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Area Based Planning Tools and Regional Cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean Meeting

Mahe, Seychelles 13 -14 October 2016

AREA BASED PLANNING TOOLS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MEETING, HELD AT MAHE, SEYCHELLES, 13-14 OCTOBER 2016 Report of the Meeting

A. Introduction

1. The meeting on Area Based Planning Tools and Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was held in Mahe, Seychelles on 13-14 October 2016 by the Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean region in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) as part of the implementation of the project on Sustainable fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). The session of the workshop that dealt with regional cooperation was organized by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in collaboration with Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
2. The Area Based Planning Tools meeting was held back to back with the meeting on the Partnership on Science to Policy Forum and was attended by 50 participants including the Focal Points of the Nairobi Convention, representatives of research institutions and universities, regional partners and non-governmental organisations.

B. Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was called to order by the Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Mr. Dixon Waruinge, who gave a brief opening statement noting that the meeting was a follow up to Decision CP8/10, urging the Contracting Parties to cooperate in improving the governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Mr. Waruinge stated that the meeting had been organized in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC as

part of the implementation of the project on Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in ABNJ.

4. Mr. Waruinge noted that the objective of the meeting was to test the applicability of area-based planning tools to ABNJ and to share lessons learned from regional experiences. He explained that the workshop would also discuss regional cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean pursuant to Decision CP8/1.2 that requested the Secretariat to take note of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and incorporate the relevant outcomes into the new work programme for 2018 – 2022. The objective of the regional cooperation session was to discuss available options to support regional and national actions in the implementation of SDGs with specific reference to SDG 14 on the marine and coastal environment.
5. In accordance with established practice the Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention, Seychelles, represented by the Chief Executive Officer of Seychelles National Parks Authority, Mr. Flavien Joubert chaired the meeting. Mr. Joubert gave brief opening remarks congratulating UNEP, the Nairobi Convention and partners for organizing the workshop. He noted that the workshop brought together diverse organizations with a diverse array of skills sets and different mechanisms in Area Based Planning. Mr. Joubert stated that the Government of Seychelles was particularly interested in Area Based Planning of adjacent waters because of the Joint Management Area Project that Seychelles is involved in together with Mauritius. The Chair wished the participants fruitful deliberations and hoped that participants would make use of the experiences shared in the workshops to demonstrate good practice in Areas Based Planning in their respective countries.

C. Organizational Matters: The Agenda

6. The chair led the meeting through the provisional agenda which was adopted by the meeting.

D. Session One: ABNJ Ocean Governance frameworks in Western Indian Ocean

i. *Aims and Objectives of the Workshop*

7. *Representative, WCMC*, noted that the objectives of the workshop were to present the current progress of the ABNJ Project and to provide an opportunity for the workshop participants to give feedback and ask questions to shape the course of the Project; to share experiences on Capacity in area-based planning (strengths and needs), and to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of regional engagements to support action towards attaining the SDGs.
8. She gave a brief overview of the project '*Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions*'. The 5-year project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and jointly implemented by FAO and UNEP with FAO being the lead implementing agency. The presenter noted that the project has 4 components related to i) improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems, ii) protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and iii) practicing improved area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems. Of relevance to the WIO region will be Component 4 which seeks to "Develop and test a methodology for area-based planning" (in the South East Pacific and the WIO Region) to demonstrate how ocean planning in ABNJ could become cross-sectoral, for instance in fisheries, mining, shipping and cable laying.
9. In the institutional mapping study under Component 4 that the deep-sea project is undertaking, the detailed benefits discussed by the presenter include: the development of Area-Based Planning knowledge and tool in ABNJ; developing capacity for engagement in area based planning processes; supporting countries in the pilot region in meeting long term development objectives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals through provision of cross sectoral and regional support; helping generate understanding of what area-based planning means in the context of the specific characteristics of each region; consideration of transboundary benefits of ABNJ planning; and fostering greater transparency and understanding of the current ABNJ situation.

