

Good science supports good policy

The journey towards strengthening the science to policy dialogue

5th – 9th December 2018

Alumni networking event
‘Oceans of Opportunities, Rivers of Ideas’



The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) was established as a regional professional, non-profit, membership organization, in 1993

Dedicated to promoting the educational, scientific and technological development of all aspects of marine sciences throughout the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

WIOMSA has a particular interest in linking the knowledge that emerges from research to the management and governance issues that affect marine and coastal ecosystems in the region

Phase I (Pre 1970)

Few research Institutions with little or no involvement of nationals in the national and regional research programs

- Few marine scientists, the majority of them being fisheries biologists
- Absence of research priority setting mechanisms at the regional level
- Poor dissemination and communication of research results
- Limited research collaboration amongst scientists
- Linkage to priority management issues were sporadic
- Absence of a research grants programme that responds to priority needs of the region.

Phase III (1990 – 2000)

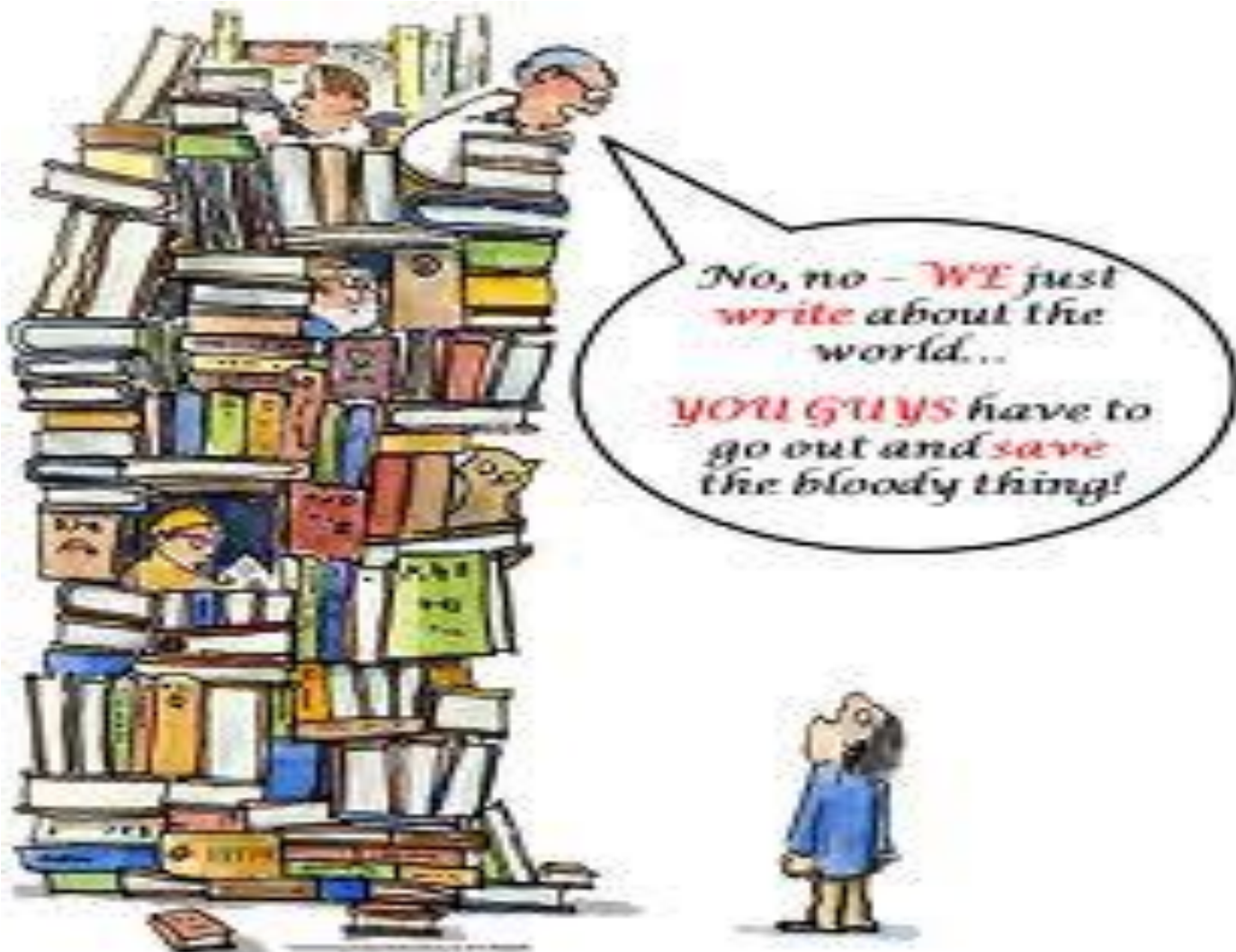
Sida/SAREC support to Marine Research established
Kenya-Belgian Project in Marine Sciences
Scholarships offered by different countries
Regional research programs/organizations established
WIOMSA established

Phase IV (2000 -)

National Universities starting offering MSc and PhD degree programs
Competitive research program initiated
More regional collaboration
WIO Journal of Marine Science established

The measure of science then was the capacity that we built in different areas of expertise, the filling of our institutions with qualified staff, partnerships that we developed to do good science and the publications that were sent out to peer reviewed papers and were accepted.

