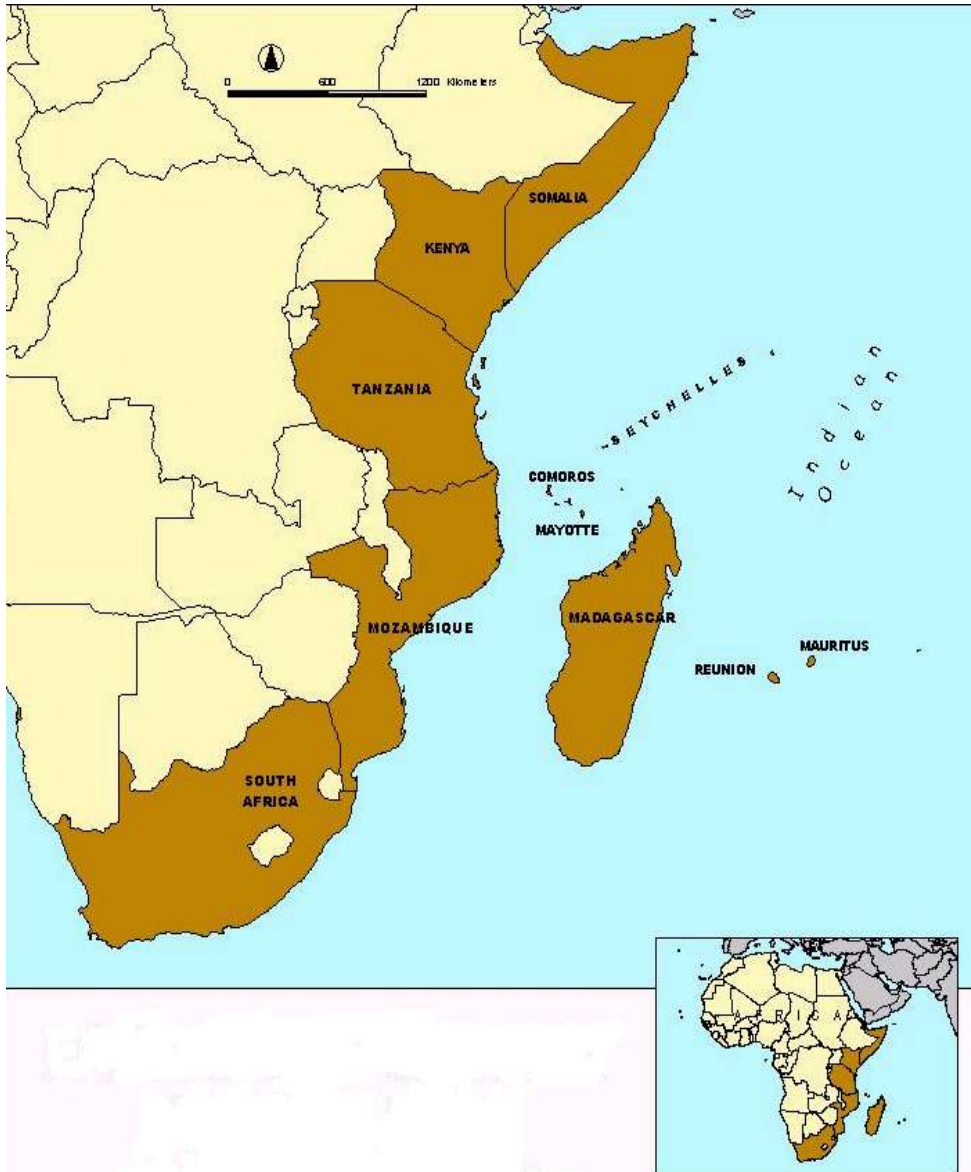


# **The Regional Coral Reef Task Force and Action plan**

## **Indian Ocean Day**

**Reunion  
December 2011**

# Western Indian Ocean Region



East Africa mainland states  
Indian Ocean Islands states

- Biogeographic division of the Indo-West Pacific (geomorphology, currents)
- Nairobi Convention

