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**Meeting Report of the Bureau to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management  
and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean  
Region**

Mahe, Seychelles 3 November 2015

## Background

1. The Nairobi Convention holds a Conference of Contracting Parties (COP) every two years to review the implementation of decisions of past COPs. The Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP8) was held on 22-24 June 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles.
2. The Heads of Delegation to the Eighth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention elected the following members to the Bureau:

Chair	Seychelles
Vice-chair (work programme)	Kenya
Vice-chair (resource mobilization)	Republic of South Africa
Vice-chair (coordination)	Mozambique
Rapporteur	Mauritius

3. The eighth Conference of Parties adopted 15 decisions, two (2) of which mandated the Bureau to complete the following tasks before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015:
  - a) *Decision CP8/8.1, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation*, requested the Secretariat to expedite the finalization of the Climate Change strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area and circulate the draft strategy for comments by the Contracting Parties by 30 September 2015, and further urged the Contracting Parties to submit their comments by 30 November 2015 for adoption by the Bureau by 31st December 2015. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat finalized the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention Area and circulated the strategy for comment by Contracting Parties.
  - b) *Decision CP8/15.2, Financial Matters* requested the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, for approval by the Bureau, a framework of options for settlement of arrears and to further urged Contracting Parties that are in arrears to use this framework to communicate their preferred settlement plan to the Secretariat. Further, decision CP8/15.3 requested the Secretariat to prepare a status report on the progress in the settlement of arrears by the Contracting Parties every six months and present the report to the Bureau. Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat prepared a financial report on the contributions of Contracting Parties including the arrears.

4. In view of the above decisions, the Secretariat organized a Bureau meeting (CP8 BR/1) on 3 November 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles by taking advantage of meeting that was organized in the Seychelles by the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO-CC) Secretariat in collaboration with the government of the Republic of Seychelles and the Indian Ocean Commission on 4-6 November 2015.
5. The WIO-CC is a country led partnership that promotes actions for climate resilient development to achieve effective conservation of biodiversity, enhanced livelihoods and economies for greater social security among coastal communities. The WIO-CC draws its membership from the WIO countries including Comoros, France-Reunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania (including Zanzibar), which are the same countries covered by the Nairobi Convention. The aim of WIO-CC is to mobilize political, financial and technical commitment at national and regional levels by inspiring leadership and facilitating collaboration towards a shared, long-term vision.
6. The WIO-CC meeting relied on the combined efforts of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Nairobi Convention, primarily because, WIO-CC has no funds, and is supported by the Indian Ocean Commission, through projects, e.g the EU-funded Biodiversity Project, that can only cover costs for some of the countries of the WIO region. The Nairobi Convention on the other hand, covered the costs of travel and subsistence for participants from those countries that are not eligible for support from the IOC's Biodiversity project but are members of the Nairobi Convention Bureau. It is in this context that the Secretariat and IOC organized the Bureau and WIO-CC meetings in Seychelles back to back to enable all countries of the WIO to attend both the Bureau and WIO-CC meetings within manageable costs to the Convention.
7. The meeting of the Bureau was attended by: Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa. The Bureau members discussed progress in the implementation of Decision *CP8/8.1* and Decision *CP8/14.5.2*. Additionally, the Bureau guided the Secretariat in the implementation all the other decisions of the Eighth Conference of Parties leading to the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9).

## Introduction

8. Dixon Waruinge (Nairobi Convention Secretariat) welcomed the Bureau members for the meeting at 9.00 a.m. and requested the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles to open the meeting.

9. The Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change for Seychelles, H.E. Didier Dogley welcomed all the Bureau members to the meeting and stated that the Bureau would chart the way forward for implementing the decisions of COP8. The minister outlined his commitment to guide the Convention, the Bureau, and to provide leadership especially in the implementation of the blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean region. He stated that there are many ways that Contracting Parties can help make progress on particular issues, as many of the initiatives that have been proposed have analogues within countries, and matchmaking between regional initiatives and national programs can be a solution to aid the implementation of solutions and efficient use of resources. Further, he stated that issues such as climate change, sustainable development and poverty alleviation remain important in the region and will determine the level of success that Contracting Parties will achieve with the Nairobi Convention. He further stated that the Nairobi Convention has in the past served as a vehicle for knowledge sharing and focus for regional efforts that lead to real action, and it shall continue to be so. *(Speech attached as Annex 1).*

### **Proposed Implementation of the Decisions of COP8**

1. The Secretariat explained that the main purpose for the meeting was to inform the Bureau of the proposed implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP8) that was held on 22-24 June 2015 in Mahe, Seychelles. The Secretariat made a presentation and proposed to the bureau, the means for implementing each decision of the COP8, with a focus on decisions where the Secretariat had a primary role to play. It is envisaged that Contracting Parties will play a complimentary role to all other decisions to ensure the Secretariat efficiently plays its role.
2. Further the Secretariat stated that the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIO-CC) meeting on 4-6 November 2015 in the Seychelles provided an opportunity for synergy between the Nairobi Convention and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) that had offered to support countries participating in the EU-funded Biodiversity Project to attend the WIO-CC meeting. In this context, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Nairobi Convention offered to cover the cost of the countries that were not eligible for support under the IOC's EU-funded Biodiversity Project.
3. The report on Proposed Implementation of COP8 Decisions' *(marked as Annex 2)* was presented with the following highlights:

***A. CP8/1 Preparation of New Work Programme for the Nairobi Convention 2018-2022***

In decision CP8/1.1, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat in the remaining period of work programme for 2013-2017, to develop a new Work Programme for the period 2018-2022 for adoption at the Ninth Conference of Parties.

