

Northern Mozambique Channel initiative, Progress Update May 2015

This document is prepared as a summary of progress to date for the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention, for the COP8, 17-24 June 2015.

This document summarizes progress since COP7 of the Nairobi Convention (December 2012), when the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention was mandated by **Decision CP7/1** to *“to develop and support implementation of priority projects, including ... marine governance in the Mozambique Channel ... (and to) invite partners including the Global Environment Facility to support their implementation”*.

To undertake this, the Secretariat entered into an agreement with WWF and CORDIO, leading to the broader engagement, activities and outputs summarized here. All activities have been undertaken in consultation with partners and countries (through the Nairobi Convention Focal Points), with oversight of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, and with inputs requested from technical experts and partners in relevant contexts (e.g. through Indian Ocean Commission marine programmes, the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge, conference participants, etc).

The NMC initiative can be defined by the following vision: *“The people, countries and economies of the Northern Mozambique Channel prosper in a sustainable future founded on the natural and cultural assets and diversity of the region”*. Three components have been identified to deliver on that vision:

- Visionary leadership from countries, as the custodians of the natural assets of the channel;
- Engagement of all stakeholders and sectors in the region, to identify a shared vision and elaborate how the partnership will achieve and balance the five principles, or assets, for sustainable ocean development;
- A technical process focused on building the assets and capital of the NMC region in five areas: political, institutional, environmental, social and economic.

This process will deliver **Integrated Ocean Management (IOM)** that ensures sustainable benefits to all sectors of society in the NMC countries. Essentially, these provide concrete tools for developing a **Green or Blue Economy** approach that sustainably uses ocean resources and generates the greatest and most equitable distribution of wealth for the citizens and countries of the region.

Progress update

a- Development of a regional vision and strategic framework

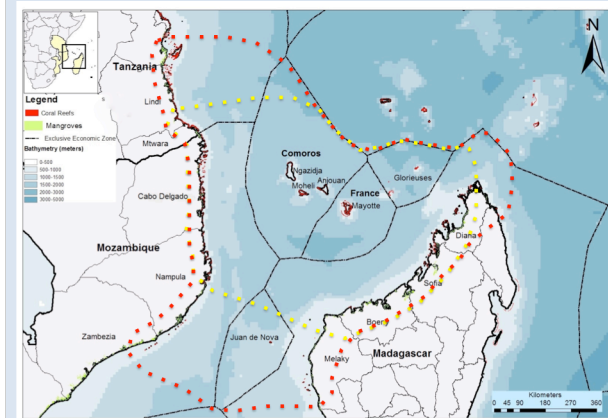


Fig. 1. The NMC covers part of the EEZs of **Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mozambique** and **Tanzania**. The dotted lines show smaller (yellow) and larger (red) possible extents of an NMC initiative boundary, depending on the scope/coverage to be determined by the countries.

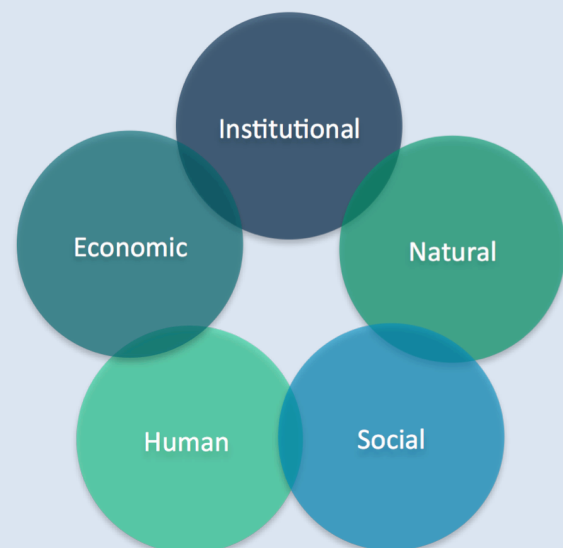


Fig. 2. The Capitals Approach adapted to the NMCi, focusing investment and attention on building assets in five areas: natural, economic, social, human and institutional/governance. These provide a concrete approach to develop a Blue/Green Economic approach to development, based on the resources of the channel.