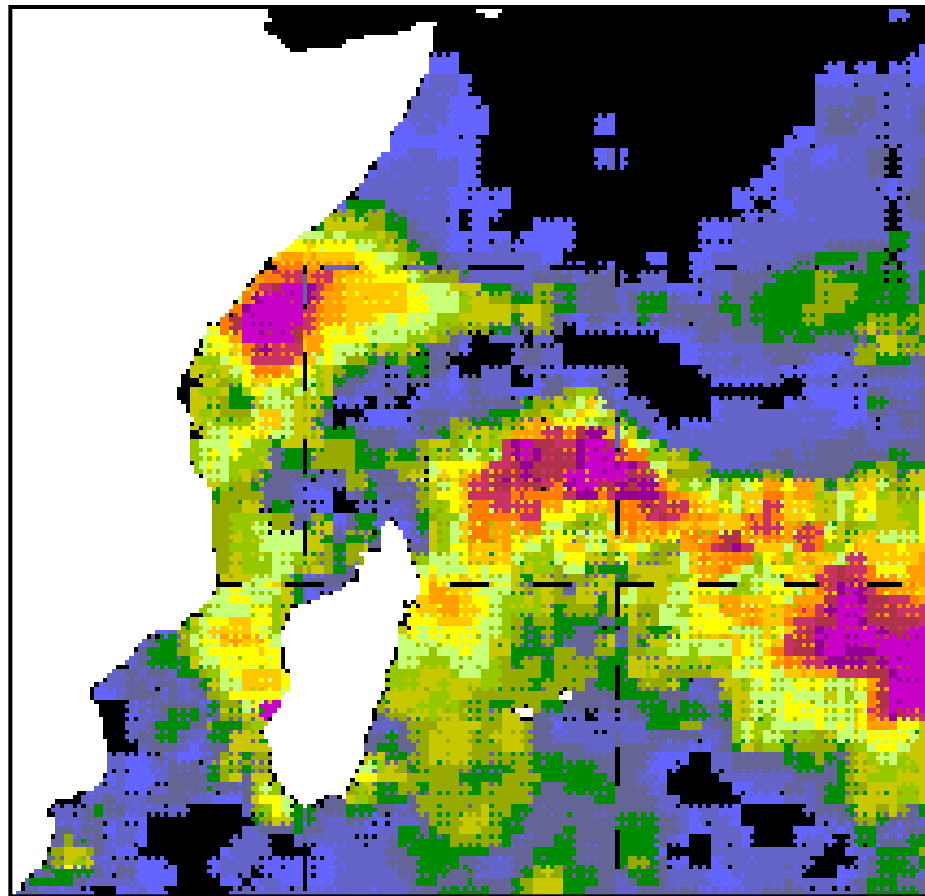
# Coral Reefs in the WIO



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



# El Niño Southern Oscillation coral bleaching 1998



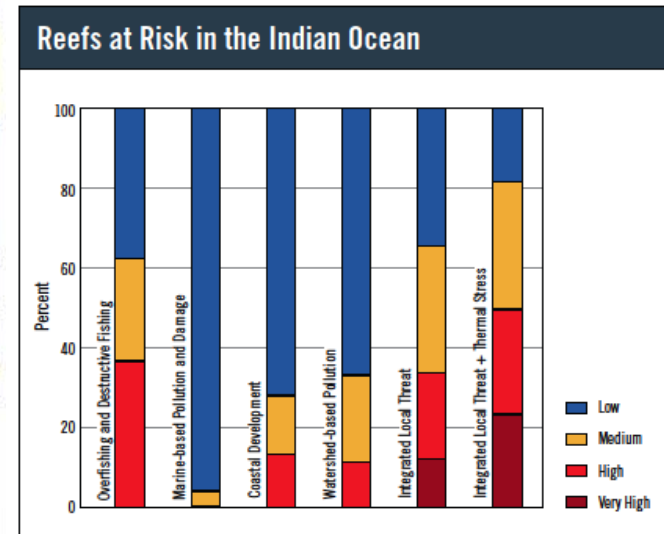
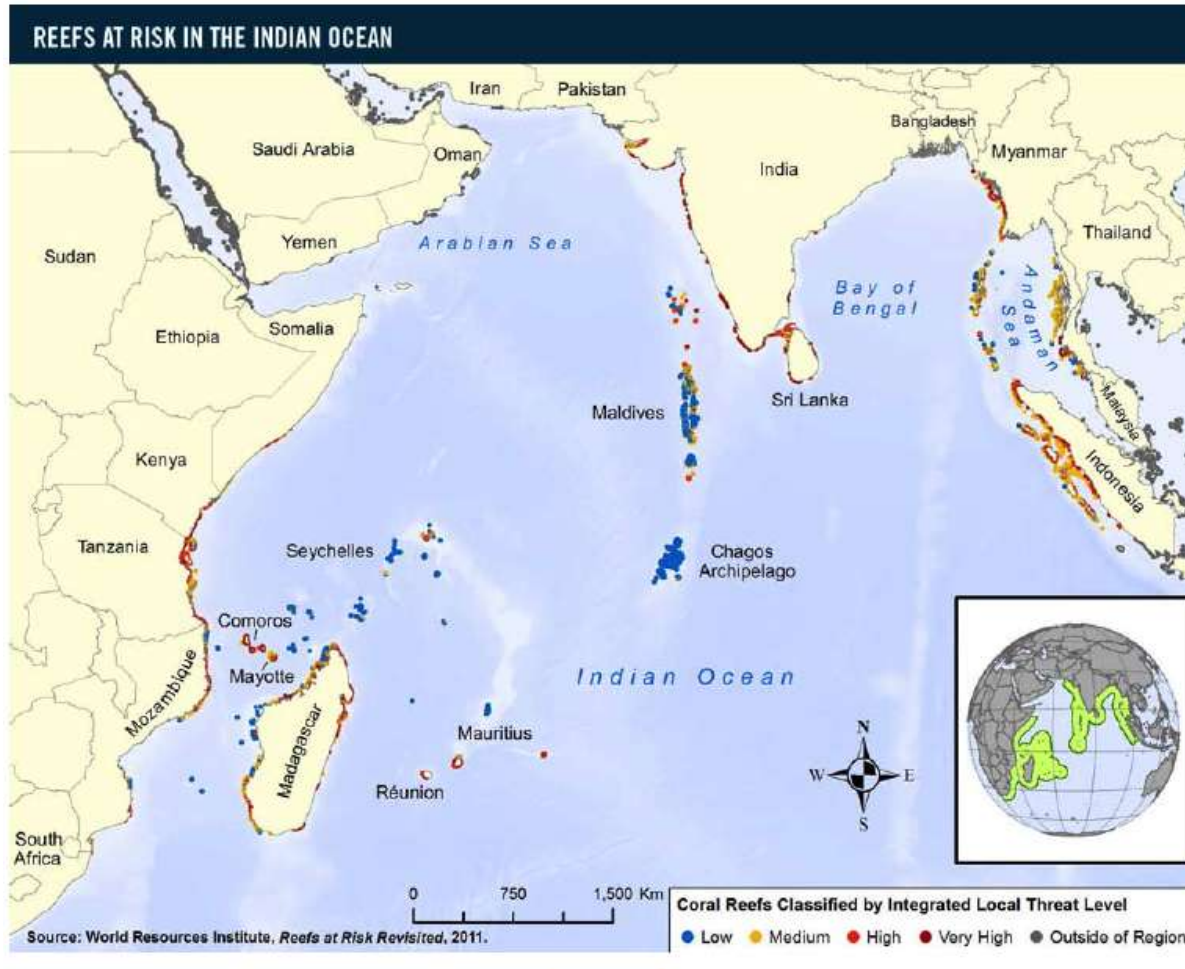
# Region-wide effects of bleaching



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

Country	Site	Before	After	Mortality
Kenya	MPAs	40	11	73
	UP	21	11	48
Tanzania	16 sites	30 - 80	5 - 45	ND
Zanzibar	Chumbe	20 - 30	60	slight
Madagascar	Masoala	38	28	26
South Africa	Sondwana	62	72	none
Seychelles	Amirantes	40 - 90	7 - 47	75
Reunion	Fringing reef	30 - 50	ND	slight