Beyond publications...



Where is all this science going and what is it influencing

The next focus for the region has been what happens to the science beyond the scientific publication – how are we communicating it along two axis – to the national populace and to the policy makers – are we being responsive to societal needs or are we being responsive to the need for good science and what is needed to tell a good story to policy makers

We need to use a different set of tools to make impact at this level – tools to reach the general populace and tools to reach out to the policy maker

To reach out to the general populace – we are increasingly using national media outlets – printed media, television, social media to reach out with information in a relevant and appropriate manner

To reach out to the policy makers we are setting the research agenda with management agencies in an attempt to become more responsive to their needs and to develop more responsive solutions to them

Different mechanisms Different approaches

- **Regional State of the Coast Report**
- **Production of Outlook Reports**
- **Science to Policy Platform**
- **Communication platform for engagement on social media**
- **The WIOMSA Women's Network**
- **WIOMSA Symposium (1st to 4th July 2019 in Mauritius)**

Regional State of the Coast Report

CAPACITY BUILDING PROCESS

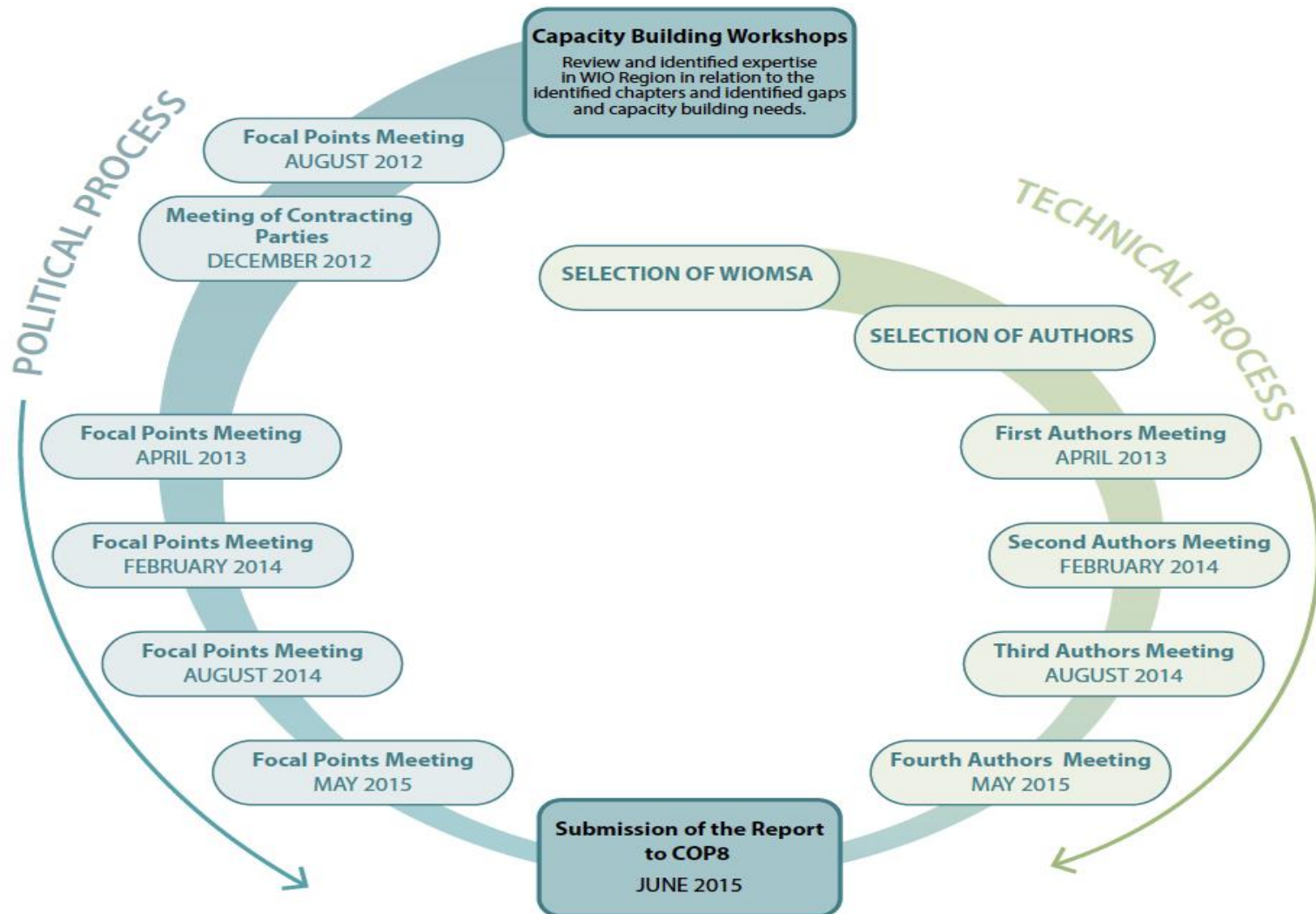
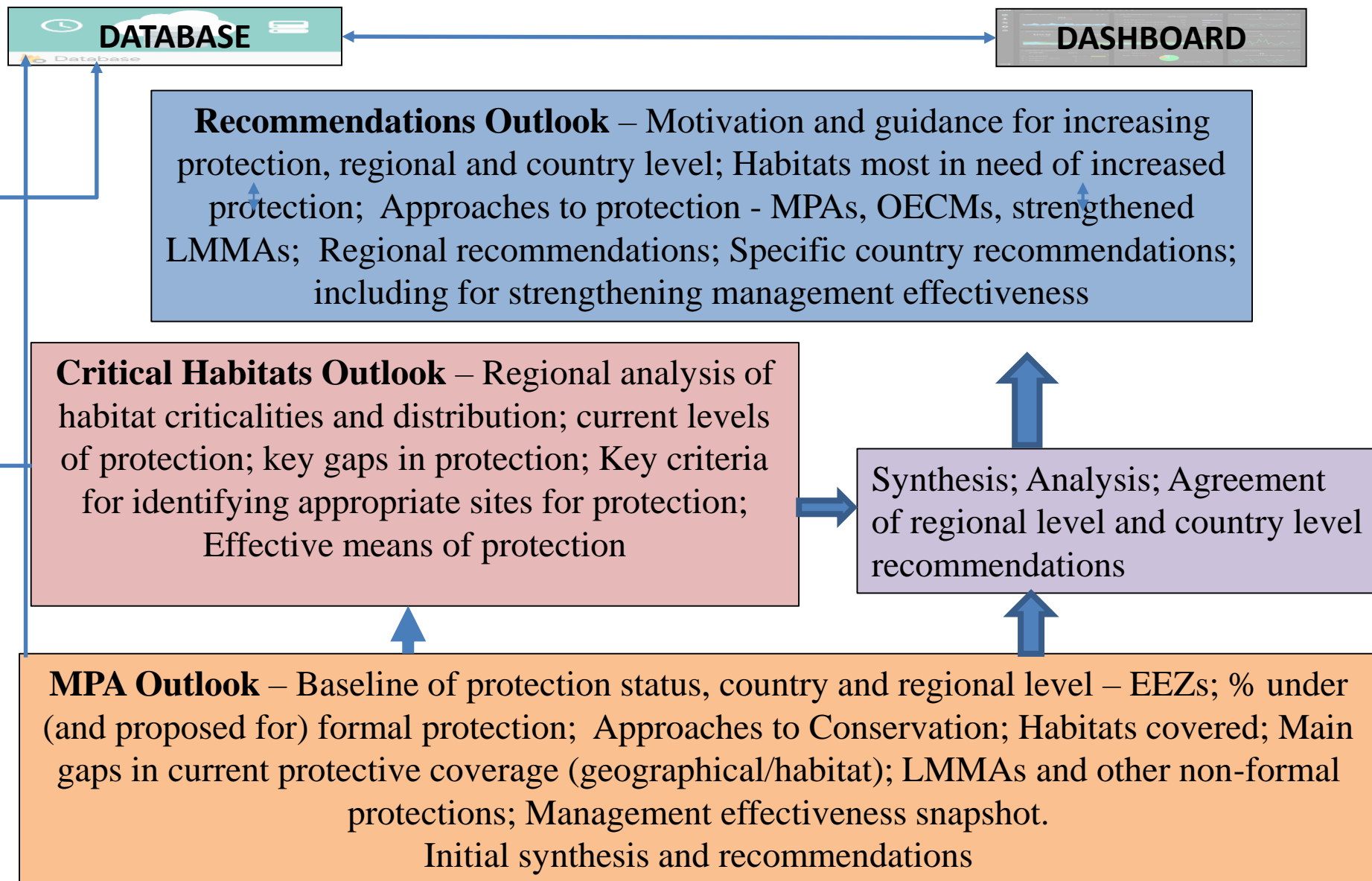


Figure 2.2. Description of the process for development of the RSOCR.