ii. *Marine spatial planning with Stakeholders: challenges and solutions*

10. *Representative, L'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)* intervention was based on the question "Is marine spatial planning (MSP) with stakeholders in clear or troubled waters?" The presenter discussed

the need for MSP, the definition of MSP (why MSP should be transparent, how MSP is a science based political process and the “who” of MSP, that is, the stakeholders). The presenter discussed the ideal of MSP as it should be and the reality of MSP (Is MSP in the region transparent? Does it take into account the stakeholders perceptions? Who are the MSP stakeholders in the region, how is MSP made operational?). The presenter focused on the Mozalink Project as an MSP Case Study. Mozalink project is funded by WIOMSA through its Marine and Coastal Science for Management programme (2014-2017) and is being implemented by a number of partners in the sub-region to link marine science, traditional knowledge and cultural perceptions of the sea in the Mozambique Channel to build tomorrow’s marine management using spatial simulation tools and educational games. The presenter finally discussed a tool/platform that the Mozalink project has developed - which uses maps and social media- to support MSP.

iii. *Spatial Data Infrastructure, Services and Solutions to support marine management:*

11. *CEO, GEOMATYS* delivered a presentation titled *SDI Services and Solutions for Marine Applications* stating that an SDI is a distributed geographical information system that uses standard services to provide interoperability between several actors across different countries. The presenter outlined the need for an SDI, how SDIs can be used in MSP (to produce electronic nautical charts, for real time vessel tracking, oceanographic data management, taxonomy index management and for distribution); the services provided by SDI tools and the benefits of SDIs.

iv. *Area based Planning tools including Economic Valuation tools for MSP*

12. *Chief, Ecosystem Services Economics Unit, Division of Environment Programme Implementation, (UNEP)* gave a presentation on the importance of valuation and accounting of natural capital in Marine Spatial Planning. He discussed the work that Ecosystem Unit is doing in the Valuation and Accounting of Natural Capital for Green Economy (VANTAGE) Programme and how this can be extended to the MSP arena. The talk covered the importance of an economic approach to ecosystems management, how valuation of natural capital is done; the lessons learnt from the VANTAGE Programme, and what how to use economic valuation appropriately.

v. *ABNJ Governance in the WIO – possible scenarios.*

13. *Representative, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)* presentation focused on the approaches that are being used to mitigate the threats and pressures on the ABNJ. These include: global approaches (the establishment of the Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Working Group in 2004; the opening of negotiation on BBNJs in 2016; and regional approaches (regional initiatives, Marine Protected Areas, fisheries closures). The presenter looked at the WIO situation in terms of the diverse activities carried out in the high seas, the multiple actors involved in conservation or usage of marine biodiversity and the lack of a strategy to manage the high seas. She outlined the working paper that IDDRI and IUCN developed on *Developing Area Based Management Tools in areas beyond national jurisdiction: Possible options for the Western Indian Ocean* which describes the approaches used in the WIO region and the lessons learnt from the regional initiatives. The presenter talked about the way forward for managing ABNJs, discussing recent developments in the area based planning arena and the 2017 activities of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) project.

vi. *Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean*

14. *Representative, UNEP-WCMC* presentation was pre-recorded and delivered via audio link to the workshop. The presenter presented the findings of a study titled *Governance of ABNJ for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, Institutional Mapping and Cross Sectoral Cooperation in two regions; the South East Pacific and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO)*. She outlined the background and objective of the study, the work carried out during the study, and the methodology used in the study. The presenter then covered the governance frameworks for ABNJ from a global perspective (UNCLOS and the ocean uses as well as examples of institutions related to ABNJs) and from the WIO region perspective (IOC, IOTC, Nairobi Convention, SWIOFC, SIOFPA etc.). The presenter discussed key observations for the WIO, cooperation mechanisms and challenges associated with strengthening cooperation and identified elements of a potential future regional initiative for testing Area-Based Planning (ABP) tools in the WIO. The presenter concluded her talk on the need for creating opportunities for future cross-sectoral cooperation in ABP approaches.