- a) The Secretariat reported that it had invited the Government of Kenya as the Vice Chair of the Work Programme to the Bureau to support the Secretariat in the development of the new work programme 2018-2022.
- b) The Secretariat proposed to develop the new work programme under the themes: ecosystem management with a focus on blue economy; environmental governance focusing on ocean governance, and assessments with a focus on climate change. Further, the Secretariat informed the meeting that the annotated outline of work programme shall be presented at Focal Points meeting in March 2016.
- c) With regard to decision CP8/1.2 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Secretariat proposed to use the SDG 14 titled ‘conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources’, as the focus through which to implement all other SDGs related to the coastal and marine environment. The Secretariat explained the need to develop a mantra for SDG 14 for the WIO by pitching on the importance of oceans in the region, and to amplify the SDG14 targets in the new work programme 2018-2022.

***B. Decision CP8/2: Ratification, Accession and Implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities***

In decision CP8/2.1, Contracting Parties that have not ratified or acceded to the Amended Nairobi Convention were urged to expedite the process of ratification or accession; and develop policies, make laws and standards as well as implement programmes in compliance with the Protocol on LBSA (CP8/2.2).

- a) The Secretariat proposed to work with at least 6 countries and to support them through the process of ratification of the LBSA Protocol by mid-2016. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that two (2) countries have ratified the LBSA Protocol and another four (4) must ratify the Protocol for the instrument to legally come into force.

### **C. Decision CP8/3: *Development of a Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management***

In decision CP8/3, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to review the current status of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners, and facilitate discussions to explore other possible options for the effective management of marine and coastal environment, and report back on the options at or before the next conference of parties.

- a) The Secretariat informed the meeting that it had consulted with the Indian Ocean Commission to organize the second negotiations meeting for the ICZM Protocol in March 2016 in Mauritius back to back with the Focal Points meeting.
- b) The Secretariat explained that the main difficulty in finalizing the draft Protocol is in reconciling the definitions, for example, the zonal approach versus the ecosystem-based management approach, including reference to issues relating to ecosystems that extend to Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). In this regard, the Secretariat stated that it shall present possible options for further development of the ICZM Protocol at the ICZM negotiations meeting in March 2016.

### **D. Decision CP8/4: *Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora Eastern African Region***

In decision CP8/4, Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Secretariat and implementing partners were requested to finalize the review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes, and report back on progress at the Ninth Conference of Parties.

- a) The Secretariat proposed that expert(s) scientist(s) be contracted to review: the Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region; the Regional Synthesis Report on the Status of Birds in the Western Indian Ocean; Annex I on Protected Species of Wild Flora; Annex II on Species of Wild Fauna Requiring Special Protection; and Annex III on Harvestable Species of Wild Fauna Requiring Special Protection of the Protocol. The expert(s) shall develop lists of species/habitats that should be included in the revised Protocol. Further, the Secretariat proposed a second review by expert(s) to update the articles of the Protocol, including new annexes.
- b) The Secretariat stated that the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region is mainly based on terrestrial habitats. Also, the annexes are species-based with no reference to habitats and ecosystems. Therefore, the updated Protocol shall include marine and coastal species and critical habitats.

- c) The Secretariat further informed the meeting that the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) through the EU-funded Biodiversity Project had indicated its willingness to support the process of updating the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora Eastern African Region with a request to include articles on Marine Invasive Species in the revised Protocol.

#### **F. Decision CP8/5: *Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050***

In decision CP8/5.1, Contracting Parties were urged to implement the Cairo Declaration of the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters and inform on progress at AMCEN sessions. Further in decision CP8/5.2, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Jeddah Convention, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to contribute to the development of an African strategy on ocean governance in the context of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063.

- a) The Secretariat reported that the ocean governance discussion began with the First Africa Oceans Governance Meeting held in Istanbul on 19 October 2015. As a follow-up to the meeting, the European Union (EU) and UNEP invited the Nairobi Convention to participate in UNEP-EU Regional Oceans Governance meeting on 9-10 November in Brussels, Belgium, where options for global oceans governance were discussed, including the possibility for organizing an Africa-wide ocean governance conference in 2016.

#### **G. Decision CP8/6: *Support to Implementation of Projects***

In decision CP8/6.1, Contracting Parties, the Global Environment Facility and other partners, as appropriate, were requested to support various projects as follows:

##### **a) Trans-boundary Protected Area between Kenya and Tanzania**

- i. The Secretariat stated that the project on the Transboundary Protected Area between Kenya and Tanzania will help to meet international obligations such as SDG 14.
- ii. Further, the Secretariat explained that the co-financing letters for the project have not been provided because of weak links between the technical level (proponents of the project), and the leadership responsible for Global Environment Facility (GEF)

matters in the two countries. In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania has a new government and it may take a while for the new structures to be created.

**b) Northern Mozambique Channel**

- i. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that WWF, has developed a draft Project Identification Document (PIF) but the PIF is yet to be finalized and shared with both participating countries and Contracting Parties (at a regional scale) before submission for funding to the GEF 6. The Secretariat pointed out that the window of opportunity is quickly closing. In the event that the PIF is not developed by March 2016, external help may be sought, including from the Bureau, as the project has potential to benefit all the countries of the region including those that are not listed as beneficiaries/participating countries.
- ii. The Secretariat informed the meeting that WWF shall present the PIF at the Focal Points meeting in March 2016.

**c) Strategic Action Plan for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-SAP)**

The Secretariat stated that the WIO-SAP project document was submitted to GEF for 12 Million USD and shall be executed by Nairobi Convention in partnership with the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C).

**d) Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas beyond National Jurisdiction**

The Secretariat informed the meeting that the first meeting of the Steering Committee shall be held on 15-16 December 2015 in Rome, Italy. It is envisaged that the Steering Committee will recommend linkages between activities under the APNI project with other workshops on area

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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