The Regional Coral Reef Task Force and Action plan

27th ICRI

Cairns Australia
July 2012
Western Indian Ocean Region

East Africa mainland states
Indian Ocean Islands states

- Biogeographic division of the Indo-West Pacific (geomorphology, currents)
- Nairobi Convention
Coral Reefs in the WIO

- Widely distributed
- Fringing reef, patch & atoll
- 30 million people depend on marine and coastal resources
Mangrove forests

- Distributed along the main estuaries
- High diversity
- Fisheries
- Ecotourism (bird roosting areas)
- Provide fuel and building materials
- Coastal protection, nutrient cycling, nursery grounds for finfish and invertebrate fisheries
Seagrass beds

- Distributed throughout the coast
- Important for fisheries

- Shoreline protection and nutrient cycling
- Feeding and nursery grounds
- Interconnected with coral reefs
Biodiversity (Species)

Five species of sea turtles all protected by law
Marine mammals

Dugong highly endangered

Humpback whales
Whale shark

Reef Shark
Gill net

Beach seine
Ring net
El Niño Southern Oscillation
coral bleaching 1998
Region-wide effects of bleaching

Table 1. Changes in coral cover before and after bleaching in 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
<th>Mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>MPAs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>16 sites</td>
<td>30 - 80</td>
<td>5 - 45</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zanzibar</td>
<td>Chumbe</td>
<td>20 - 30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>slight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Masoala</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Sondwana</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>Amirantes</td>
<td>40 - 90</td>
<td>7 - 47</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunion</td>
<td>Fringing reef</td>
<td>30 - 50</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>slight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Climate change studies
Crown of thorns starfish outbreaks
Coral Diseases - “Bandless fungal disease”  
*Montipora, Astreopora* and *Echinopora*

First observed in February 2002 last seen April 2002

Water temperature 27.5°C

Range- N. Tanzania to N. Kenya
Reefs at risk
Marine and Coastal management and Conservation Issues

- Vulnerable but very valuable ecosystems including coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves as well as vulnerable charismatic species including sea turtles and marine mammals (dugong and whales)
- Coastal communities that are highly dependent on marine resources
- Economies that are highly dependent on coastal tourism and fisheries
- Problems of over utilization and destructive utilization of marine resources including finfish, invertebrates, mangroves
- Sedimentation and effects on marine habitats
- Climate change and effects on marine habitats including coral reefs and mangroves (1997/1998 bleaching)
- Policy instruments including MPA and ICAM programs that are at varying stages of development but weak implementation systems
- Link between food security, marine biodiversity and tourism
**Nairobi Convention Structure**

**Conference of Parties (COP) Decisions**

- **UNEP, GPA Global Programs**
- **Global Conventions**

**SECRETARIAT OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION**

- **Assessments & Ecosystem Based Management of coral reefs & associated Ecosystems**
  - Land & Marine sources of pollution
  - Shoreline changes
  - Coordination, Review & Information Dissemination

**GOVERNMENTS FORUM OF FOCAL POINTS and National collaborating institutions**

**Supporting Partners**
- IUCN, WWF, WIOMSA
- CZMC
- IOC/UNESCO
- IMO

**Regional and National Taskforces**
- **PADH, Coral Reef Task Force,** Municipal wastewater management, marine protected areas, marine turtle, pollution hotspots, GEMPA (Review and Advisory)

**National and Regional Institutions**
- (Implementation, policy reviews and Management)
Evolution of the Nairobi Convention
Coral Reef Task Force

• The Nairobi Convention and its Action Plan and related Protocols were adopted in June 1983 and came into force in May 1996.

• The Biennial work program (2002-2003) identified priority activities for marine and coastal environments within five main themes – assessment, management, co-ordination, legal aspects, and crosscutting issues (information dissemination and exchange as well as emerging issues).