vii. *MSP application in the WIO region, Tools and their applicability*

15. *Representative, CSIR, South Africa* presentation focused on the *Western Indian Ocean Approach for Incorporating Marine Spatial Planning in the Blue Economy*. He discussed the study that the Nairobi Convention has requested WIOMSA to carry out on the blue economy with the objective of surveying the ascendance of the “blue” or “ocean” economy in the WIO; elaborating on the relationship between the blue economy and MSP, integrated coastal management and others; reporting on the implementation and use of MSP in the WIO; regional, national and sub-national scaling of MSP, and integration with other management and planning process and policy drivers; making recommendations for the development of a project for the incremental implementation of projects and initiatives to coordinate MSP, share learning and experience and build capacity. The presenter discussed the existing policy frameworks/documents guiding Blue Economy implementation and in particular MSP. He also discussed examples of countries in the region that are advancing Blue/Ocean Economy and MSP initiatives in the WIO: South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles. The presenter concluded his presentation by providing initial recommendations on MSP and the Blue Economy.

viii. Connectivity and Transboundary Interactions-

16. *Representative, UNEP-WCMC* delivered a presentation on Marine Ecological and Physical Connectivity and its importance for marine planning processes. The presenter noted that initial work in this area was a first step in a wider study on connectivity that UNEP-WCMC is leading and that it represented some initial background information on the science behind connectivity. The speaker covered the following topics in the presentation: What is connectivity? Types of connectivity. Why is connectivity important? Area-based planning & connectivity.

ix. The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Process

17. *Representative IDDRI / UNEP-WCMC* delivered a presentation titled “*Negotiations for a new agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ*”. The presenter discussed the existing, planned and possible future activities in ABNJ. The timeline of global processes in relation to ABNJ include
 - The formation of the BBNJ Working Group in 2004;
 - the 2011 Agreement on the ‘Package Deal’ where States recommended to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) during the 2011 meeting of the BBNJ Working Group that discussions under its umbrella focus on four elements: (i) Marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits (ii) Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (iii) Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) (iv) capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology
 - the 2012 Rio+20 commitment,
 - the 2 BBNJ meetings in 2014,
 - the 2015 final BBNJ Working Group meeting in January and UNGA in August/September,
 - the 2016 meetings of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) in March and in August/September. The August PrepCom deliberated on area based management tools for Marine Protected Areas (MPA), the need for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to contribute to BBNJ conservation and sustainable use, and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources.
18. The presenter further elaborated various developments that are of relevance to Area Based Planning from the 2011 package deal, including sharing benefits of marine genetic resources, measures such as area-based management tools for marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. In the 2014 BBNJ meeting there was a strong ‘coalition of the willing’ which is developing including the progressive involvement of developing states.

E. Session Two: Capacity assessment

i. Capacity assessment for area based planning in ABNJ

19. *Representative, (GRID-Arendal)* delivered a presentation focused on the work that the “*Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions*” is doing in capacity assessment. The aim of the

assessment is to understand country and regional capacity issues related to area based planning in terms of governance, technical capacity, data and information systems; and to guide the co-development of future capacity development activities in ABNJ Deep Seas Project. Capacity in this sense refers to example of projects, transferable skills, marine governance, and area based planning in the ABNJ (GIS, MSP processes, stakeholder engagement, technical capacity, legal frameworks, leadership/champions, cross sectoral engagement and data information knowledge).

