



**UNEP**

United Nations  
Environment Programme



Global Environment  
Facility

**UNEP-GEF WIO-LaB PROJECT**  
*ADDRESSING LAND BASED ACTIVITIES  
IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN*

**WIO International Waters projects Workshop**

*Governance, Institutions and Partnerships for IW Management in the Western Indian Ocean*

Workshop held during the

GEF FOURTH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS CONFERENCE,  
Cape Town, South Africa  
(July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 3, 2007)

Summary Report of the Workshop

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region that basically encompasses countries found in the Eastern part of the continental Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa) and the island states (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles) is currently hosting a Portfolio of international waters (IW) projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These include the following multi-national projects;

- UNEP/GEF Project 'Addressing land-based activities in the WIO Region (WIO-LaB)
- UNDP/GEF Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (ASCLMEs).
- World Bank/GEF South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP)
- World Bank/GEF Marine Electronic Highway Development and Coastal-marine Contamination Prevention Project
- UNEP/GEF Project on Reduction of Environmental Impact from Coastal Tourism through the Implementation of Pilot Demonstration Projects, Promoting the Development of Sustainable Tourism Policies and Strategies and Strengthening Public-Private Partnership.

1.2 In addition, there are a number of other important GEF national and international projects that are active in the WIO Region such as World Bank/GEF Tanzania Marine and Coastal Environment Management Project (MACEMP) and the World Bank/GEF Coral Reef targeted Research and Capacity Building for Management Project (CRTP). Furthermore, there are also a number of non-GEF supported projects and programmes that are being implemented in the WIO Region such as the African Coelacanth Ecosystems Programme (ACEP), the EU/COI Regional Programme for Coastal Zone Management of the Indian Ocean (ReCoMap-IO), the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Data and Information Network of Africa (ODINAFRICA) Project and the Transboundary Marine Protected Areas Project (TRANSMAP).

1.3 Because of the considerable portfolio of IW projects in the WIO Region, there is a strong need for coordination between projects in order to avoid duplication of effort and wastage of resources and at the same time benefit from the comparative advantages of different projects. In this regard, three of the GEF funded IWProjects, namely WIO-LaB, ASCLME and SWIOFP, have already agreed on a common coordination framework for the implementation of activities and preparation of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme (TDA/SAP) for the WIO Region.

1.4 The overall goal of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) IW Projects Workshop held under the auspices of the GEF Fourth Biennial International Waters Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in the period July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 3, 2007, was to bring together the various GEF funded projects with an objective of enhancing cooperation in the implementation of such projects and creating an efficient coordination mechanisms for the GEF IW Portfolio in the WIO Region. This workshop builds on the previous WIO-LaB Project IWForum that was held in Mauritius on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005 during the Fourth WIOMSA Scientific Symposium.

1.5 The Workshop brought together representatives of various GEF Projects including other key organizations involved in coastal and marine environmental management in the WIO Region.

## **2. KEY PRESENTATIONS**

### **2.1 The purpose of the workshop**

2.1.1 Dr. Johnson U. Kitheka, the Environmental Scientist/Project Officer of the UNEP-GEF WIO-LaB Project, on behalf of the WIO-LaB Project Manager, welcomed participants to the meeting and highlighted the objectives of the Workshop. He also expounded on the need for coordination and/or cooperation between the various IW projects in order to avoid duplication of effort and wastage of resources.

2.1.2 Following the introductory remarks on the GEF IW Projects that are implemented in the WIO Region, Dr. Kitheka introduced the two key facilitators of the workshop, namely Dr. Rolph Payet, Special Advisor to the President of Seychelles on Environment as well as the Interim Coordinator of the UNEP/Nairobi Convention, and Dr. Julius Francis, the Executive Secretary of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). The meeting was chaired by Dr. Rolph Payet.

### **2.2 Existing governance mechanisms and institutional arrangements in the WIO Region**

2.2.1 Dr. Rolph Payet briefed the meeting on the existing governance mechanisms and institutional arrangements in the WIO Region. He also briefed the meeting on the major projects in the WIO Region, including mechanisms that are being used to implement them, and in particular the approaches adopted by the projects in order to achieve their objectives.

2.2.2 Dr. Payet highlighted how different projects fit into the framework of existing Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements. He briefed the meeting on the approaches adopted by different projects with regard to the establishment of Projects Steering Committees and other projects coordination structures. He furthermore expounded on the process for the development of WIO Region Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme (TDA and SAP).

