Western Indian Ocean Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

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UN environment programme

Nairobi Convention

Why the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Matters

5% global industrialized fish catch (4 million tonnes/yr)

65 million people live within 100 km of the coast

Over 40 EBSAs & approx. 700 Seamounts identified

11,257 marine species (13% endemism)

Estimated US$ 22 Billion/year from marine & coastal resources; assets estimated at US$ 333.8 billion

2,200 fish species (83% of known fish families)

Emerging Oil & Gas sector of global interest

Threats to the WIO

Biodiversity and habitat loss

Illegal fishing

Overfishing

Pollution from land-based sources

Climate change impacts

Inadequate governance

New opportunities
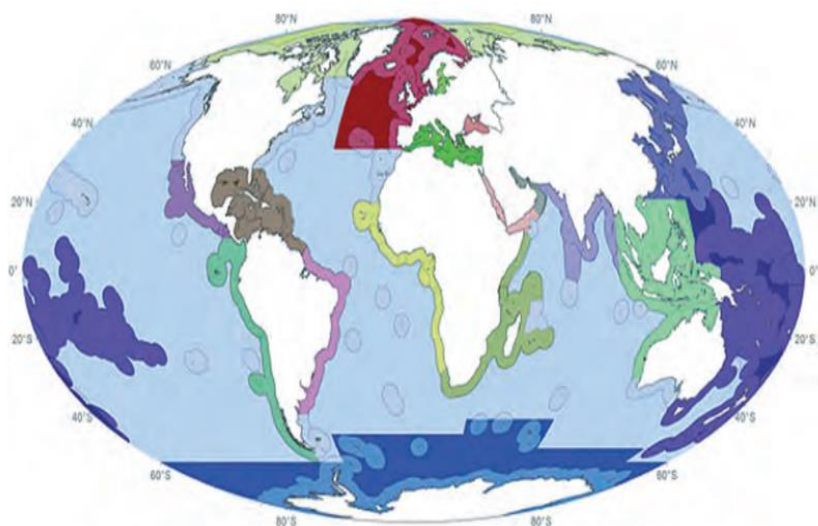

Infrastructure

African Ocean Governance Framework

AFRICAN UNION

African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 advocates regional cooperation and identifies the RECs as the fulcrum for cooperation, policy coherence and strategic alignment among their members

The 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) adopted in 2014 : "to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner

Ongoing Process on Developing an Ocean Governance Strategy for Africa

Others:
- **Africa Mining Code** which influences development of offshore hydrocarbons; declarations and initiatives on the blue economy
- **The Revised African Maritime Transport Charter (1994, revised 2012)** and associate Plan of Action endorsed by an AU transport ministers in 2009
- **Abuja Declaration on sustainable fisheries (2005)**
- **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement**
- **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (1968)**
- **The Decade of African Seas and Oceans (2015-2025)**
- Arrangements on maritime security- **the Lomé Declaration and the Djibouti Code of Conduct**
- Processes related to advancing Blue Economy e.g **Africa Blue Economy Strategy** launched by the AU in 2020
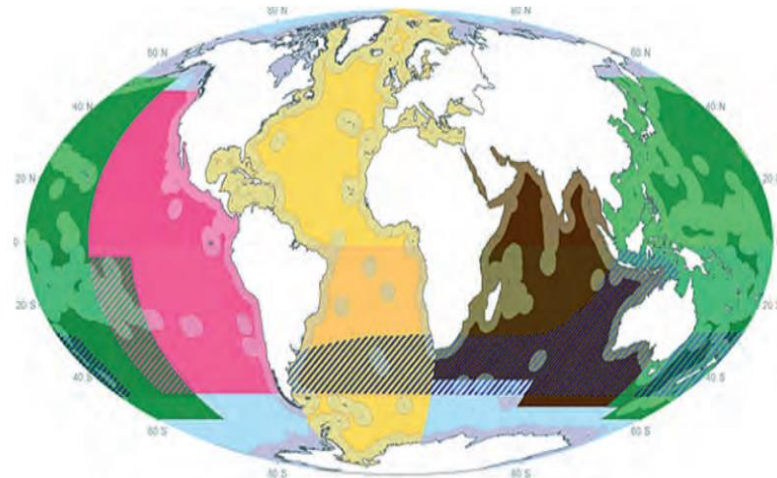
Regional Ocean Governance Framework in the WIO

- **Nairobi Convention and its Protocols**

- **RECs:** SADC, IGAD, EAC, COMESA and the IOC have an important coordinating role on oceans and have policies which influence national ocean governance and coordination between countries- focussed on blue economy

- **Maritime security:** The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) established in 2009 has no formal membership or secretariat but engages with all WIO countries, the RECs, the IOC and the private (shipping) sector.

