



The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

Reports from the Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

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AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON LINKING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EFFORTS IN OCEAN AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

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This summary outlines the main points emerging from the informal discussions and dialogue sessions on Africa and Poverty Reduction as well as from presentations given in Panel 7 of the Third Global Conference: Linking National and Regional Efforts in Ocean and Coastal Management: African Perspectives. In Panel 7 African ministers were invited to address two key goals:

- *Identify options and models for further development of EEZ management in Sub-Saharan Africa through ecosystem-based management approaches aimed at poverty reduction and enhanced social development;*
- *Identify how synergy among LME projects, Regional Seas programmes and the activities of national and multinational/ NGOs can be achieved to reduce poverty, achieve environmental targets in Sub-Saharan Africa.*

The specific outcomes expected of the session were to identify steps to be taken to further develop capacity for and actual programs in coastal and ocean management, and to achieve synergy among existing regional and national efforts in this area.

Panel 7 was chaired by Dr. Magnus Ngoile, National Environment Management Council,

Tanzania and included presentations from: Prof. Albert Owusu-Sarpong, Ambassador of Ghana to France; Honorable Dr. Aristides Ocante da Silva, Minister of Natural Resources, Guinea-Bissau; Honorable Joseph Konzolo Munyao, M.P., Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Kenya; Honorable Mrs. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa; H.E. Victor Manuel Borges, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Mozambique; Honorable Mr. Thierno Lo, Minister of Environment and Natural Protection, Senegal; Ms. Rahma Mshangama, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources Environment and Cooperatives, Zanzibar, Tanzania; and Mr. Rolph Payet, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Seychelles and Interim Coordinator, Regional Coordinating Unit for Eastern African Action Plan. The related dialogue sessions were chaired by: Ali Mohammed, Regional Coordinator, Coastal and Marine Secretariat, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Tim Bostock, Senior Fisheries Adviser, Policy Division, Department for International Development (DFID), UK; Carl Lundin, Head, Marine Programme, IUCN; and Magnus Ngoile, National Environment Management Council, Tanzania.

Background

The African continent has an extensive coastline of some 40,000 km. Coastal and marine resources contribute significantly to the economies of many countries, mainly through fishing and tourism. For instance, the total marine fish exports from Africa in 1997 yielded US\$445 million. These resources also provide the basis of livelihoods for poor coastal communities, and, while Africa is rich in natural resources, coastal African nations remain amongst the poorest in the world. In these countries where poverty is crippling, many coastal populations are vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods and droughts and experience extended hunger and rampant disease. Poverty has negative impacts on coastal and marine areas that contribute to coastal erosion, pollution, and degradation of resources through destructive practices, a lack of appropriate infrastructure, weak institutional and governance capacity, and vested interests in coastal and marine industries. These are some of the major challenges hindering the poorest of the poor from breaking out of the cycle of poverty. Many ocean-related problems experienced by African nations translate into regional problems but still require action at the national level.

Attention to marine and coastal issues has increased considerably since the early 1990s. A variety of different regional platforms are being used to address ocean and coastal-related issues in the African subregion. The two Regional Seas Conventions serve to maintain efforts of ocean and coastal governance, namely the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the Abidjan Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and Related Protocols. These conventions received a major boost prior to and immediately following the WSSD through the efforts of the African Process for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment. They remain, however, primarily environmental agreements and are administered separately from other sectors such as fisheries, mineral exploitation, and transport. Discussions continue to be fragmented, and no mechanism exists to bring all sectors together.

Relation to the WSSD/MDG Goals

The MDG goals relating to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability underpin all issues experienced by African coastal countries. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the WSSD proposes a number of actions for Africa in section VIII: Sustainable development for Africa. Specific reference is made to marine and coastal issues, the JPOI suggests the development of "...projects, programmes and partnerships with relevant stakeholders and mobilize

resources for the effective implementation of the outcome of the African Process for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment" (JPOI Paragraph 56(i)).

