

# WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MANGROVE NETWORK



Special Session during 10<sup>th</sup> WIOMSA Scientific Symposium to be held on 02<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2017

## Advancing the WIO Mangrove Network

### 1. Background

Mangroves in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region face similar management challenges albeit at varying intensities and extents. Major threats include over-exploitation for wood products and conversion of mangrove areas to other land uses, particularly aquaculture, saltpans and paddy farming. Other common threats include coastal pollution, coastal development, mining and more recently climate change related impacts among others. In terms of governance, some of the mangroves are trans-boundary that falls in the jurisdiction of different countries. Accordingly, the WIO Mangrove Network was established in 2011 as a regional platform for concerted approaches to share experiences, lessons and expertise in charting a common course of management and conservation strategies to address these common challenges.

Since its establishment, the Network has evolved and undertaken a number of initiatives to realize the necessary knowledge exchange and build capacity in the science and management of mangroves. For example, through major support from WIOMSA, regional and international partnerships bringing together Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), University of Nairobi (UoN), Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), United Nations University (UNU-INWEH), CORDIO East Africa, Annamalai University, UNEP Nairobi Convention, WWF Kenya, IUCN and Mangroves for the Future (MFF), the Network has managed to organized two Regional Courses in Mangrove Ecosystems and Biodiversity, one in 2013 and another in 2016. In 2012, the Network in partnership with the US Forest Service and support from USAID facilitated organization of the Regional Workshop on Mangrove Assessment Methods based on the experience from a comprehensive study conducted in the mangroves of Zambezi Delta in Mozambique. From this workshop a regional project was developed in 2013 to designate two Mangrove Research and Training Forests Rufiji Delta and Maputo Bay (Mozambique) to serve as long-term facilities for experimentation, designing and demonstration of best practices for mangrove restoration and conservation in collaboration with respective state agencies for forest management. Subsequently a comprehensive inventory in the designated area in Rufiji Delta was conducted in 2016. In 2016 the Network published a treatise book covering a classic elaboration of the status and management of mangroves in the WIO region. Similar to the past two WIOMSA Scientific Symposiums, where the Network organized Special Sessions to showcase its progress in advancing knowledge and expertise in mangrove research and management for sustainability, this year's Special Session is planned to demonstrate achievements and develop a road map for effective institutionalization, operationalization and enhancement of both regional and international partnerships as outlined in the following agenda.

## 2. Agenda

### 2.1 Review of Progress, Approval and Launching of Outputs

- (i) Network Constitution
- (ii) Network Website and online member enrolment
- (iii) WIO Regional Mangrove Assessment Manual
- (iv) Framework for WIO Regional Mangrove Restoration Guide

### 2.2 Country updates on mangrove research, conservation and management initiatives/projects

### 2.3. Developing Partnerships

- (i) Wetlands International (WI) - Mangrove Capital Africa, Global/Africa Mangrove Watch
- (ii) Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), KMFRI, IMS - TransCoast for Kenya-Tanzania Trans-boundary Conservation Area
- (iii) Conservation International (CI), IUCN, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WI, WWF – The Global Mangrove Alliance
- (iv) WWF Germany – BMZ Blue Action Fund / Save Our Mangroves Now Initiative - Mangrove Project

## 3. Target Audience

It is anticipated that around 50 symposium delegates comprising of scientists, managers, practitioners and students with interest and working in mangrove ecosystems across disciplines will attend the session.

## 4. Programme

Activity/Agenda	Time
<b>Registration</b>	11:00 – 11:10
<b>Welcome note and introductions</b>	11:10 – 11:20
<b>Review of progress and launch of recent outputs</b>	
• Network Constitution	11:20 – 11:30
• Network website	11:30 – 11:40
• WIO mangrove assessment manual	11:40 – 11:50
• Framework for WIO Regional Mangrove Restoration Guide	11:50 – 12:00
<b>Country updates on major issues</b>	
• Kenya	12:00 – 12:05
• Tanzania	12:05 – 12:10
• Mozambique	12:10 – 12:15
• South Africa	12:15 – 12:20
• Madagascar	12:20 – 12:25
• Small Islands	12:25 - 12:30
<b>Regional and International Partnerships</b>	
• CI, IUCN, TNC, WI, WWF – The Global Mangrove Alliance	12:30 – 13:00
<b>LUNCH</b>	13:00 – 14:00
<b>Regional and International Partnerships</b>	
• Wetlands International - Mangrove Capital Africa, Global/Africa Mangrove Watch	14:00 – 14:30
• WWF Germany – BMZ Mangrove Project	14:30 – 15:00
• VUB, KMFRI, IMS - Kenya-Tanzania Trans-boundary Conservation Area	15:00 – 15:20
<b>Concluding Remarks and Way forward</b>	15:20 – 15:30