- **Fisheries:** Regional fisheries organisations in the region and non-AU countries fishing on the high seas and through access agreements with AU member countries

- **Private sector:** shipping, port authorities, tourism, trade, fisheries, offshore hydrocarbons, telecommunications (undersea cables)

- **NGOs:** Regional and national

- **Knowledge Management:** WIOMSA, Nairobi Convention CHM

- **External Actors:** International financial institutions, donors
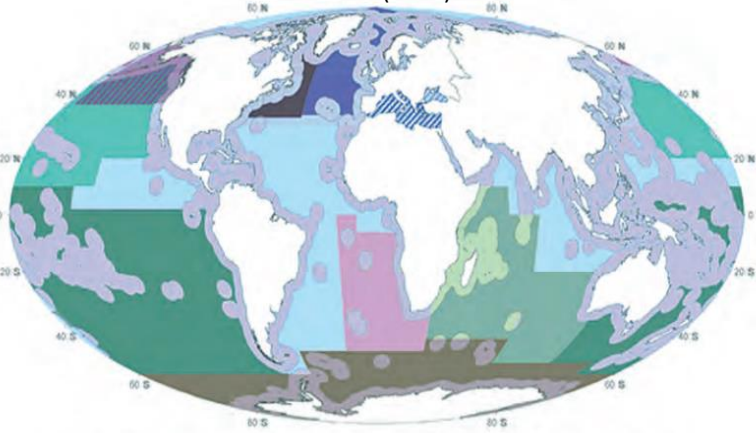

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Regional Ocean Governance Framework in the WIO

Ban et al., 'Systematic Conservation Planning: A Better Recipe for Managing the High Seas for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use' (2014) 7 Conservation Letters 41

Regional Economic Commissions

WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

Mandate to develop a ROGS

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

- **AMCEN 2015 (Cairo Declaration)** – Agreement to support efforts for the protection of the marine environment

- **AMCEN 2017 (Libreville)** - UNEP and the secretariats of the Regional Seas Conventions called upon to enter into cooperative arrangements with regional bodies in order to enhance the application of ecosystem-based approaches in ocean governance in Africa

- **AMCEN Special Session 2018 (Nairobi)** - AMCEN undertook background studies to begin the process of developing an Africa Ocean Governance Strategy with support from UNEP

- **AMCEN 2022 (Dakar)** – Progress made by Regional Seas in support of improved OG recognised, appreciated and encouraged

Nairobi Convention COP Decisions

- **CoP 8 (2015)**
  - Decision CP.8/10: Blue and Ocean Economy: urges Contracting Parties to cooperate in improving the governance of ABNJ and developing area-based management tools such as marine spatial planning to promote the blue economy pathways in the WIO region.

- **CoP 9 (2018)**
  - Decision CP.9/6: Ocean governance: Ocean governance strategy for WIO region that contributes to African strategy on ocean governance, Agenda 2063, AIMS 2050 and SDGs
  - Decision CP.9/7.(c): Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the ABNJ.

- **COP 10 (2021)**
  - Decision CP.10/5: Ocean governance: Requesting the secretariat to finalise the development, in a participatory process, with the support of partners, the ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region as a contribution to the African ocean governance strategy- Also Information Management Strategy

ROGS priorities and Technical Dialogues by 'Cluster'

Blue Economy & Maritime Security Cluster

- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable fisheries
- Managing offshore energy (incl. oil/ gas platforms)
- Effective maritime security and enforcement
- Ports and trade
- Development of a circular blue economy
- Managing deepsea resources

Environment and Natural Resources Cluster

- Adaptation to and Mitigation of Climate Change
- Prevention, reduction and control of marine plastic pollution
- Prevention, reduction and control of nutrient and chemical pollution
- Conservation and rehabilitation of coral reef ecosystems
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Alignment of institutions on a 'regional' ABNJ

Science and Knowledge Cluster

- Scientific advice in support of the priorities of the other two clusters
- Science to governance (institutional arrangements)
- Regional scientific cooperation
- Raised public awareness
- Human capacity development
- Transfer of technology
- Common positions in international oceans affairs

Regional priorities identified by Stakeholder Task Force

Technical Dialogues - for each priority identified by the TF

1. Consensus understanding of each priority
   - concise consensus statement of each regional priority/ challenge
   - rationale: why is this a priority?

