



Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge Draft Regional Commitments

Updated: 20 June 2014

This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. RLA-A-00-07-00043-00. The contents are the responsibility of the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG). Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. This publication was produced by **The Nature Conservancy** on behalf of ABCG.



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

[Please note: the national targets listed in this document are examples from country submissions shared during the 4th WIOCC Technical Meeting. This list is not exhaustive. Countries are encouraged to ensure that the targets/commitments are visionary/ambitious, specific, measurable and time-bound. Refer to GLISPA criteria for the UNSIDS High Level Event. The full national commitments will be added to this document during or immediately after the UNSIDS meeting]

Recalling the rallying call by the President of Seychelles for the establishment of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIOCC) to mobilize the political, financial and technical commitment at national and regional levels to achieve the goals of existing Conventions and Strategic Action Plans such as the Nairobi Convention, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Reiterating the need to achieve existing goals and commitments by inspiring local and regional leadership and facilitating collaboration towards the shared, long-term vision for the sustainable development of the western Indian Ocean region;

Recognizing the challenges facing the implementation of the sustainable development goals of the island and mainland coastal states of the Western Indian Ocean region;

Acknowledging the goals, commitments and timelines of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 to 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNFCCC, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 to 2015 and the Millennium Development Goals and the emerging post-2015 agenda;

Recognizing that the future socio-economic, cultural, environmental and climate health of the western Indian Ocean region depends upon the conservation of our marine and terrestrial ecosystems and sustainable use of their resources;

Acknowledging the need for island and mainland coastal states of the region to work together on a regional basis to address the environmental and sustainable development issues confronting the region;

Recognizing the financial support of the European Union through the Indian Ocean Commission ISLANDS Project to operationalization of the WIOCC;

Inspired by the commitments made by similar regional initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge and Caribbean Challenge Initiative through the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), an innovative partnership Co-Chaired by the Presidents of Seychelles, Palau as well as Prime Minister of Grenada that promotes action to build resilient and sustainable communities for island countries and countries with islands;

Where as the countries of the Western Indian Ocean representing Comoros, France (La Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zanzibar agree to the vision of the WIOCC:

“By 2032, in the face of climate change threats, the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIOCC) will be a strong and vocal partnership of WIO island and coastal countries and stakeholders, working together to build and implement climate-resilient development options and strategies to achieve a balance between enhanced coastal livelihoods and economies and effective conservation of biodiversity, ultimately contributing to greater levels of social security among coastal communities.”ⁱ

Where as the countries of the Western Indian Ocean agree to achieve this vision through:

- *Building strong political commitment and effective engagement of stakeholders;*

- *Setting-up sustainable financing mechanisms and technical support;*
- *Strengthening SIDS-SIDS and South-South collaboration and broader experience sharing;*
- *Using science-based decision support and adequate knowledge management systems;*
- *Promoting integrated management and ecosystem-based approaches;*
- *Addressing information needs through focused research;*
- *Inclusion of education and awareness for children; and*
- *Improving capacity at multiple levels.*

Be it resolved, that the Government of Seychelles as current President of the WIOCC, alongside the [INSERT THOSE COUNTRIES THAT WILL FORMALLY JOIN THE WIOCC AT UNSIDS e.g. *Government of Mauritius and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar of the United Republic of Tanzania, XXXXXXXX*] formally join and launch the WIOCC at the 2014 Third International United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa to support development of the Blue Economy within the Western Indian Ocean through the following commitments and targets:

1. BIODIVERSITY

Recalling the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 to 2020 to “take effective and urgent action to half the loss of biodiversity” and recognizing the critical importance of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources to livelihoods and the economy of the region.

a) Protected Areas

Acknowledging Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 to conserve at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, the WIOCC countries *commit* to move beyond these targets by 2020, specifically:

- **Seychelles** will conserve 30% of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as a MPA by 2020 with half (i.e. 15%) to be designated strict no-take zones to be financed through a debt for adaptation swap
- **Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania)** will:
 - Increase the size of Forest Protected Areas by 15% by 2020
 - Increase the size of Marine Conservation Areas by 10% by 2020 for Sustainable Ocean Management
 - Declare more than 15% of its coastal and marine ecosystems as Marine Protected Areas by 2020

2. CLIMATE CHANGE

Acknowledging the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the WIOCC countries *commit* to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, specifically:

a) Renewable Energy

- Mauritius will achieve the national target of 35% renewable energy by 2025;
- Seychelles will generate 15% of Seychelles’ energy needs through renewable sources by 2020 and 30% by 2030;
- Zanzibar will mainstream application of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency

b) Energy Efficiency

- Mauritius will reduce energy consumption in non-residential and public sector buildings by 10% by 2020

c) Ecosystem-based Adaptation

- Zanzibar will declare 25% of mangrove cover forest under protected forest reserves by 2020

3. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS/ECONOMIES

a) Sustainable Livelihoods

- Mauritius will increase the percentage of green jobs from 6.3% in 2010 to 10% by 2020;
- Seychelles will promote a tourism industry that is sustainable from an environmental, technological, economic, social and cultural perspective;

b) Food Security

- Seychelles will ensure food security through efficient and effective local agricultural production by 2020

c) Water

- Seychelles will increase the level of rain-water harvesting system in households, educational, business and tourism establishments from 34% to 100% by 2020

d) Waste Management

- Seychelles will ensure wastes are developed and managed in an integrated and environmentally safe manner that decreases dependency on landfill disposal and maximizes the use of waste as a resource for new products by 2020
- Seychelles will convert Seychelles-generated wastes into energy by 2020
- Zanzibar will provide adequate and reliable physical infrastructure for efficient management of industrial, medical and domestic wastes

Be it further resolved that the countries that have formally joined the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge will support implementation and achievement of these commitments by:

4. Sustainable Financing Mechanisms

- Establishing sustainable financing mechanisms, such as the proposed *Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge Conservation Trust Fund (WIOCC CTF)* as well as national trust funds, to support the achievement of WIOCC's mission by raising and managing diverse sources of funds to ensure long-term conservation funding;
- Seychelles will pursue completion of a Debt for Adaptation Swap as an innovative mechanism to finance their commitments

5. Governance

Acknowledging that three pillars to success of the WIOCC have been identified as:

- Country ownership and high-level political commitment based on the 20 year common vision and mutually defined climate change targets;
- Mobilization, harmonization and alignment of financial and technical partners based on a common unifying framework;
- Direct link between framework of regional programme and country level actions and results.

Be it resolved that, the following mechanisms will be put in place to ensure the effective governance of the WIOCC including:

- A Leaders Group (President or similar level) associated to the WIOCC will be formed from those countries/entities that formally joined the WIOCC at a high political level and become a dynamic mechanism for leveraging support;

- A national focal points in each WIOCC entity would be responsible for implementing leader decisions, coordinating input and actions at national level and engaging with the WIOCC on behalf of their country;
- A Steering Committee made up of representatives of each country in order to oversee regional coordination and implementation. This is not a technical committee but is focused on making decisions for the WIOCC including making recommendations on governance and other issues for leaders and guiding the work of the secretariat. The steering committee should consist of the national focal points (these focal point roles are not technical but should be designated by political leaders) and a non-voting representative of the partners group (the focal point of the partners group – see Partners Group below), which would be an observer. Eventually the steering committee might also include the trust fund mechanism representation as a non-voting member if that is pursued.
- A secretariat could be part of an existing Secretariat or attached to the role of Chair of the Steering Committee. The Secretariat role, through agreed annual work plans would be responsible for coordination of the Challenge towards common goals as well as:
 - Provide policy and administrative support for all relevant WIOCC Steering Committee activities.
 - Provide strong and effective liaison between the Partners Group, focal points and working groups.
 - Coordinate and conduct regional activities, opportunities and meetings in support of the WIOCC, including identifying and coordinating multi-country participation in regional and international fora.
 - Coordinate all working groups calls, conduct follow up and synthesize status updates on critical issues related to the WIOCC, and consolidate progress reports from working groups into reports for steering committee and political leaders.
 - Coordinate with local, regional and international technical assistance partners and enlist their assistance in support of the WIOCC.
- Funding would need to be sourced to develop a secretariat role for the WIOCC of one or two persons.
See also formal decision-making and engagement process below for options to formalize the Secretariat.
- Technical support to the WIOCC is led by the Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C). The Partners Group envisioned here is broader than technical support and should coordinate technical and financial support. The WIO-C, due to its current MOU with the WIOCC for technical support and ongoing commitment to the WIOCC could lead the partners group. The partners group is where private sector engagement, donors and new partners would engage.
- Working groups could then be formed which directly support the WIOCC – where they don't already exist in the region with the same purpose. Important functions that working groups could support include monitoring and evaluation, communications and resource mobilization. These should be the initial focus of the working groups. Other thematic working groups could be developed on analysis of the need for them particular in relation to the linkages with the regional priorities. These working groups would report to the Steering Committee via the Secretariat.



ⁱ Agreed by the participating countries of the 1st Technical Meeting of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge, Victoria, Seychelles, 13 – 14 March 2012.