The strategic framework and regional vision were developed in mid to late 2014, with the specific goal of presenting a concept that can build buy-in and leadership from governments and key stakeholders in the NMC area. The framework and vision are intended to be drafts until such a time when the countries and principal stakeholders are engaged in a framework proposal process (e.g. for the GEF), when their inputs and engagement will establish a final Vision and Strategic Framework for all to follow. *See supporting documents “NMC Strategic Framework and Theory of Change”.*

b- Concretize the NMC initiative through a framework proposal

To help develop and steer the Northern Mozambique Channel initiative, two core documents have been developed:

- A background analysis of the NMC area that builds the case for investing in the region. This document summarizes the principal assets (in five Capitals) and the threats and opportunities to securing and valorizing those assets. The document provides background information for the development of proposals, and targets governments, donors, and private sector leaders. *See supporting documents “NMC Background Document”.*
- A framework proposal for submission to the Global Environment Facility-International Waters programme, focusing on the first stage of submission, the Project Identification Form (PIF). This has entailed consultations with the Nairobi Convention Focal Points since late 2014, and is ready for broader consultations across other sectors within countries, relevant to the five capitals covered by the proposal. The framework (PIF) proposal has five Components to deliver the first steps in achieving the following five long term outcomes (*See supporting document “NMC PIF draft v2”*):
 - i. the Institutional Capital of the NMC is built, through a partnership between the countries, private sector and civil society that enables shared decision-making and sustains commitments to deliver on a sustainable future.
 - ii. the Economic Capital of the NMC is grown, assuring food and livelihood security, and delivering wealth and prosperity equitably across the peoples of the region into the future.
 - iii. the Human and Knowledge Capital of the NMC is built, providing for the decision-making and technological progress that will assure the future of the region, and an informed and knowledgeable society.
 - iv. the Natural Capital of the NMC is enhanced, such that critical ecosystems, species and ecological processes are protected, and support the people and economies of the region into the future
 - v. the Social Capital of the NMC is enhanced and celebrated, ensuring the health, well-being and freedoms of the people of the region in a harmonious and just society

c- Actively promoting the NMCi with governments and stakeholders

In the course of 2014-15, a series of physical meetings and consultations have taken place with key government representatives in the region and partners (e.g. AfD, UNDP, EU, NGOs, park managers, private sector, etc.) to improve their understanding of NMCi and explore opportunities of establishing strategic partnerships. To further this process, an NMCi Ambassador was recruited in 2015, Mr. Ali Kaka (Kenya, formerly Director of IUCN’s regional office) to help identify potential champions within government architecture, for the NMCi.

d- Building alignment amongst NGOs and national-international partners

The Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C) is a group of NGOs that has been acting collectively in the region since 2006. WIO-C was established to provide a forum to streamline engagement of NGOs with the Nairobi Convention, thus provides an appropriate context for coordinating NGO engagement in the NMCi, and modalities for formalizing this are under development through a request tabled at a

WIOC Partners meeting in Dar es Salaam in June 2014, and an NMCI Partners meeting in Nairobi in January 2015.

The foundation for the NMCI vision was developed through the three sister GEF projects ending about 2012 (WIO LAB, ASCLME and SWIOFP) and these are being superseded by 2nd phase projects (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, WIOFISH). Alignment with these programmes to ensure complementarity, and that the NMCI fills gaps these broader regional programmes are unable to fill, have been a top priority, established through participation in planning workshops where possible. Similarly, ensuring the NMCI adds to past/existing programmes is a priority, undertaken through consultation with relevant organizations, and the holistic nature of the Capitals Approach that links interventions across multiple domains.

The NMCI has been actively promoted in international fora, including:

- IMPAC, October 2013, including mention of the NMCI in the Ajaccio High Level Ministerial event in Ajaccio, Corsica.
- WIOMSA Symposia, November 2013, with Special Session held to consult among regional scientists and marine professionals on the Five Capitals Approach.
- World Parks Congress, November 2014, including:
 - mention of the NMC and regional collaboration in addresses by the President of Madagascar and Vice President of the Comores.
 - Adoption of the NMC as a regional case study/focal region by the MPA Action Group of NGOs and Foundations

e- Building the knowledge capital/ information base, and conducting stakeholder analyses

Through 2014 and 2015, the following studies and processes have been targeting key knowledge and capacity gaps, to support further steps in building up the initiative, buy-in and investment from governments and stakeholders, and for providing evidence on the importance of an integrated approach to management in the region.

i. Valuation of ecosystem goods and services in the NMC area:

Conducted by leading experts in the World Bank's Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and the UNEP/EU The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) programmes, this study brought together information enabling valuation of natural systems and assets, in six ecosystem service categories: coastal tourism, coastal recreation, fisheries, mariculture, carbon sequestration and coastal protection. Looking at a broader region than just the NMC, it helped to provide a context for understanding the value and importance of the NMC.

ii. Civil Society Organization (CSO) survey

Conducted by experts from CSIR, South Africa, this study is exploring the capacity and need among existing CSOs and networks to represent all CSOs in an NMC initiative, or more broadly in the WIO if more relevant. This is key to catalyze the emergence of a genuine and balanced public-private partnership.

iii. Economic valuation of climate change impacts for the WIOCC

Conducted by experts in xxxx from South Africa, this study is currently in progress, and will help to develop the strategic orientations for WIOCC with regard to economic valuation of CC impacts in relation to food security and economic development. This study illustrates the potential synergy between NMCI and other initiatives.

iv. Assessment of impact of oil & gas development in the region

This project will look at establishing a detailed database and analyses of the oil and gas sector in the region as well as projected trends in the NMC area (to be started soon).

v. Alignment in capacity building and data for Marine Spatial Planning

This is a coordination and alignment exercise, built on the need for comprehensive Marine Spatial Planning expertise and data to underpin the partnership and five capitals approach of the NMCi, to deliver effective decision-making. With multiple programmes and countries in the WIO investing in MSP, this effort aims to streamline these investments, particularly in building the human/knowledge capital for the NMC (and broader WIO) through shared capacity building and open/shared datasets.

