



IUCN submission: “Special Session” during 10th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium

Title:

Nature Culture Future: Blue solutions and the IUCN Green List in the WIO region to help achieve conservation results for people and nature

Objective:

Advance the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas in the Western Indian Ocean and profile successful MPA solutions from the region

Description:

The proposed “Special Session” is a half-day workshop, organized by IUCN, in collaboration with regional partners. It will introduce the [IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas](#) standard and illustrate it with examples of successful MPAs (“blue solutions”) from the Western Indian Ocean region.

By relying on the [Blue Solutions](#) methodology, the workshop will use real-life case studies to provide an understanding and basis for discussion on different aspects of performance of protected and conserved areas, and to facilitate direct exchange between “solution providers” and potential “solution seekers”.

This methodology of coupling theoretic input with “solution” examples in workshops has been developed and successfully applied under the Blue Solutions initiative, e.g. to convey MPA governance principles to practitioners in the Coral Triangle Region ([see here](#)).

The workshop also builds on previous and planned activities of IUCN and the Blue Solutions initiative in the region, such as the [Regional Forum on Solutions for Oceans, Coasts and Human Wellbeing in Africa](#) (2016).

Expected outcomes:

The session will promote, assess interest and generate excitement in application of the standard in the region, potentially through a WIOMSA-based regional Green List programme. It will start to bring together and develop a network of experts with the relevant expertise for a potential application of the Green List standard in the region.

The session will also support the uptake of elements of existing solutions for MPA management and governance.

The workshop will contribute to the development of new and strengthening of existing partnerships in the region, including with a view of Blue Solutions follow-up project engagements.

Audience:

The session is open for participation by all interested attendees of the WIOMSA Symposium. It is targeted specifically at professionals involved in the design, management and governance of protected and conserved areas, at the practical, political or scientific level.



Workshop design:

The workshop will provide an introduction to the IUCN Green List Standard. It will rely on documented practical, real-life examples of MPA success stories (“blue solutions”) from the Western Indian Ocean, which will serve as entry points for understanding and illustrating excellent performance in protected and conserved areas, as defined under the 4 components of the standard.

These examples will be presented by representatives from the sites, who act as solution providers and resource persons for the discussion (final sites tbd). The “blue solution” sites could work as entry points for an initial application of the Green List standard in the region.

The broad agenda for the workshop is as follows:

- 1) Introduction of workshop objectives and agenda**
- 2) Introduction of Blue Solutions approach and methodology:** analysing and promoting successful approaches by identifying replicable “building blocks” to support their broader application
- 3) Introduction of IUCN Green List standard – background, rationale and process**
- 4) Components of the standard and how they are exemplified by Western Indian Ocean sites:**
 - a. Good governance
 - i. e.g. [locally-managed marine reserves](#), Madagascar
 - ii. e.g. [Parc Marin Mohéli](#), Comoros
 - b. Sound design and planning
 - i. e.g. Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve, Mozambique
 - c. Effective management
 - i. e.g. [Sustainable financing through carbon credits](#), Madagascar
 - d. Conservation outcomes
 - i. e.g. [Cousin Island](#), Seychelles
- 5) Solutioning exercise: Creating new solutions**

In an interactive exercise, participants will explore the key components of success presented in the case studies, and discuss how these could benefit, and be applied in, sites with potential for improvement.

Such “sites with potential” could be suitable Green List candidates, where the standard could be usefully applied as a diagnostic tool to identify gaps and needs for improvement. Participants will discuss options for mentoring between “solution sites” and “sites with potential”, as part of a Green List programme.
- 6) Discussion: Next steps for applying the IUCN Green List in the Western Indian Ocean region**
 - Needs and opportunities for using the standard to advance MPA performance and provide global recognition to existing success
 - Agree on specific next steps:
 - setting up an Expert Assessment Group Green List (EAGL)
 - role of IUCN and other partners

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