



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



Distr.: General
12 August 2016

Original: English

**Scoping Meeting on Collaboration between
Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies
In Southwest Indian Ocean**
Mahé, Seychelles, 13-14 June 2016

Report of the meeting

SCOPING MEETING ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REGIONAL SEAS BODY AND REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES IN THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN

**Mahé, Seychelles
13 – 14 June 2016**

SUMMARY RECORD

1. The Scoping Meeting on collaboration between the Regional Seas Body and Regional Fisheries Bodies in the South West Indian Ocean was held in Mahé, Seychelles from 13 to 14 June 2016. The participants comprised representatives from Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, representatives from the secretariats of the Nairobi Convention (NBC), South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO Secretariat. The list of participants is appended as **Attachment A**. The meeting documents were circulated prior to the meeting through the meeting website¹. All the sessions were conducted in English.

Agenda Item 1: OPENING

1.1 Opening of Meeting

2. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr Alain Decommarmond, the Principal Secretary for Environment of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Energy, Government of Seychelles. The meeting agreed on the agenda appended as **Attachment B**.

3. UNEP explained that within the framework of the cooperation between UNEP and FAO, an initial informal scoping meeting between the secretariats of Nairobi Convention, SWIOFC and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) was organised on 14 March 2016 in order to discuss possible areas for cooperation. The FAO and UNEP secretariats further informed the meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between them concluded in 2014. The Memorandum identifies strategic priorities, namely: i) sustainable food systems, ii) ecosystem services and biodiversity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, iii) data and statistics, and iv) international legal systems, legislation and regulatory matters. A strategic priorities plan elaborates on how each priority may be operationalised.

2: SETTING THE CONTEXT

2.1 SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets

4. The FAO secretariat delivered a presentation on the SDG14 and the relevant Aichi Targets (in particular Targets 6 and 11). SDG14 aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The targets relevant to the cooperation initiative include, but is not limited to, target 14.2 to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, and target 14.4 to regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans. Aichi target 6 relates to fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants managed and harvested sustainably while target 7 is on improving the status of

1

<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/Meetings/CollaborationbetweenRSandRFBinSWIO/tabid/1061071/Default.aspx>

biodiversity and safeguarding the ecosystems of terrestrial and inland waters, and coastal and marine areas.

5. In the discussion, it was suggested that there needs to be some consideration of the role of RFBs and RSOs in the implementation of SDG14, as well as the linkages between SDG14 and other SDGs.

2.2 Ecosystem approach

6. The FAO secretariat informed the workshop on the ecosystem approach to fisheries and how such approach is being applied in fisheries management. In the discussions, participants referred to the Ecosystem Based Management, linkages with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and possible areas for capacity building and information exchange.

2.3 Overview of RFBs

7. The FAO secretariat provided an overview of RFBs in the South West Indian Ocean. The presentation highlighted the differences in the legal mandate and competencies between advisory bodies and management bodies, their geographical and species coverage, as well as their role in monitoring. Institutional arrangements within regional fisheries bodies was illustrated. Matters raised during the discussion include: accessibility of RFB reports and documents, the mandate and geographical area of coverage of RFBs, and processes for decision making by RFBs.

2.4 Overview of Regional Seas Programme

8. The UNEP secretariat delivered a presentation on the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, of which seven regional conventions are administered by UNEP. A few examples of cooperation between the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and RFBs such as in the North East Atlantic, Mediterranean and ROPME Sea Area were described. The resolution on oceans and seas adopted at the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in May 2016 (UNEA-2)² was highlighted as the resolution specifically calls for UN Member States and Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to work in cooperation with relevant organisations including RFBs for the implementation of and reporting on the ocean-related SDGs.

