

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is a deep, clear blue. The reef is composed of various types of coral, including branching corals and some with flat, fan-like structures. Small fish are visible swimming around the coral.

Ocean Observation and Prediction for Coastal Sustainability in Africa

NAIROBI CONVENTION, UNEP

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The Nairobi Convention

- The Nairobi Convention is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.
- It aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment.
- It does this by engaging countries that share the Western Indian Ocean in actions to protect their shared marine environment.
- The Nairobi Convention—signed by Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, and the Republic of South Africa



The specific objectives of the Convention



Offer a legal framework and coordinate the efforts of the countries to plan and develop programmes for strengthening their capacity to protect, manage and develop their marine space



Provide a forum for inter-governmental discussions for better understanding of regional environmental problems, the strategies needed to address them and solutions



Promote the sharing of information and experiences amongst countries



Facilitate the periodic assessment of the state of coastal and marine environment.



Link:
<https://www.nairobiconvention.org/>

Projects

1. WIOSAP

Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities

The Objective

is 'to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems through the implementation of the agreed WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels'.





Components

1. Component A:

Sustainable management of critical habitats focuses on the protection, restoration and management of critical coastal habitats and ecosystems recognizing the important value of healthy critical coastal and marine habitats for the future well-being of people in the WIO region.

2. Component B:

Improved water quality focuses on the need for the WIO Region's water quality to attain international standards by the year 2035.

3. Component C:

Sustainable management of river flows aims at promoting wise management of river basins in the region through implementation of a suite of activities aimed at building the capacity for environmental flows assessment and application in river basins of the region.

4. Component D:

Governance and regional collaboration focuses on strengthening governance and awareness in the WIO region with a view to facilitating sustainable management of critical coastal ecosystems and habitats.

2. SAPPHIRE

The 'Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms

The project aims to support the appropriate and formally mandated government institutions and intergovernmental bodies in the WIO region to implement activities to deliver the SAP and to ensure the sustainability of efforts and actions toward long-term management of the WIO LME as well as the sustainability of associated institutional arrangements and partnerships.





Components

Component 1:

Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance.

Component 2:

Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management.

Component 3:

- Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices.

Component 4:

Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstrations.

Component 5:

- Capacity Development to realise improved ocean governance in the WIO region,

Tools Developed for Ocean Observation and Prediction for Coastal Sustainability

- i. Clearing House Mechanism,
- ii. MPA outlook
- iii. WIO symphony tool



1. The Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse

- is a sustainable ‘data shop’, providing accurate and relevant data and information for improved management and protection of the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region.

Aim

- to improve the data sharing, coordination and participation of the Western Indian Ocean countries.

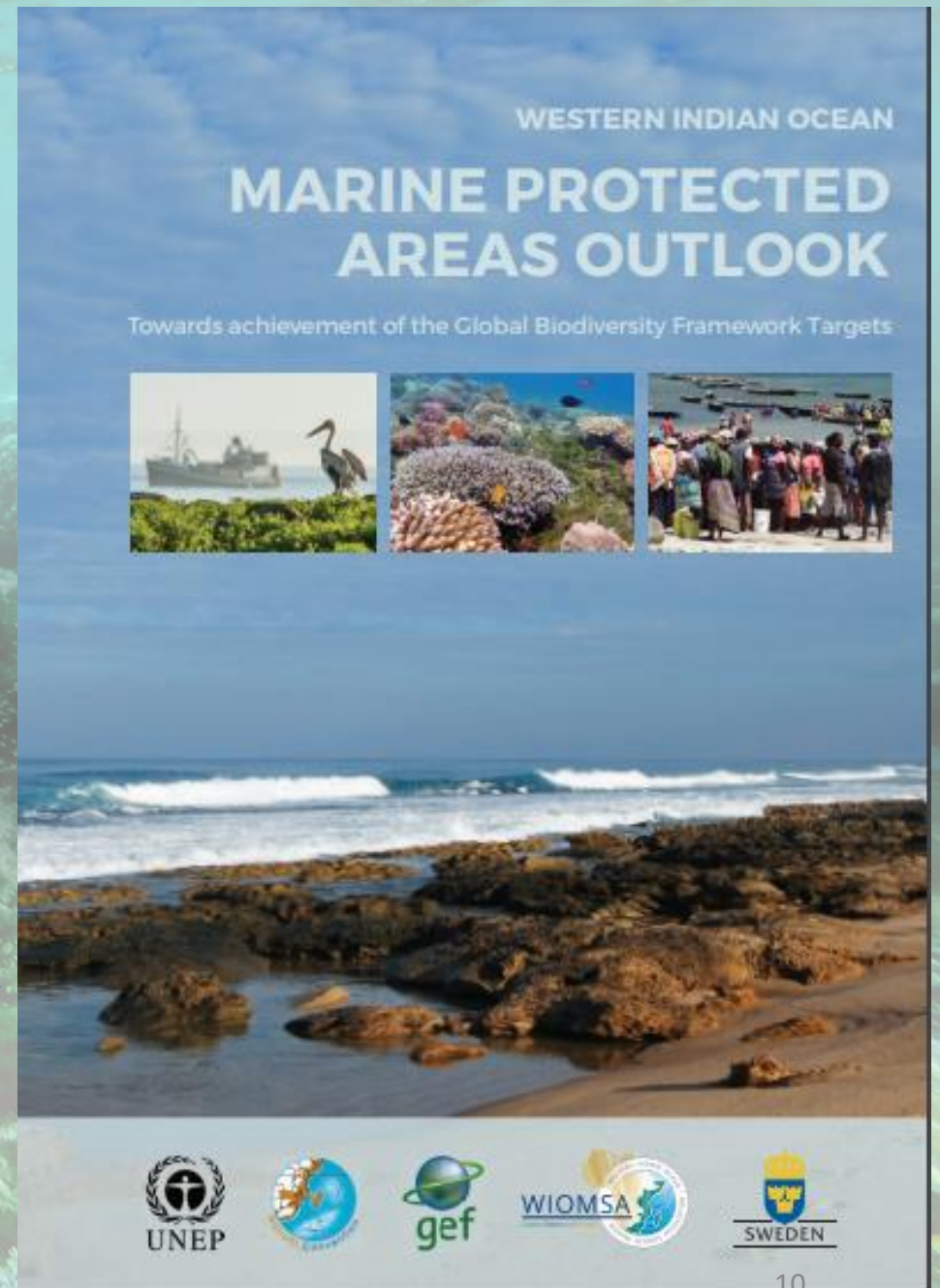
Link: <https://www.nairobiconvention.org/>

2. Western Indian Ocean MPA Outlook

The MPA Outlook, co-developed by Nairobi Convention and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, documents progress made by countries in the region towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14.5 and provides lessons and opportunities to increase momentum for achieving post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets

[Link:https://nairobi-convention.org/clearinghouse/node/410](https://nairobi-convention.org/clearinghouse/node/410)

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3. Marine Spatial Planning **WIO Symphony**

- The establishment (with other NC projects) of a longer-term capacity development programme on Marine Spatial Planning for the region in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwaM) and other partners.
- [Link:](https://symphony.nairobiconvention.org/)
<https://symphony.nairobiconvention.org/>



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