

# Abstract

## “Session/Expert meeting on 2017 WIO post-bleaching assessment and monitoring sustainability”

During the 10th WIOMSA Scientific symposium

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Coral reef monitoring has been undertaken in the Western Indian Ocean (Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania) under the regional cooperation frameworks or the Indian Ocean Commission and the Nairobi Convention, and implementing the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). The networks include experts and practitioners working on coral reef research and conservation, representing public institutions and non-government organizations.

Most recently, a regional status report on coral reefs has been completed in 2017, including assessment of the extent of the 3<sup>rd</sup> global coral bleaching event which affected the region in 2016. This half-day workshop brings together regional GCRMN participants with a focus on discussing the mortality of corals from the 2016 event, and the status of reefs subsequently.

At the same time, the global GCRMN network is undergoing a process for institutional and operational strengthening, including through technical inputs from the Global Ocean Observing System of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and its Biology and Ecosystems Panel. Live coral cover is among the most advanced of the Essential Ocean Variables (EOV) promoted by GOOS (<http://www.goosocean.org/eov>). The WIO GCRMN workshop provides an opportunity for regional engagement with a meeting of the GOOS BioEco Panel focused on drafting an implementation plan for the live coral cover EOV.

This workshop will be a joint activity of the WIO GCRMN networks and GOOS (IOC-UNESCO) to:

1. report national and regional post-bleaching assessments conducted under the current Indian Ocean Commission/Biodiversity Project support to the reef networks;
2. contribute to capacity building of the WIO GCRMN reef networks for monitoring and reporting;
3. identify synergies between the regional GCRMN network and GOOS Biology and Ecosystems Panel to support coral reef monitoring in the region;
4. provide inputs to the joint GCRMN/GOOS Implementation and Governance plans to strengthen support for coral reef monitoring globally.

Expected outputs will include:

- information and timelines for reporting on the regional post-bleaching assessment;
- improved networking for coral bleaching and regular monitoring under the WIO GCRMN network/regional Coral Reef Task Force;



- inputs to the GOOS BioEco Panel meeting (3-4 November 2017) on the coral cover EOVI Implementation Plan.

Participation is open. Targeted participants include national coordinators and experts who have been actively involved in the 2017 WIO GCRMN report drafting and coral reef post bleaching assessment. Other researchers and managers engaged in coral reef monitoring are also invited to attend, as well as WIOMSA conference attendees and representatives from relevant regional organisations. Expected total participants should be about 25.