2.5 Nairobi Convention

9. The NBC secretariat made a presentation, informing the meeting that the Nairobi Convention is a legal framework for regional collaboration and a platform for Governments to commit to protect, manage and develop the WIO region, with a mechanism to review progress every two years. The Conventions programmes at the national or regional level are country driven initiatives that are executed through national and regional partnerships by involving: governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, United Nations Agencies as well as national, regional, international institutions. The Secretariat also highlighted the national development pressures along the coast and

² Paragraph 5 of Resolution on Oceans and Seas of UNEA-2 states “Invites Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and fora, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;”

at sea, including climate change threats, that are impacting on the regions' biodiversity. Further, the Secretariat informed the meeting of planned and on-going activities that can be the basis for cooperation between SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, namely; a) Project entitled Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-SAP); and b) Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms" (SAPPHIRE). The two projects offer an opportunity and a basis for cooperation especially under components dealing with capacity development for improved ocean governance in the WIO; and supporting policy harmonization and management reforms towards improved ocean governance and improving regional collaboration to strengthening governance and awareness in the WIO region.

2.6 SWIOFC

10. The SWIOFC secretariat delivered a presentation on its institutional framework including the role of its governing body and subsidiary bodies. SWIOFC is an advisory FAO fisheries commission consisting of 12 coastal state countries adjacent to the southwest Indian Ocean extending from South Africa to the Maldives. Its objective is to promote the sustainable utilisation of living marine resources by addressing common problems of fisheries management and development faced by its members within their Exclusive Economic Zones. SWIOFC provides a high level forum for member countries to cooperatively decide on regional fisheries policy, fisheries management and fisheries research. Its structure is typical of regional fisheries bodies with specialist workshops, working groups and working parties feeding scientific and management advice into a Scientific Committee, and Commission sessions for member consideration and voluntary adoption. The Secretariat informed of ongoing and planned activities including improvement in the collection of fisheries statistics, regular monitoring of the status of stocks, monitoring of the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fishing, empowerment of coastal states in their discussions on tuna fisheries development, and the development of a protocol on minimum conditions for fishing access in member EEZs, among others. The Secretariat of the Commission is now hosted in Maputo by the Government of Mozambique.

2.7 Experiences in other regions

11. The Deputy Secretary of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) delivered a presentation on the collective arrangement with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) for working together on particular areas outside national jurisdiction within their convention areas.

3: VISIONING THE COOPERATION

12. The UNEP secretariat provided the meeting with the possible ideas for cooperation identified by the Nairobi Convention, SWIOFC secretariat and IOTC secretariat during their informal discussion on 14 March 2016, as well as the outcomes of the Abidjan Scoping Meeting for Securing the Foundation for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean in West, Central and Southern Africa, held in July 2014 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

4: LAYING THE GROUND FOR COOPERATION

13. The meeting reemphasized the different mandates and competencies of the respective organisations and discussed areas of common interest and possible areas for cooperation. Principles for cooperation were also considered.

5: AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST AND POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION

14. The possible objectives and principles of cooperation, as well as areas of common interest and possible areas of cooperation identified by the participants are appended as **Attachment C**. The proposed timeline for the follow up actions is included as **Attachment D**.

15. It is understood that the possible framework and content of cooperation is to be presented by the respective organisations to their governing bodies for consideration. The views expressed are those of the participants to this scoping meeting and do not necessarily represent the views of the respective organisations or its Members.

16. UNEP informed the participants of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be organised by the secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity from 26-29 September 2016 in Seoul, Korea.

6: CONCLUSION OF MEETING

17. The Chair provided an opportunity for the SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention secretariats for comments before making final remarks. The meeting was concluded at 1300 hours.

ATTACHMENT A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1	Seychelles Mr. Alain de Comarmond Principal Secretary Environment Department Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Republic of Seychelles	2	Kenya Prof. Geoffrey Wahungu Director General and Nairobi Convention Focal Point National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
3	Kenya Prof. Micheni Ntiba Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Nairobi, Kenya	4	Maldives Mr. Hussain Sinan Vice-Chairperson of the SWIOFC Director Fisheries Management Agency Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture Velaanaage, 7th Floor, Ameer Ahmed Magu Male - 20096
5	Madagascar Mr. Tantely Andriamaharo Ny Aina Ministry of Marine Resources and Fisheries Antananarivo, Madagascar	6	Nairobi Convention Secretariat Mr. Dixon G Waruinge Head Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention Division of Environmental Policy Implementation United Nations Environment Programme P O Box 30552 (00100) Nairobi
7	SWIOFC Secretariat Mr. Aubrey Harris Senior Fisheries Officer South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission FAO Sub regional Office for Southern and East Africa Maputo, Mozambique	8	SWIOFC Secretariat Mr. Pedro Barros Fishery Resources Officer Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF) UN Food and Agriculture Organization
9	FAO Mr. Pio Manoa Legal Office UN Food and Agriculture Organization	10	UNEP Ms. Kanako Hasegawa Associated Programme Officer UNEP Regional Seas Programme
11	Remote presentation OSPAR Commission Ms. Emily Corcoran Deputy Executive Secretary	12	Partner to the Nairobi Convention (WIOMSA) Dr. Julius Francis Executive Secretary Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
13	Partner to the Nairobi Convention (IASS) Ms. Yvonne Waweru Project Scientist IASS Potsdam		