# Reefs at risk





# 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

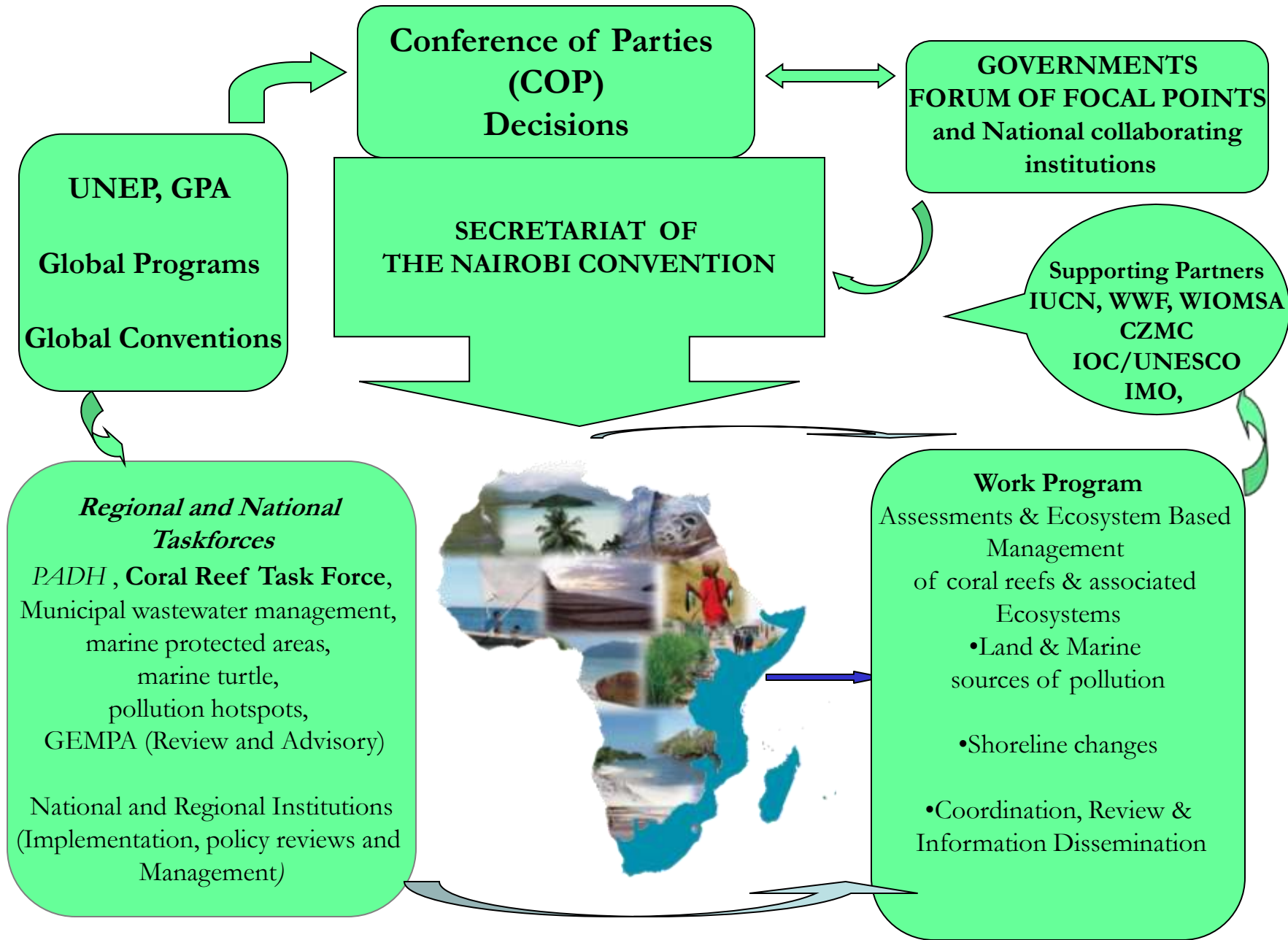




# Marine and Coastal Management and Conservation Issues

- 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



# Evolution of the NC CRTF

- Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention).
- The Nairobi Convention and its Action Plan and related Protocols were adopted in June 1983 and came into force in May 1996.
- Signatories: mainland states of Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania; and island states of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, and Seychelles
- 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 COP3 decision CP.3/2** Protection of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, to co-ordinate coral reef activities within each country through national bodies and to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies where appropriate