• The Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) was established by the Third meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP3) as per decision CP.3/2 Protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

• COP3 urged parties to the Nairobi Convention to establish a regional body (the Coral Reef Task Force) to co-ordinate coral reef activities within each country through national bodies and to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies where appropriate.
Areas of focus/Action of the CRTF

The main areas of focus of the CRTF include:

A. **National coral reef task forces and action plans**
   - Encourage the establishment of national coral reefs task forces (NCRTF) with multi-sectoral representation that would co-ordinate the development of local capacity in research, management and governance, co-ordinate communication at the national level, and serve as a platform to share information on regional initiatives
   - Prepare a **Regional Coral Reef Action Plan** to be implemented through the framework of the Nairobi Convention by the collaborating partners of the Nairobi Convention as well as national institutions
   - Encourage each country to examine the need for appropriate mechanisms to design suitable national action plans or equivalent strategies, under the umbrella of the regional action plans and sub-regional frameworks
   - Facilitate communication with other organizations working on large scale monitoring of ecosystems
   - Influence the review of legislation and policy change at national level as appropriate
Areas of focus/Action: contd

B. Reporting and Dissemination of information

- Improve reporting mechanisms nationally and within the region on all coral reef work
- Facilitate and encourage communication and the dissemination of information within the region using mechanisms appropriate to the technology of the Nairobi Convention Area i.e. a) simple text **Newsletter** that would collate information from various coral related activities in the region, and b) discussion groups
- Encourage the development of capacity building and training opportunities, materials, and manuals for groups involved in coral reef programmes
- Serve as the regional ICRI co-ordinating committee for Eastern Africa
- Review the recommendations and other relevant information from ICRI-CPC as well as other regional and international initiatives, and to recommend the inclusion of relevant activities in the Nairobi Convention work program;
Areas of focus/Action: contd

**C. Research and Monitoring**
- Encourage each country to effectively establish national coral reef and associated ecosystems monitoring programs and recommend better coordination within and between countries in the region in designing and implementing; monitoring programmes
- Promote both biophysical and socio-economic monitoring, and more effective co-ordination with regional and international monitoring programmes;

**D. Fund Raising**
- Raise the profile of coral reef issues in the region in a bid to attract funds.
Achievements to date

A. Regional and National Plans and strategies
   - Completed and revised the Regional Coral Reef Action plan
   - Developed the TORs of National Coral Reef Task Forces (NCRTF). These are effectively established in some countries of the WIO

B. Reporting and Dissemination of information
   - GCRMN: mobilized production of reports most recently Coral Reef Status Report 2008
   - ICRI: mobilized attendance and reporting updates
   - Conferences and symposiums: mobilized representation of CRTF at ITMEMS 3 (chaired the Regional Caucus for the WIO, Red Sea and Persian Gulf), the 11th ICRS and the 6th WIOMSA scientific symposium
   - Facilitated the dissemination of information from GCRMN, the CRTR and other programs
   - Produced a newsletter called ‘CRTF updates’
   - Mobilize activities of the IYOR 2008 including production of the Regional Coral Reef Action Plan

C. Training Research and Monitoring
   - Collaborated in production of the Regional MPA toolkit
   - Facilitated the Regional Coral Disease course under the GEF/WB Coral Reef Targetted and Capacity building project in Zanzibar
STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CORAL REEFS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

A REGIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION PLAN
AIM: To provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to coral reef management and conservation

THEMES

Understanding coral reef

Reducing threats

Growing capacity for management

Strengthening networks & partnerships

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Monitoring and assessments of coral reefs.
- Targeted research on threats to coral reefs and associated ecosystem.
- Targeted research on social and economic factors driving impacts on coral reefs.
- Targeted research and review of the effectiveness of the current management policies and legislative frameworks.

- Restore coral reefs and associated ecosystems.
- Increase the effectiveness and coverage of marine protected areas.
- Reduce destructive fishing, overfishing and better manage other extractive uses.
- Reduce negative impacts of coastal development.
- Mitigate impacts of climate change.
- Reduce pollution and improve water quality.

- Increase capacity for management of coral reefs.
- Increase public awareness about coral reefs.
- Develop education programs for incorporation into capacity building initiatives.
- Outreach and education initiatives.
- Improve and increase management capacity.

- Strengthen regional and international networks for the management of coral reefs.
- Strengthen local partnerships.
Next steps

- Nairobi Convention Focal points meeting
  Maputo August 2012

- Nairobi Convention COP Maputo
  December 2012
Acknowledgements

- Communities
- Nairobi Convention
- National institutions
- Donors
- Collaborating scientists & students