration projects. Of these, ten full proposals have been developed and approved by the WIOSAP’s Project Steering Committee (PSC), thus paving the way for actual implementation.
- ii. **The Guidelines/Toolkits developed under the WIOSAP project ensure to capture respective WIO specific case studies on how the various interventions have worked and lessons learnt;** and address needs of relevant stakeholders on the ground in terms of content and language. The utility value of the guidelines will be in their application to different contexts, not just in their production. The guidelines will be a tool to support informed decision-making for conservation.



- iii. The **Nairobi Convention MPA Outlook** outlines the progress of WIO countries towards achieving SDG 14.5, documents current formal and informal MPAs; threats and challenges to their protection and management; highlights proposed future MPAs; and provides an overview of MPA effectiveness in the WIO.
- iv. The **Science to Policy dialogue provided for the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties** provides a firm sounding board for the implementation of the Nairobi Convention and its Action Plan. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat convenes a Conference of Contracting Parties (COPs) every two years to review the implementation of the COP decisions; and to provide guidance to the Secretariat and its Bureau on Work Programme activities. In the last such conference, COP 9, Contracting Parties made decisions on priority issues that will enable the sharing of theoretical and methodological framework and tools, for managing sectoral issues across the countries of the Western Indian Ocean region;

V. Emerging issues that have not been covered in the RSSD 2017-2020 but are proposed to be covered during the next RSSD

- Weak joint monitoring of the implementation

*Please submit this report to Nancy Soi at Nancy.soi@un.org by **30 August 2019**