ATTACHMENT B PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Based on the discussion at the initial meeting held on 14 March 2016 between the Secretariats, it was agreed to organise the second meeting to explore further possible areas of common interest, objectives and expected outcome for collaboration and to look specifically look at possible elements for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Nairobi Convention and the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission.

Main theme: Assisting States in delivering the ocean-related SDGs through strengthened cooperation of regional mechanisms

Expected outcomes:

- Identification on possible areas and objectives of cooperation between the Nairobi Convention and the RFBs present;
- Identification of elements for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC.

Monday, 13 June 2016		
09:00 - 09:30	Opening of the Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective of the meeting • Priority areas of collaboration (FAO/UNEP MoU) • Designation of Chairperson and Rapporteur • Introduction of Participants • Adoption of the meeting agenda 	
09:30 - 10:30	Session I: Setting the context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets • Ecosystem approach • Overview of RFBs • Overview of Regional Seas Programme <p>Questions and Answers</p>	FAO / UNEP
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee Break</i> Ocean Governance and SDGs	
10:50 - 12:00	Session I: Setting the context (Cnt') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three regional organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nairobi Convention ○ SWIOFC ○ IOTC <p>Questions and Answers</p>	
		IASS
		Secretariats

12:00 - 12:30	Session II: Experiences in the other regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSPAR-NEAFC • MAP – GFCM • RECOFI- ROPME • West Africa example <p>Questions and Answers</p>	FAO/UNEP
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:00 - 15:00	Session III: Visioning the cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of elements examined during 14 March 2016 meeting. (UNEP/FAO) • What could be common objectives for the two sectors to work together under the identified areas of cooperation? 	Participants
15:00 - 15:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:20 - 17:00	Session IV: Laying the ground for cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of common interest and possible areas for collaboration/cooperation • Common key SDG targets and Aichi Targets 	Participants
17:00	<i>End of Day 1</i>	

Tuesday, 14 June 2016		
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome back to the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of the discussions on the Day 1 	
09:15 - 10:45	Session V: Area of common interest and possible areas for collaboration/cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific area of cooperation 	Participants
10:45 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 - 12:00	Session VII: Discussion on way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What could be the process and timeline of formalizing the agreement? • Synthesis of areas of common interest and potential areas for cooperation between RFBs and RSOs in the Indian Ocean 	SWIOFC/NBC

12:00 – 12:30	Conclusion of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of the workshop • CBD SOI meeting in September Closing words	Secretariats FAO/UNEP
12:30	<i>End of the workshop</i>	
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	

ATTACHMENT C AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST AND POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION

Background

The Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention (NBC) has the mandate to support and oversee the implementation of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention), its two Protocols and the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region.

The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) established in 2004 under the provision in article VI of the FAO Constitution is mandated to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the Southwest Indian Ocean region, by the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the Members of SWIOFC, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States.

Given the different mandates, competencies, membership, and geographical coverage of the NBC and the SWIOFC, and recognising the mutual interests and intertwined goals, the scoping meeting identified the following potential principles for cooperation, mechanisms and areas for cooperation in the South West Indian Ocean.

Objectives for cooperation

To increase and integrate the services provided by the two organisations to their Members and avoid duplications of activities in order to effectively fulfil their respective mandates, acknowledging the common vision to conserve and sustainably manage the marine and coastal ecosystems and their resources in the Southwest Indian Ocean.