2. Proposed goal(s) and key regional actions
   - suggested regional target(s) or goal(s) for the priority
   - proposed regional actions to achieve goal (and alternatives considered)
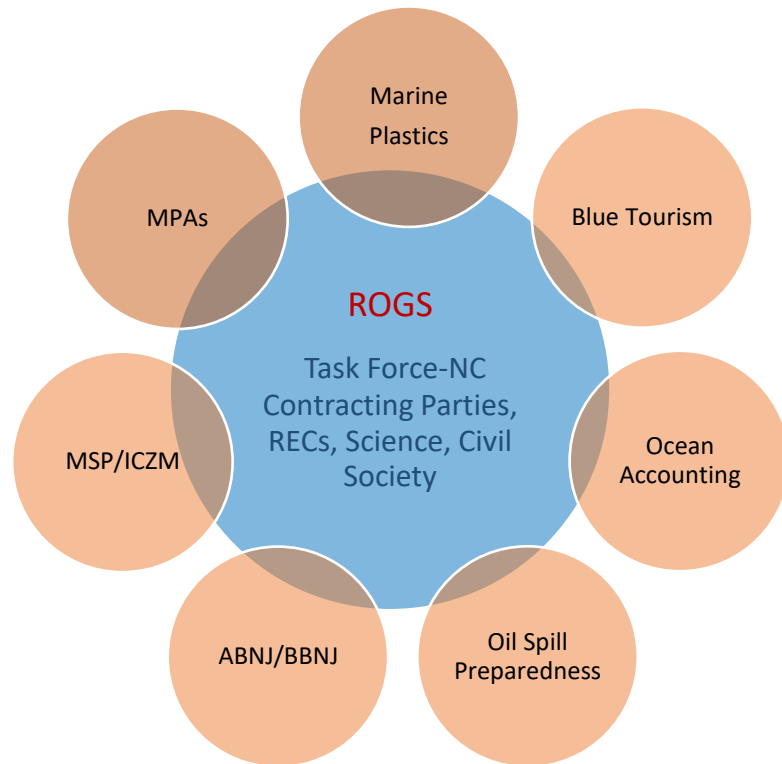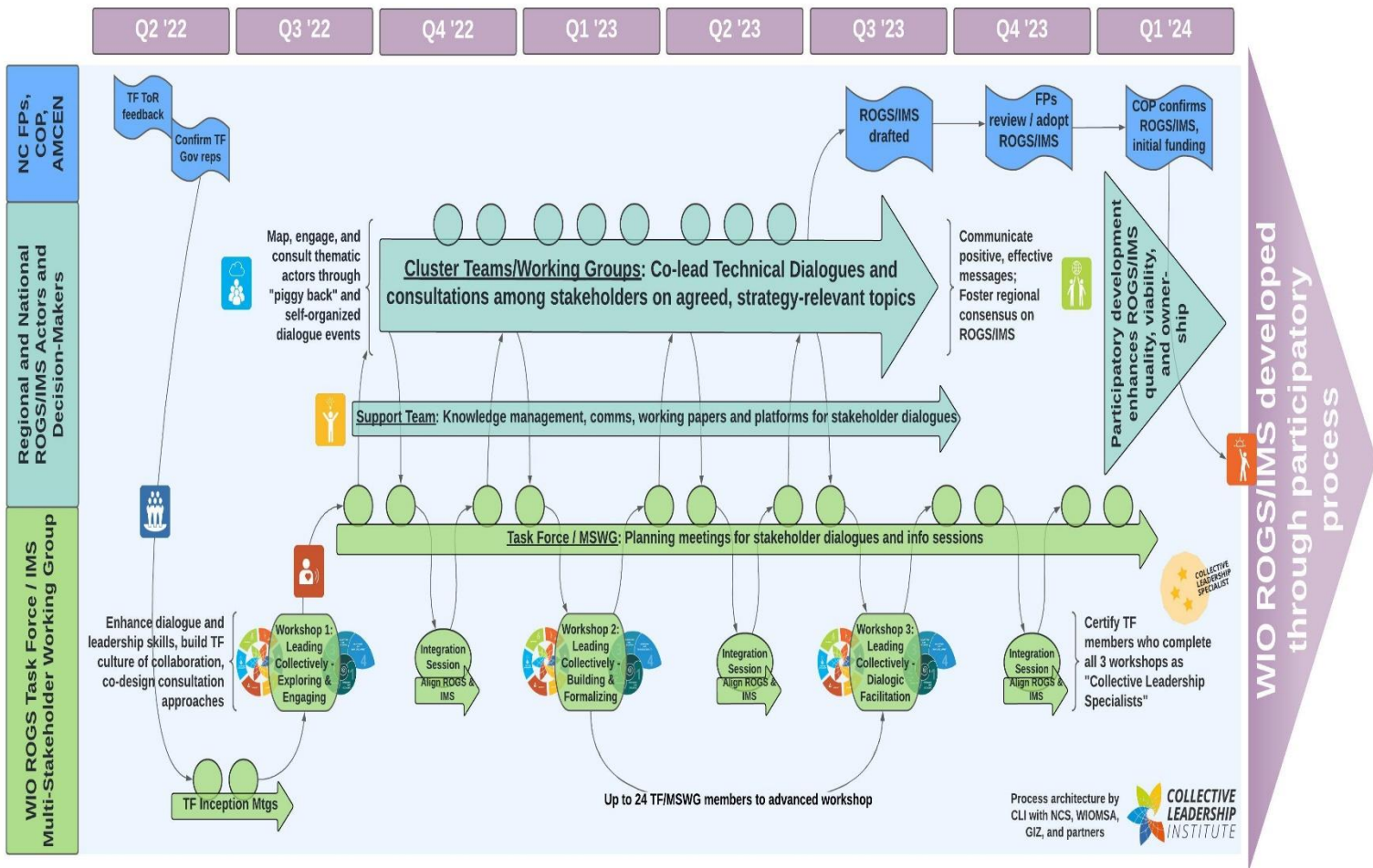
3. Proposed regional implementation arrangements
   - institutional responsibility, leadership, decision-making at regional level
   - cooperation mechanisms (formal structures, permanent platforms, informal arrangements)
   - Human, financial institutional resources - needs and potential sources
   - review and adjustment modalities (what to monitor, how to report, report to who)

