

1. Title of the mini-symposium:

Holistic water and marine management from source to sea: *Lessons learned from case studies focusing on environmental flows and marine litter management*

2. Name of convener(s):

- Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)
- Southern Waters Ecological Research and Consulting
- Sokoine University of Agriculture. Tanzania
- Nairobi Convention

3. A short one-paragraph biography of the conveners:

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) - SwAM is a government agency that works for flourishing seas, lakes and streams for the benefit and enjoyment of all. SwAM is responsible for managing the use and preventing the overuse of Sweden's marine and freshwater environments. We take into consideration the requirements of the ecosystem and people, both now and in the future. We do this by gathering knowledge, planning, and making decisions about actions to improve the environment. To be successful in these efforts, we coordinate and establish our efforts among everyone involved, both nationally and internationally. More info here if needed [About the Agency - Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management \(havochvatten.se\)](http://havochvatten.se). SwAM will be represented by **Frank Zhang**, the focal person for the agency's international cooperation on source to sea management.

The Nairobi Convention: The Nairobi Convention, which was first signed in 1985 and entered into force in 1996, is part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. The programme aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. It does this by engaging countries that share the Western Indian Ocean in actions to protect their shared marine environment. The Contracting Parties to the Convention are part of more than 143 countries that participate in 18 Regional Seas initiatives. The Nairobi Convention—signed by Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and the Republic of South Africa — provides a platform for governments, civil society, and the private sector to work together for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. The Secretariat works closely with collaborating partners, such as the “Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean” (**WIO-C**), other regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and various national and research institutions. Established in 2006, the WIO-C is a partnership between major NGOs with the support of international governmental organizations in the Western Indian Ocean. The WIO-C is anchored in the Nairobi Convention, and is designed to improve information exchange, synergy and coordination between NGOs working on coastal and marine environment issues in the region, and to move towards a joint programmatic approach in addressing these issues. The Convention will be represented by **Jared Bosire** and the Chair of the WIOSAP Regional Task Force on Sustainable Management of River Flows, **Japhet Kashaigili**.

Southern Waters Ecological Research and Consulting, formed in 1995, is an independent company with academic ties to the Institute for Water Studies, Department of Earth Sciences, University of the Western Cape. Our work and research aims to improve sustainable management of inland and coastal aquatic systems. This is often through environmental flows assessments which provide support for informed decision-making for sustaining river and coastal ecosystems and the livelihoods and well-being of those that depend on them. In this regard, we, together with relevant specialists and / or stakeholders often use our dedicated process and software (DRIFT), but also adapt our approach and analyses depending on the context. We are involved in a variety of other consulting and research work, as well as monitoring and training. We have worked primarily in Africa and Asia.

For more information see southernwaters.co.za. Southern Waters will be represented by Dr Alison Joubert.

4. Brief description and motivation of the topic, highlighting the novelty/ impact of the topic (maximum of 300 words):

- 4.1 Our seas suffer serious degradation from land-based activities in basins and cities; only a holistic water and marine management from source to sea can reverse that.
- 4.2 The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the integrated and indivisible nature of its goals and targets and recognizes the need to address these interlinkages to fully achieve its aims. **SDG 14** on Oceans and **SDG 6** on Water and Sanitation are inextricably linked, with many SDG 6 targets not being achieved without also meeting the SDG 14 targets, and vice versa. Despite the progress made so far, existing actions for the achievement of SDG 14 and SDG 6 are insufficient, in part due to limited coordination between the ocean and freshwater community, and collaborative action is therefore imperative if these goals are to be met, especially in a context of climate change.
- 4.3 It is necessary to mainstream source-to-sea systems thinking in governance and management with the aim of stimulating coordination among stakeholders for the design and implementation of actions for improved environmental flows and reduced marine litter pollutions along rivers and coasts, and at sea.
- 4.4 The goal of the WIOSAP project implemented by UNEP and executed by the Nairobi Convention which is to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and to sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems is hinged on the S2S approach.

5. Expected impact of this session:

- 5.1 Fragmented governance have limitations in addressing the complex issues faced around the world including **inadequate environmental flows** and **marine litter**. This mini-symposium aims to strengthen the understanding that it is necessary to **harmonize social, economic and environmental priorities across the continuum of land, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems to be able to design and implement actions for improved environmental flows and reduced marine litter pollutions along rivers and coasts, and at sea.**
- 5.2 To **accelerate the uptake of the integrated and holistic source-to-sea system thinking** with the aim of boosting actions that tackle challenges like inadequate environmental flows and marine litter. This is especially urgent as planetary crises such as climate change and biodiversity extinction continue to escalate.

6. Expected learning outcomes for the participants:

- 6.1 Shared lessons from cooperation projects and case studies focusing on managing environmental flows and marine litter from source to sea in the WIO region
- 6.2 Improved overview of opportunities and challenges for future cooperation on managing environmental flows and marine litter from source to sea in the WIO region
- 6.3 Recommendations and ideas for future actions and cooperation on managing environmental flows and marine litter from source to sea in the WIO region.

7. Potential presenters:

- i. Frank Zhang, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)
- ii. Prof. Japhet Kashaigili, Sokoine University of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania.
- iii. Dr. Dinis Juiso, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
- iv. Ms Noeline Rakotovelo, Directorate General of Environment Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

- v. Dr Alison Joubert, Southernwaters Consulting, South Africa
- vi. Dr. Yazeed Peterson, Department of Environmental Affairs (Branch: Oceans and Coasts), South Africa

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Other contacts: 'Frank Zhang' frank.zhang@havochvatten.se

Session Schedule

	Activity	Responsible	Timing
??	Welcome and intro of the session	Japhet Kashaigili	5 Minutes
??	Background	Frank Zhang	15 Minutes
	Improvement of ecosystem health and water quality by implementing a Source to Sea based approach to tackle marine litter in five priority river systems in Durban, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa	Yazeed Patterson	15 Minutes
	Sustainable management of EFlows for west coast rivers of Madagascar: a case of Betsiboka River	Noeline Rakotovelo	15 Minutes
	Sustainable Catchment Management through Enhanced Environmental Flow Assessment and Implementation for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities in Tanzania	Japhet Kashaigili	15 Minutes
	Environmental Flows for enhanced Biodiversity and Poverty alleviation in the Incomati delta, Mozambique (EFlows-Moz)	Dinis Juzo	15 Minutes
	The Africa's Living Rivers programme: Some EFlows lessons learnt and steps forward	Alison Joubert	15 Minutes
	Plenary discussions and Next steps	Jared Bosire	25 minutes

Session Moderator: Prof Japhet Kashaigili

Expected Outputs

1. Policy Brief
2. A review paper on S2S