ii. *Breakout group discussions*

a. The WIO countries' perspectives on MSP

20. Participants were divided into 4 mixed country groups: Mauritius-Seychelles-South Africa, Tanzania-Mozambique, Kenya-Somali and Madagascar-Comoros. The groups discussed the following questions on the countries perspectives on MSP:
 - What do countries think of MSP?
 - What have their experiences with MSP been? Existing experiences with stakeholder engagement - has it worked well in your country? Any challenges? Has it happened?
 - Which are the main institutions that have experience in area based planning?, and
 - Which agencies are responsible for sectoral governance in the marine environment in your country? Examples of cross sectoral cooperation or transboundary cooperation?
21. The groups reported that most countries have some experience on aspects of spatial planning, not necessarily at the level of MSP, but sectoral. Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar all referred to spatial planning and zoning in the MPAs, in the management of the park, in the use of resources in the park but this is limited to the fisheries structures. Countries have Strategic Environmental Assessment policies for the entire coastline e.g. Mozambique and Kenya. All groups noted that spatial plans form a good basis to be integrated into Marine Spatial Plans or that there is necessary background experience in the region to move towards MSP in the WIO region.
22. MSP is a new concept in most countries, with different countries being at different stages of developing or adopting MSP: Mauritius MSP policy is still under discussion; a cabinet paper has been drawn. Seychelles has largely implemented MSP and there is political will to drive the process to completion. Development of MSP has taken a top-down approach in Seychelles with a focal point being appointed to lead the process. In South Africa, MSP process has been driven by the push towards an Ocean Economy. The process has data gaps and calls on science to provide information.
23. On MSP perceptions and stakeholder engagement the groups noted that MSP IN South Africa and all other countries primarily has been associated with conservation and the oil and gas exploration companies especially in Tanzania, Mozambique, La Réunion, and Mauritius. Countries reported mixed experiences on stakeholder engagement in the MSP process. South Africa noted that there has been a call to expand MPAs but so far with limited stakeholder engagement. Seychelles noted that stakeholder engagement in MSP has been very good; Kenya also noted that stakeholder engagement is good but that there are overlapping issues and complementing jurisdictions between actors that need to be resolved.
24. Most countries gave examples of cross sectoral and transboundary cooperation: the Protected Area Planning Framework in Kenya, the inter-ministerial collaboration through the Environmental Management Act of Tanzania; the proposed Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania; the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategies in Kenya and Tanzania; and the Joint Management Area Project between Seychelles and Mauritius. Comoros and Madagascar also reported good cross-sectoral communication.
25. Some of the challenges discussed across the four groups included: (i) lack of political will to drive MSP, (ii) lack of understanding of the benefits of MSP for the countries, (iii) data gaps on MSP, (iv) the need for a critical mass of people with knowledge of MSP to drive the process, (v) lack of capacity to implement MSP, and (vi) lack of a clear vision on the connectivity between implementation of SDG 14 and MSP in the region.

b. ABNJ / BBNJ Discussion

26. The 4 groups were asked to discuss the following questions on ABNJ/BBNJ:

- Governance: which agencies are responsible for sectoral governance in the marine environment in your country with ABNJ Focus? - E.g. International Seabed Authority (ISA), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Regional Fisheries Management Organisation/Arrangement (RFMO/A).
 - Who engages with the BBNJ process? What opportunities/challenges exist in engaging this process?
 - What skills and experience on area based planning that are transferable to ABNJ exist within your institute/country?
 - Who are the key people or institutes that should be engaged in the ABNJ GEF project? The summary of the discussions is presented in the sections below?
27. Regarding ABNJ, Madagascar and Comoros noted that they cannot discuss the High Seas before having sorted out their EEZ delimitations. In general, there is delay in MSP initiatives with many different departments being administratively responsible for marine resources. The two countries noted that ABNJ issues are not reflected in the the Nairobi Convention's responsibility.
28. Tanzania and Mozambique felt that there is a need to articulate the issues on ABNJ to policy makers (e.g. migratory fish stocks and connectivity) and what countries stand to gain so that there is investment in ABNJs. Similar sentiments were brought up by South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles who noted that there is little involvement in ABNJ amongst policy makers, owing to limited understanding of the benefits of engaging in MSP. Mauritius and Seychelles are involved in ABNJ through the joint management of the extended continental shelf.
29. There was agreement across the groups that engagement in ABNJ issues has been sectoral, for example through the Directorate of Environment under the Prime Minister's Office in Somalia, the Fisheries department in Kenya which engages with the Regional Marine Fisheries Organizations (RMFO), institutions that conduct research in ABNJ, and through the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).
- c. Values Exercises:
30. Participants were asked to think of a marine protected area (MPA) that was special and three things that they valued about the place. The values that participants associated with the MPAs were collated in a word cloud document and participants were requested to consider those values in relation to ABNJ. The discussions are summarized below.
- The high seas/ABNJs account for about 70% of the oceans. Most of the oceans are beyond the national areas of jurisdiction; However most are focused on the management of EEZs.
 - There is a need to combine the management of resources within areas of national jurisdiction with those outside national jurisdictions due to issues of interconnectivity (migratory species), and activities that occur in EEZs and ABNJs (such as tourism, sea bed mining, recreational fishing, piracy, high seas environment crimes, mineral resources etc.). The link between EEZ and adjacent waters need to be made explicitly clear to countries for governance.
 - There is a need to support countries to manage ABNJs. This support could be in the form of capacity building and creation of awareness on issues of ABNJ. There is a need to start looking at ABNJ in terms of how countries can benefit from ABNJ e.g. mining concessions.