- It is a multi-stakeholder platform comprising of representatives of formal and informal knowledge generating institutions, practitioners, policy makers, communities and the private sector within WIO region
- It serves as an intermediary body to bridge the gaps between science, policy and practice.
- Is intended to support the efforts of the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention to integrate relevant scientific evidence and findings into their efforts to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment in a sustainable manner.

Brief History on 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 ([Comoros](#), [France](#), [Kenya](#), [Madagascar](#), [Mauritius](#), [Mozambique](#), [Seychelles](#), [Somalia](#), [Tanzania](#) and the [Republic of South Africa](#)) to the Convention are part of more than 143 countries that participate in [18 Regional Seas initiatives](#).

- **Knowledge Generation and Dissemination:** Compile, summarise, analyse and disseminate management and policy relevant scientific findings in an accessible form to inform decisions relating to the management of human activities affecting the coastal and marine environment.
- **Dialogue and Consensus Building:** promote and facilitate an ongoing exchange between scientists and policy and decision makers including through convening of meetings, organisation of consultations and working groups

- Decision CP.9/3. Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean
- Decision CP.9/6. Ocean governance
- Decision CP.9/9. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Decision CP.9/10: Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy
- Decision CP.9/11: Development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks
- Decision CP.9/12. Science-policy dialogue

Some concluding thoughts

- Need to understanding and engage with policy
- Importance of uncertainty
- Recognize science as one input amongst others
- Need to communicate science meaningfully
- Building on project portfolio for credibility and resonance
- Ensure consistent approach - conceptual framework?
- Lessons to be learned within and across regions

The measure of scientific impact in the WIO is changing from what it was as a measure of scientific publications to a measure of how much science is taken up by the policy makers to change the way we do business in the WIO region

www.wiomsa.org

Membership is FREE for STUDENTS

Inspiring change in my world



I dreamt of being an agricultural scientist working with genetic aspects of animal breeding but my reality was different

1991
BSc project in Lake Naivasha
Supervised by Prof. Mavuti
Prof. Ntiba

KMFRI Researcher since 1994
President WIOMSA since 2014

Trustee of the KMFRI Pension Scheme

Performance Contracting

Member UNDP SGP Steering Committee

Project Coordinator of the Kenya Coastal Development Project

Member BE Technical Committee

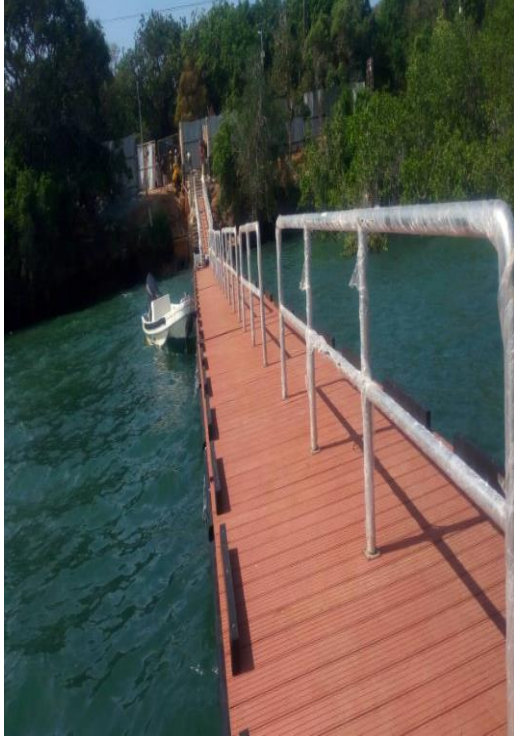
2005
Phd on Seagrasses
Supervised by Dr.Mats Bjork,
Prof. Sven Beer
Prof. Eva Maria Koch

1997
MSc project on Seagrasses
Supervised by Dr. Els Martens
Prof. Mavuti

Family support
Mentorship
Peer mentors
Older mentors

Team work is Important
Alumni of KBP-VLIR
Stephen Mwangi, James Kairo, Jared Bosire,
Meleczedeck Osore

KWALE COUNTY



**Floating Jetty
in Shimoni**



VMG Polytechnic



Cultural Center



**Kaya Kinondo Village
Bank**



Seaweed Projects

KILIFI COUNTY



**Where Talent Lives
Okoa Maisha Project**



**Dabasso Creek
conservation project
The Crab Shack**

LAMU COUNTY



**NEMA
Green Point**



**KEFRI Farmers
Resource Center**

**Pate Island street
paving project**



ECD Baragoni



MOMBASA COUNTY



**Monitoring Control and
Surveillance Center in
Mombasa**



**KMFRI Marine and
Ocean Services Center
in Mombasa**



THANK YOU

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