

4. Coral reef monitoring and Marine Taxonomic Database

Convener: *Said Ahamada (Biodiversity program-IOC) and David Oboura (Cordio)*

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Venue: Msikaba 2

Background

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Nairobi Convention and the Western Indian Ocean marine science association (WIOMSA) have developed a strong collaboration on sustainable marine and coastal environment management, including the protection, management and monitoring of coral reefs. This has been established in alignment with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and its Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). Under the IOC, first the ISLANDS project (2011-14) and now the Biodiversity Project (2013-17), have supported actions to revitalize the national and regional coral reef networks, assess the current state of coral reef monitoring, and provide tools (an online database and updated manual) to support national coral reef monitoring teams.

A regional workshop on coral reef networks and monitoring was held in February 2015 in Mauritius, attended by 40 coral reef researchers and managers from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania. At the workshop, a roadmap for compiling a Western Indian Ocean GCRMN report for 2015-16 was drafted. The online Coral Reef Information System will form a basis for the reporting process.

The 9th Scientific WIOMSA Symposium provides a unique opportunity to gain further support for the reporting process in the broader WIOMSA community, and in the countries not supported in the Biodiversity Project.

A special session on Coral reef monitoring will facilitate communication between researchers and allow for the development of a regional approach to draft the regional status report.

Objectives

- To share with regional scientific community the preliminary results of ongoing coral reef monitoring at national level.
- Assess data available, identify information gaps and ways to fill them
- recommend some actions for a harmonised approach in drafting a regional status report

Target audience

Researchers, students, Marine Protected Area researchers/planners, conservation planners, GIS/spatial analysts, government and multilateral institutions' representatives, coral reef practitioners.

Expected outputs

- Updates on ongoing national monitoring's
- Summary of available data
- Harmonized approach for the regional status report
- Fine-tuned timeline for the regional status report delivery

Provisional Meeting Programme

Timing	Activities	Responsible
Session I : Coral reef session		
0830	Registration of participants	
0900	Opening	Said Ahamada & Tim Andrew
0915	Overview of the WIO GCRMN coral reef status report drafting process	David Obura (CORDIO)
1000	National Progress report (10mn per expert)	National Experts
1030	COFFEE BREAK	
1045	National Progress report	National Experts
1115	Other Interventions	
1145	General discussions on constraints, gaps and recommendations	David Obura
1230	LUNCH	
Session 2 : Marine Taxonomic Database		
1330	Introduction	Tim Andrew
1340	Presentation of the taxonomic marine database feasibility study preliminary results	Lucy Scott
1420	General discussions and recommendations	Tim Andrew with co-facilitators
1530	Meeting closure	
1530	COFFEE BREAK	
1600	Small working group on the WIO GCRMN coral reef status report drafting way forward	6 Key National experts and 2 regional coordinators (IOC+CORDIO)
1700	Closing	