iii. *Introduction to global marine datasets of biodiversity importance in the Western Indian Ocean-*

31. Representative, UNEP-WCMC, presentation focused on the Western Indian Ocean Data Manual. Noting that marine data is often fragmented and not accessible to non-experts, the Western Indian Ocean Data Manual provides an overview of global datasets of the region. The manual contains 103 datasets that reflect characteristics of biodiversity in 9 categories. The manual shows the distribution of cold water corals, hydrothermal vents, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA), and the extent of EEZ, among others. 95% of the ABNJ region in the Western Indian Ocean remains unexplored particularly because it is hard to access, leading to understudied deep sea habitats.
32. In the general discussion after the presentation, UNEP-WCMC was asked to consider obtaining data from regional databases for example the Biodiversity Project and the African Marine Atlas of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) Programme of IOC/UNESCO, Census of Marine Life, and the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2).

F. Session Three: Regional Engagement and Priorities in ABNJ

33. Representative, *UNEP-WCMC*, presentation on *Area Based Planning Tools* covered two principle areas: Challenges and Opportunities in Area-Based Planning Tools (Challenge 1: What exactly is an ABP tool? Challenge 2: ABNJ are 'different' but how? Challenge 3: Figuring out what spatial measures already exist in ABNJ) and creative and new approaches to area based planning in ABNJ. The presenter discussed the types of tools available: framework tools (MSP, ICM, single sector based tools such as fisheries closure areas, Areas of Particular Environmental Importance and MPA networks) and supporting tools (assessment tools and decisions support tools). Lastly, the presenter discussed the activities in ABNJ, horizon scanning (possible future uses of the high seas and potential actors in the future)

i. Group Discussions on Area Based Tools and ecosystem approach

34. Participants continued to work in the 4 groups identified in Session 2. The groups were requested to deliberate on the following issues on the experience with tools for area based planning (process tools - MSP / ICZM / Coastal Ecosystem Based Adaptation, assessment tools, decision support systems).

- In a process to choose a tool, how do we know which tool would be the right one?
- What features are you looking for in tools that you use?
- What have you found good in the tools that you have used?
- What have you found challenging about the tools that you have experience of?

A summary of those discussions is presented in the sections below.