Progress on the Issues

There is a growing realization of the opportunities presented by good governance of oceans and coastal areas. Some countries are moving forward by strengthening institutions that govern these areas and resources. For example, Kenya established the Ministry of Fisheries, Mozambique is currently developing a legal and institutional framework, and Tanzania has developed a comprehensive and integrated Marine and Coastal Environmental Management project aimed at poverty reduction and sustained growth. Increased regional efforts have also proven useful in increasing country ownership, promoting compliance, strengthening alliances, and addressing emerging issues such as the cooperative fisheries observation, monitoring, control and surveillance efforts among South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, and Tanzania.

Projects of various scales are under preparation or recent implementation. Selected initiatives include:

Regional Programs

- Large Marine Ecosystem projects (funded by the Global Environment Facility):
 - Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola).
 - Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (Namibia, Angola and South Africa).
 - Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, the Canary Islands (Spain), Gambia, Cape Verde and Western Sahara - under preparation).
 - Agulhas Current (South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar, the Comoros Islands, the Seychelles and Mauritius - under preparation) and Somali Current (Yemen, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania - under preparation) Large Marine Ecosystems.
- West African countries looking at the effects of climate variability on shoreline - Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Senegal (UNDEP/GEF/UNESCO-IOC).
- Impacts of Land-based pollution in the Western Indian Ocean (WIOLAB) – Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, France (La Reunion), Seychelles (Supported by Norway, GPA, GEF and Nairobi Convention parties).
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway Development

- and Coastal Contamination Prevention Project - Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania (GEF, IDA, EC, DANIDA).
- Sustainable coastal tourism project - Senegal, Gambia, Nigeria, Ghana; Kenya, Tanzania Mozambique, Seychelles.
- Sub-regional programme to combat coastal erosion of the West African Economic and Monetary Union - Senegal, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Gambia.
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) - Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, France (La Reunion).
- Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) – Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Seychelles, Reunion, Comoros, Mauritius, Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka (Sida, FRN (The Swedish Council for Planning and Co-ordination of Research), MISTRA (Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research), WWF-Sweden, World Bank through Dutch Trust Funds, and the Government of Finland).
- East African Marine Ecoregion (EAME) – Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa (Supported by WWF).
- SADC MCS - South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, and Tanzania.
- Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) Strategy for the Seas of CPLP (under development).
- Mozambique Transboundary networks of marine protected areas in East Africa (TRANSMAP) – Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa (EU).

National Efforts

Within countries efforts, while numerous, are largely project-based and of limited timeframes and budgets. Donor involvement in coastal and marine research and management in Africa has a relatively long history yet few of these efforts have resulted in sustained institutional strengthening. Some countries have developed (Tanzania and South Africa) or are developing (Mozambique and Namibia) national policies and regulatory frameworks for coastal and ocean governance. Recent donor-supported efforts at the national level, in particular the Tanzania Marine and Coastal Environmental Management Project (MACEMP), are attempting to adopt a more integrated approaches that address a multitude of issues to strengthen governance of a multitude of marine-related sectors such as fisheries, coastal management, livelihood generation and poverty reduction, and private sector involvement.

Outstanding Questions/ Challenges

The major challenges in ocean and coastal management

in Africa relate to governance, capacity building, and communication. While many countries are attempting ocean and coastal governance initiatives, efforts are still insufficient or uncoordinated. Existing scientific efforts and assessment processes have tended to be very sectoral in nature and have failed to bring about effective change. A concerted effort at the local level for poverty reduction is essential. In addition, more attention needs to be paid to the targeted strengthening of existing capacities for all aspects of ocean and coastal governance. There is a need to realize that for Africa the issue is not only capacity development, but also capacity realization, nurturing of champions, capacity retention, and leadership development among the younger generations.

The production, dissemination, and use of information for the empowerment of people to engage the authorities and decision-makers plays a big role in creating the demand for good governance and reducing the impact of vested interests. Disclosure of information to civil society on issues related to resource exploitation (such as fisheries access agreements, mineral extraction permits, property leases for tourism purposes, etc.) and the benefits thereof is thus very important. Another aspect of information that is needed is related to defining and articulating priorities appropriately for all levels of decision-making. Regional cooperation is needed on a much larger scale with respect to fisheries access agreements and other extractive industries to encourage equitable, transparent, and sustainable industries.

