

**A VIRTUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO DISCUSS DRAFT  
GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LEGISLATION AND RELATED  
POLICIES ON MARINE LITTER IN AFRICA**

**11-12 November 2021**

**10:00 – 11:30 AM EAT (GMT+3)<sup>1</sup>**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**BACKGROUND**

The UN Environment Programme through its Africa Office has contracted the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to review legislation and policies, as well as prepare a regional guide on marine litter at national and regional levels in Africa and together the two organizations are organizing a virtual Regional meeting in INTERACTIO platform on 11 and 12 November 2021 to review and provide inputs to the project's outputs.

The review of legislation and policies as well as the preparation of a regional guide on marine litter at national and regional levels in Africa, are a follow up to the UNEA Res. 2/111 (Marine plastic litter and microplastics), and UNEA Res.4/62, whose implementation has taken a two-pronged approach: (i) assessment and compilation of key legislation and policy frameworks on marine litter in Africa, and (ii) preparation of draft guidelines for development of legislation and related policies on marine litter in Africa. This work is being carried out under the global project on "Protecting the Marine Environment from Land-Based Pollution through Strengthened Coordination of Global Action" funded by the Norwegian government. The objective of the project is to strengthen responses to land-based pollution of the marine environment and address related issues by fostering action targeting the sources of marine litter, nutrients and wastewater pollution.

WIOMSA sub-contracted the Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) and ECOGEOS to undertake this work in English-speaking countries and French- and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> Please adjust for Mauritius and Seychelles Time (UTC/GMT+4), Central Africa Time (UTC/GMT+2), West Africa Time (UTC/GMT+1), Greenwich Mean Time (UTC/GMT), and Cape Verde Time (UTC-1).

This initiative's output include:

- i) A compendium of existing legal and regulatory frameworks, policy options, and institutional structures on marine litter in Africa – This compendium will be used to identify aspects that the review of legislation and policies at the national and regional levels should be based on. The compendium includes existing legislation and policies from as many countries as possible.
- ii) A gap analysis report – This report provides a detailed assessment of identified gaps and recommendations on key aspects required in the development of policy and legal interventions or actions aimed at addressing marine litter at the national and regional levels.
- iii) Draft guidelines for the development of legislation and policies on marine litter in Africa. The guidelines include recommendations on how countries can adapt/adopt/customize the guidelines to take national priorities and context into account.

## **MEETING OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- review and provide technical inputs to the outputs of the project
- discuss and provide guidance on how countries can adapt/adopt/customize the guidelines
- advice to UNEP on follow-up actions

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

A number of outcomes are expected from the meeting including:

- Feedback on the compendium and draft guidelines
- Recommendations on how countries can adapt/adopt/customize the guidelines and on follow-up actions
- A meeting report

## **TARGETED PARTICIPANTS**

Participation to the meeting will be from relevant stakeholders who provided inputs at different stages of the initiative, including representatives from: the Africa Union, Regional Economic Commissions and Regional Conventions in Africa, regional fisheries bodies, and river basins commissions. Invitations will also be sent to departments of environment of all countries.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will include the main session for presentation of project main outputs, general discussions following each presentation and a panel discussion. Simultaneous interpretation services for three languages, English, French and Portuguese will be provided throughout the meeting.