35. **Group 1:** Mauritius has digital based tools - GIS, Mapping and modelling. There are discussions about developing data catalogues that will allow policy, decision makers and society to access information at a glance. Seychelles has a GIS section based in the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. Seychelles is receiving a lot of international support in the technical use and implementation of area based planning tools. For example, Seychelles Climate Change Trust implementation (SEYCat) has support from The Nature Conservancy and IOC of UNESCO. MSP support is being provided by the IOTC, the University of Flensburg, the Managed network of Environmental Researchers in the region (Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius), IORA (through BERI) etc. Nonetheless, the local capacity to use the tools to manage activities still remains low in Seychelles and needs strengthening. South Africa does Area Based Planning at the national level and uses a suite of decision support tools, algal blooms, ship tracking, and near shore modelling. France (La Réunion) has a similar experience to South Africa in the sense that there is sectoral integration and there is awareness of area based planning tools. MSP has been proposed as a way of dealing with a variety of disputes. However MSP and Blue Economy are not part of the legal framework in France yet.
36. **Group 2:** Tanzania has TANSEA and ZANSEA which are open access tools for area based management. These are also multi-sectoral tools and they were developed through a widely inclusive stakeholder engagement process. Mozambique mentioned Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), GIS for mapping, disaster risk management tools, critical habitats sensitivity tools to designate MPAs e.g. Cape del Gado. Some of the challenges experienced in the use of Area Based Planning in Tanzania and Mozambique include underutilization and sustainability in terms of financing; lack of qualified personnel to use the tools and scale usage of tools including data ownership.
37. **Group 3:** Somali is in the process of setting up legal frameworks for Strategic Environmental Assessment. The tools that are in use in Kenya include Integrated Coastal Zone Management, assessment reports on the state of the environment or state of the coast reports; GIS as a basic tool, participatory mapping, local ecological knowledge, TDA (Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis) and MPAs. The choice of tools is dependent on the scale of the project: smaller scale projects go for EIAs and the bigger one Strategic Environmental Assessments. Some of the challenges discussed by the group include the loose interpretation of the laws, political interference, need for creation of awareness and synergies between the actors, lack of coordination between the actors, and conflicting mandates
38. **Group 4:** Both Comoros and Madagascar noted that there is a lot of experience in using area based tools (Comoros- Moheli Marine Park Zoning based on science and local knowledge- and in Madagascar -MSP will based on scientific research and every sector providing data on their sector, use of GIS). The group mentioned that it was an important criteria and there is a need to have a champion and for leaders to endorse area based planning. An example of a successful Area Based Tools in Madagascar is the octopus closures in

the South West that is being implemented by the community in collaboration with Blue Ventures, an NGO. Local knowledge and GIS were considered indispensable tools in area based planning. (It is the locals who know best where the fish, the dolphins and the dugongs are). The group also thought that genetically vulnerable species is an element that is lacking currently from ABP tools. The challenges mentioned by the group include: MPA or other ABP tool designation is a very lengthy. Public consultation for certain MPAs took 4 years and will take another 2 years. Secondly, lack of political will in area based planning. Decision makers feel that area based planning tools do not really concern them.

ii. General Discussions

39. The discussion highlighted capacity building needs in most countries in the use of area based planning tools and the sustainability of the tools beyond the funding period. The following capacity building needs were mentioned:

- Comoros: MSP is a new process therefore there is need for capacity building in all aspects of MSP.
- Kenya: the country has gone some way in building capacity in research in coastal and marine management – universities have courses on marine management, collaboration with outside countries, the research vessel Mtafiti is a big boost for research; nonetheless, there are still gaps to be filled.
- Madagascar: capacity building for data management, sectoral capacity building on useage of MSP tools, awareness training for decision makers on the importance of MSP tools;
- Mauritius: With the Ocean Economy being launched, Mauritius has done an analysis of capacity building needs and the University of Mauritius has developed curriculums to address these needs; GIS tools are being developed but funding is the one of the greatest hurdles in this.
- Mozambique: deep-sea research capacity building and multi-disciplinary pilot research on area based planning tools is required.
- Seychelles: lack of human capacities across all the activities, . training is needed for technicians, a means of retaining trained expertise; research capacity is limited in government offices;
- Somali: capacity building in all aspects of marine and coastal management.
- South Africa: there is a need for capacity building, there has been a rapid development of the Blue Economy and within that there was an analysis of capacity building needs for MSP (economic valuation, geographic skills, spatial planning skills etc.), need for well- resourced funding for research programmes particularly for ABNJ.
- Tanzania: in the spirit of ICM, there is a need for wider consultation in scoping, stock taking, developing architecture to shape institutional policies and legal frameworks around land based sources, coastal ecosystems, marine ecosystems EEZs outwards towards ABNJs. There is a need to look at what is being done, involving Planning Commissions in issues of MSP, Area Based Planning, in implementing SDG 14.

iii. Concluding thoughts on ABNJ

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