Contributing to other COP7 Decisions

The broad focus of the NMCi on five capitals and the most distinctive sub-region within the WIO (see Background Document), its size and complexity, and multiplicity of economic and development interests in the NMC result in the NMC framework proposal delivering on multiple Decisions from COP7, thus serving to deliver broadly on the intentions of the Nairobi Convention in its area of operation. A summary of these is presented below:

CP7/6 – valuation of and investments to enhance Ecosystem Goods and Services.

CP7/7 – Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), which include the NMC.

CP7/8 – value of Strategic Environmental Assessments to limit industrial/mining impacts (e.g. Oil/Gas).

CP7/9 – climate change vulnerability and adaptation as a core element.

CP7/10 – develop financing and management of Marine Protected Areas.

CP7/11 – identification of potential marine World Heritage for the WIO helped to identify the uniqueness and values of the NMC.

CP7/13 – importance of natural systems and resilience for climate change mitigation, adaptation (Resilient Coasts project)

CP7/14 – support for Green economy approach to development and the Ocean economy (Blue Economy)

Current workplan

The NMCi Core Team is currently focused on the following:

- Mobilization within countries and partners around development of a GEF PIF to align the project with the country priorities and interests necessary to obtain endorsement of the PIF and documentation of co-finance to be able to submit it.
- Exploration of other opportunities for securing the necessary financial resources to the lieft the Initiative off, including through FFEM, EU and BMU (Germany).
- Mobilization of partners within the WIOC, and with other international programmes (e.g. the existing GEF projects WIOSAP, SAPPHERE and others), to embed the initiative in existing structures and collaborations, strengthening them from within.
- Mobilization of priority work areas (such as capacity building for MSP, networking for engagement in the Oil and Gas sector, etc) that can move forward with other/independent support and demonstrate commitment and investment in NMCi activities and goals.

Request to COP8:

Decision CP7/1 of COP7 mandated all the activities reported above, for the NC Work Programme for 2013-17. In the middle of this work programme, the Contracting Parties are requested to reinforce their support to protection and sustainability of the Northern Mozambique Channel in a decision that facilitates the next stages of work-planning and raise funding to benefit the countries and residents of the NMC:

Preambular text

- *Acknowledging Decision CP7/1 on the Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention for 2013-17* referencing the Mozambique Channel, and that COP8 is placed to follow up on and strengthen this

past decision.

Decide

Decision CP8/x. Strengthening the development of an Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) framework to safeguard the Northern Mozambique Channel

- *To Request* the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to continue to lead a process towards the establishment of an Integrated Ocean Management Framework for the Northern Mozambique Channel;
- *To Urge* the Contracting Parties to engage actively in and endorse the framework proposal being developed for the NMC, for submission to the Global Environment Facility and other donors;
- *To Call Upon* the Global Environment Facility and other potential funding agencies to support the Northern Mozambique Channel initiative.

Supporting documents

The following documents (mentioned in the text above) support the NMCi process and contain information supporting the reporting presented here. These can be obtained electronically from <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dwbwv00hcm5zvo/AACd0jHYKRMrjopJspppyfov1a?dl=0> and <http://www.cordioea.net/nmc>:

1. NMC Strategic Framework.
 - *Supporting the Strategic Framework, a Theory of Change workbook is also developed.*
2. NMC Background Document
3. NMC GEF-PIF draft v2.
4. Valuation of Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Northern Mozambique Channel (Paulo Nuñez & Andrea Ghermandi)

Forthcoming documents:

- Civil Society Organization (CSO) survey
- Economic valuation of climate change impacts for the WIOCC
- Assessment of impact of oil & gas development in the region

Contacts

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This document is supported by the following NMCi partners, all members of the WIOC, to support ongoing development of the initiative in support of the NMC countries:

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| • <i>Birdlife International</i> | • <i>Nature (IUCN)</i> |
| • <i>Blue Ventures</i> | • <i>RARE Conservation</i> |
| • <i>Conservation International</i> | • <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> |
| • <i>CORDIO</i> | • <i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i> |
| • <i>Fauna and Flora International</i> | • <i>World Wildlife Fund</i> |
| • <i>International Union for the Conservation of</i> | • <i>Zoological Society of London</i> |