Engaging Stakeholders through Technical Dialogues that inform the ROGS and IMS

Completed Dialogues

DRAFT Process Architecture: Participatory development of ocean governance and information management strategies for the Western Indian Ocean region (NC COP Decision 10.5; AMCEN Cairo Declaration, 2015)

Completed Dialogues circles:
- Marine Plastics
- MPAs
- Blue Tourism
- MSP/ICZM
- Ocean Accounting
- ABNJ/BBNJ
- Oil Spill Preparedness
- ROGS: Task Force-NC Contracting Parties, RECs, Science, Civil Society

Outstanding Dialogues-Examples
- Maritime Security
- Fisheries
- Financing
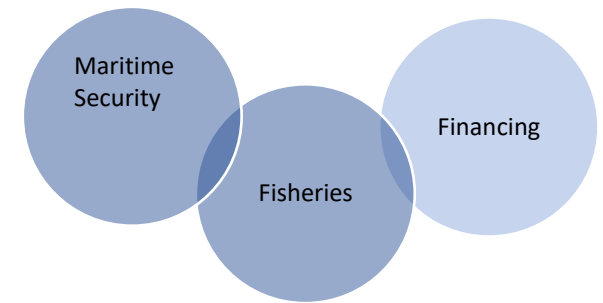
Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO: Status and Next Steps

Objective of the ROGS

*"To **develop a regional mechanism through which the key regional stakeholders can cooperate in a coherent and structured manner** to achieve the vision of a peaceful stable Western Indian Ocean region with an environmentally healthy ocean and a blue economy based on the protection and conservation of natural resources that delivers sustainable benefits with due regard to equity and wellbeing."*

(Source: WIO Regional Ocean Governance Task Force)

Emerging Consensus: Enhanced Institutional Cooperation

- Reinforced institutional cooperation arrangements at regional level are required to implement the ROGS, to inform decisions, to drive consensus on regional policies and to provide a framework for a WIO blue finance architecture at a regional scale.
- There is broad Task Force support for the following arrangements to provide for formal, but flexible relationships on oceans between the Regional Economic Commissions (COMESA, EAC, IGAD, SADC), the Indian Ocean Commission, the Nairobi Convention and other key regional institutions

Final Regional Ocean Governance Draft Strategy

Will be presented for adoption at the 11th Conference of Parties for the Nairobi Convention to be held in Q1 2024

Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO: Lessons

Lessons learned along the way

- Stakeholder engagement through technical dialogues enables capture of sector challenges and issues in ROGS
- Co-creation approach enhances ownership of ROGS in preparation for adoption by the Conference of Parties
- Co-creation is a time-consuming exercise and requires innovative approaches to ensure that participants remain engaged over quite extended periods of time

Future outlook

- Increased cooperation across sectors in the WIO
- Increased stakeholder participation in regional ocean governance
- More effective ocean governance in support of a sustainable blue economy

Thank You

Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

https://www.nairobiconvention.org/regional-ocean-governance-strategy/

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