### **2.3 Partnerships in the WIO Region**

2.3.1 Dr. Julius Francis, the Executive Secretary of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) briefed the meeting on the existing and potential partnerships in the WIO Region. He also expounded on the experience of various partnerships established in the WIO Region for the protection and/or management of the coastal and marine environment in the WIO Region.

2.3.2 Dr. Julius also highlighted different mechanisms that have been used to establish partnerships in the WIO Region including processes that have been used to build and sustain partnerships in the WIO Region such as Nairobi Convention, the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) in the WIO Region, the Consortium for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Environment of the WIO Region (WIO-C), the Group of Experts on Marine Protected Areas (GEMPA-EA), various Technical Working Groups, etc.

### **3. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS**

3.1 During the discussions that followed the above mentioned opening presentations, it became clear that different projects that are being implemented in the WIO region are now providing opportunities for involvement of different stakeholders/organizations. In the WIO Region the fact that the projects are using the same stakeholders in participating countries emphasizes the need for collaboration between the different projects so that resources channeled to the participating countries are more efficiently utilized to the maximum extent possible.

3.2 It was also recognized that there are several legally binding regional platforms/frameworks in the region (such as the UNEP/Nairobi Convention, the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Tuna Commission, etc.), which most of the WIO countries are party to. This makes the WIO Region quite complex with regard to regional environmental governance. It was noted that this to a certain extent exerts certain complications to GEF IW Projects with regard to implementation of activities as well as the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the WIO Region.

3.3 In order to address these regional complexities that are to a certain extent unique to the WIO Region, it is important for the GEF IW projects to determine which of the existing regional platforms and/or legal frameworks should take a lead in the implementation of the SAP for the WIO Region. In this regard, it was noted that there is a need for an overarching regional institution in the WIO Region that would provide guidance to the donors with regard to the implementation of the WIO Region SAP.

3.4 It was however appreciated that the existence of a multiplicity of regional institutional frameworks in the WIO Region is a healthy situation for the WIO Region in the sense that the ultimate goal is to ensure the protection, management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment. Within the framework of the African Union, there is an attempt to rationalize the regional institutions in order to come up with few ones that are more efficient. In view of the rapid transformation taking place in Africa within the framework of the African Union, it was suggested that projects should eventually link up under the auspices of such an overarching regional framework.

3.5 With regard to the role of the UNEP/Nairobi Convention for the protection, management and development of the coastal and marine environment in Eastern Africa, it was noted that the convention is relevant in the sense that it offers a sound legal

platform for countries in the WIO Region. However, in view of the fact that the convention is not an institution, it may still be important to pursue the goal of building (based upon existing framework) an overarching institutional arrangement for the WIO Region.

3.6 With regard to the implementation of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme (TDA and SAP) for the WIO Region, it was noted that emphasis/support should be provided to a regional institution/organization where there is optimal buy in.

3.7 It was also noted that the GEF Projects in the WIO Region provide an opportunity for countries in the WIO Region to evaluate the effectiveness of various regional instruments operating in the WIO Region. It was emphasized that countries in the WIO should have the final responsibility of deciding which of the existing regional instruments should be used (whether or not in an amended format) in order to provide an overarching regional framework that operates on the basis of ecosystem management approach necessary for an efficient implementation of SAP in the WIO Region.

3.8 However, it was also brought to the attention of the meeting that there are very few regions in the world where GEF has been able to bring under the same umbrella, different regional institutions such as the regional environmental conventions, regional fisheries management organizations, etc.

3.9 In order to ensure ownership, the process of evaluating/assessing the suitability of the existing regional legal frameworks should be done in a transparent and participatory manner under the leadership of the GEF IW Projects in close collaboration with the governments of the participating countries. In this way, the GEF IW Projects in collaboration with the participating countries should set the basis for determining which of the existing Regional legal frameworks will take the lead in the implementation of activities that would be defined in the SAP for the WIO Region.

3.10 During the discussions, the representatives of various projects agreed to cooperate in the implementation of various projects in order to maximize the use of resources and benefit from the comparative advantages of different projects and their implementing agencies. With regard to the sustainability of activities initiated by the GEF IW Projects in the WIO Region, the need for country ownership of projects activities was emphasized.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 The GEF IW Workshop held within the auspices of the GEF Fourth IW Conference was successful. The representatives of various GEF IW projects that are being implemented in the WIO Region expressed willingness to continue cooperating in the implementation of projects activities geared towards the protection, management and development of the coastal and marine environment in the WIO Region.

4.2 The need for establishment/appointment of an overarching regional framework for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region was recognized. Further discussions between the governments of the participating countries and GEF IW Projects would be necessary in order to address this need.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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