Principles for cooperation

Principle 1: Transparency

NBC and SWIOFC recognise that transparency is essential for effective cooperation..

Principle 2: Precautionary approach

NBC and SWIOFC base their decisions on the precautionary approach as described in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992.

Principle 3: Information sharing

NBC and SWIOFC recognise that information sharing is fundamental in order to conserve and sustainably use the resources derived from the marine and coastal ecosystems.

Principle 4: Promote application of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

NBC and SWIOFC recognise the goals and principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted in 1995 in the sustainable management of marine resources.

Principle 5: Transboundary issues

NBC and SWIOFC recognise that transboundary issues are important in the work of regional organisations.

Principle 6: Joint responsibility for sustainable development

NBC and SWIOFC acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved by a single sector or institution and recognise their joint responsibility in supporting their respective constituents in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commitments and sustainable development goals, in particular SDG14.

Potential areas for cooperation

NBC and SWIOFC may potentially work together in the following activity areas:

1. Protection of Biodiversity from anthropogenic impacts

Activities for the protection of biodiversity may include preparation of assessments, action plans and projects for vulnerable species of particular interest such as sharks, rays and marine turtles in the region.

2. Management of current and emerging negative environmental impacts that can affect fisheries

Recognising that the health of marine environment is the foundation for sustainability of fish production, NBC and SWIOFC may cooperate to prevent and reduce current and emerging negative environmental impacts that can affect fisheries, such as pollution and destruction of critical habitats, and the exploration and extraction of natural resources.

3. Promotion of the application of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) for the sustainable use of marine resources

NBC and SWIOFC may promote the implementation of EBM and EAF such as through capacity development activities, monitoring on the implementation and information sharing on best practices and lessons learnt.

4. Promotion and application of area-based management tools

NBC and SWIOFC may cooperate in the identification and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and areas in the region. Area-based management tools including Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management may be used to prevent and mitigate conflicts originated from competing demands for marine resources.

5. Adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change

Climate change is posing significant risks to the people in the region, especially those depending heavily on the ecosystem services for their livelihood. NBC and SWIOFC may cooperate to monitor and assess the impacts of ocean acidification, change in ecological dynamics and to assist their respective constituents in planning mitigation and adaptation measures.

6. Promotion of policy coordination between the fisheries and environment sector

NBC and SWIOFC may cooperate to promote regional policy coordination between the fisheries and environment sector, recognizing that the synergies between sectoral policies are crucial for sustainable management of the marine and coastal ecosystems and their resources.

7. Support States in the development, promotion and implementation of Blue Economy / Blue Growth Initiative approaches and strategies

Upon request by their respective constituents, NBC and SWIOFC may provide assistance to develop and implement Blue Economy / Blue Growth approaches.

Mechanisms for cooperation

Cooperation between NBC and SWIOFC may be achieved through various mechanisms including but not limited to the following:

- Regular joint meetings between the Secretariats;
- Sharing of information and data where appropriate including meeting reports, scientific information and other information relating to the areas of cooperation;
- Reciprocal representation in meetings of the other organisation as an observer;
- Reporting to the respective governing bodies on jointly-implemented programmes, projects and initiatives; and
- Upon request by member countries, each Secretariat may seek advice from the other secretariat on the issues which the other Secretariat has a mandate.

Potential Actions to implement the formalized cooperation in future

Potential actions to realise cooperation may include but not be limited to the following:

- Joint production of status reports, management plans and action plans for vulnerable species of particular interest;
- Formulation of joint programmes and projects;
- Implementation of joint programmes and projects;
- Organisation of joint events; and
- Organisation of joint bureau meetings.

ATTACHMENT D PROPOSED TIMELINE

Date	Action Item
By 22 June 2016	UNEP/FAO to circulate the summary of the workshop to the participants
By mid/end September	FAO to prepare a draft MOU
October 2016	FAO to consult with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and its parties
October 2016	A proposal of formulating MOU may be presented to the SWIOFC Commission
November 2016	FAO and UNEP legal office to review MOU