More consideration is needed for existing marine and coastal governance efforts, such as science and conservation, and investigation of how these can contribute more meaningfully to poverty reduction at the local level. For instance, much emphasis has been placed on the establishment of marine protected areas, but a balanced approach is needed that takes into consideration equity, cultural, and socio-economic issues. Similarly, more attention should be given to how to translate the riches from extractive industries to poverty reduction and livelihood security at the local level. Another challenge is the linking of national and regional efforts to reveal governance gaps at the national level. In this respect, linking science to policy is critical and a large challenge remains in incorporating the findings from science into effective governance at all levels. It would help to identify key areas in need of attention in the continent and how these can be addressed within existing long-term frameworks such as NEPAD. There is also a need to frame simple messages as to what activities are priorities to be funded, along with realistic focal-point implementers for practicality and accountability.

A lack of coordination among and between donors and governments continues to hamper efforts. Interventions

implemented in isolation result not only in duplication of efforts but also reduce opportunities for success and replication and scaling up of efforts. Alternative approaches to assistance could be investigated, such as basket funding or budget support. There is also a need to investigate innovative means of acquiring large-scale investments to deal with coastal initiatives in the long-term rather than relying on small-scale, time-bound project support from development partners. One major challenge to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals is the enormous debt burden faced by individual countries in Africa. For example, over 30% of annual GDP in Kenya is allocated to debt repayment.

Strengthening African institutions for ocean governance is essential. Meaningful participation at large international fora (such as the Global Conferences on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands) helps to create and maintain dynamism for oceans at the national and regional level. To maximize this opportunity, there is a need to develop mechanisms at the national level to prepare for meaningful participation at the fora and follow-up at the national level subsequent to the meetings.

Next Steps

- Targeted and sustained efforts to address the issues and take advantage of opportunities;
 - Promote the NEPAD programme and the efforts of the African Union which provide regional coordination and ensure that environmental ministers come together;
 - Take notice of the recommendations of the Mauritius Strategy;
 - Promote corporate social responsibility through partnerships that:
 - o Support equitable benefit sharing
 - o Move toward environmental governance (minimizing impacts, innovations for efficiency), and
 - o Promote emphasis on the social agenda in all ocean programs;
 - Promote and facilitate harmonization of programs and processes;
 - Look beyond national political boundaries to include regional and international perspectives to adequately address ocean-related issues and develop effective and sustainable solutions;
 - Promote a culture of transparency and disclosure among ocean users: industry, governments, development partners, and civil society;
 - Request assistance in strengthening governance such as strengthening fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) and for conflict management;
- Apply integrated and comprehensive models such as Tanzania's MACEMP in other countries and regions;
 - Develop a framework for results of the many projects and initiatives to see how they are addressing the priorities and to incorporate the outcomes of the projects into governance;
 - Build partnerships within the region and use local expertise;
 - Facilitate assistance with EEZ and continental shelf boundary delineation as well as for effective MCS;
 - Develop strategies to prepare for and address natural disasters such as drought, coastal storms, and flooding; and
 - Support effective EEZ management and more equitable and locally beneficial access agreements for fisheries and oil and gas.

Specific suggestions to the Global Forum for assistance in strengthening ocean governance in Africa and contributing to poverty reduction include:

1. Support the development of a strategy for highlighting the values and opportunities offered by oceans and coasts to promote growth and alleviate poverty in Africa;
 2. Support monitoring and information sharing for existing projects;
 3. Support participation in ocean-related gatherings by African journalists and communicators in order to develop expertise to support ocean governance such as through participation at the Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (IGR-2) in Beijing in 2006, and the Cape Town meeting in 2007;
 4. Help to mobilize commitment of donors, private sector, and national governments to disclose access agreements and concessions for oil and gas development, fisheries, and to develop more equitable and locally beneficial access agreements. Disclosure should not end with the national government but should involve engagement of civil society;
 5. Provide support to revisit components in existing programs for communication. Support project managers to come together to discuss the capacity building and communication components of projects;
 6. Strengthen African Universities and technical institutions to create a critical mass of ocean and coastal management professionals; and
 7. Promote advocacy for debt relief – linking ocean governance, debt burden, poverty, and innovative mechanisms for debt relief.
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