# Evolution of the NC CRTF

- CRTF was established at a meeting held in Nairobi in September 2002, coordinated by the convention secretariat and attended by representatives from Kenya, Seychelles, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Mozambique, UNEP, IUCN/EARO, WWF, WIOMSA, SEACAM, IOC, ORI, KMFRI, CRC and ReefCheck
- Priorities of the CRTF as suggested by the COP3 and the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the CRTF were reviewed and approved. These were later endorsed at COP4 in Antananarivo 2004
- The mode of operations of the CRTF and its linkage with other organs of the Convention, membership criteria and the role of international organizations, research institutions, NGOs and government experts were also discussed.
- A Chair person, Dr. N. Muthiga (Kenya) and two Vice-chairs, Dr. P. Froiun (Reunion) and Mr. Remie Selby (Seychelles) were nominated. Other members were selected through discussions facilitated by the Nairobi Convention focal points in each country.

# Areas of focus/Action of the CRTF

**A. National coral reef task forces and action plans:** Encourage the establishment of NCRTF with multi-sectoral representation; Prepare a Regional Coral Reef Action Plan; Encourage design of national action plans or equivalent strategies; Facilitate communication; Influence the review of legislation and policy change at national level as appropriate.

**B. Reporting and Dissemination of information:** Improve reporting mechanisms nationally and within the region; Facilitate and encourage communication and dissemination of information; Encourage capacity building and training opportunities, materials, and manuals; Serve as the regional ICRI co-ordinating committee for Eastern Africa; Review recommendations and other relevant information from ICRI-CPC as well as other initiatives, and recommend the inclusion of relevant activities in the Convention work program.

**C. Research and Monitoring:** Encourage national coral reef and associated ecosystems monitoring programs; 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.



# Membership and reporting structure of the CRTF

- The CRTF (composed of the Chair, two Vice-Chairs and 10 members from all Nairobi Convention countries except Somalia) will report to the Conference of Parties through the Nairobi Convention Secretariat on a six monthly basis.
- The National Coral Reef Task Forces (NCRTF) composed of a national leader (members of the CRTF) and local institutions and NGOs with a mandate to manage and conserve coral reefs will report to the CRTF on a quarterly basis or when needs arise.
- Communication is mainly via email and meetings
- The CRTF is expected to attend both the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties and the ICRI General Meetings and the GCRMN
- Neither the CRTF nor the NCRTF have specific legal status. However, since COP has endorsed the creation of the CRTF, recommendations made by the task force are expected to be adopted and implemented by members of the contracting parties.

# 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 Regional Caucus), the 11th ICRS and the 6th WIOMSA scientific symposium
- Facilitated the dissemination of information from GCRMN, 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 Targeted Research 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**

# PLAN OVERVIEW

**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 MPAs.
- Reduce destructive fishing, overfishing and better manage other extractive uses.
- Reduce negative impacts of coastal development.
- Mitigate and adapt to 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.

\*\*\*climate change actions are cross cutting

# Next steps

- The action plan will be presented at the COP in December 2012. If adopted it will be an important part of the convention's work plan, and a priority in UNEPs regional seas work
- Funding possibilities are under discussion.
- Some countries were quick to establish national task forces, develop national plans and conduct meetings. Others have less capacity and are moving at a slower pace. There is a need for countries that have not established their NCTF to do so, or find other appropriate means such as tasking ICZM committees (which are currently active in all countries).
- Need to minimize the mainland vs. island states divide
- GCRMN has worked closely with the CRTF, what are the implications of changes in GCRMN? Are there possibilities for funding activities such as training, monitoring or regional workshops as suggested at ITMEMS 3?
- Need to ensure closer collaboration between the CRTF and new programs in the region