Twelfth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention on Cooperation for the Protection,
Management and Development of the Marine Environment and
Coastal Areas of the Atlantic Coast of the
West, Central and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention)

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 27 to 31 March 2017

FINAL REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Report of the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology for the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention)
Cape Town, South Africa
16 March 2014
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Introduction

1. The First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology for the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention) was held in Cape Town, South Africa, 16 March 2014.

2. The meeting worked in plenary format except when it considered agenda item 6.2 (see Annex 3) for which it was divided into two Working Groups that reconvened to report back.

I. Item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on Sunday 16 March 2014 by Mr. Victor Mamonekene, the representative of the president of the Conference of Parties (COP), His Excellency Mr. Henri Djombo of Republic of Congo. Mr. Mamonekene welcomed the delegates and declared the first meeting for the Ad Hoc committee open. He welcomed Mr. Alan Boyd, representative of the South African government.

4. Mr. Boyd welcomed the delegates on behalf of the South African Department of Environmental Affairs. He noted that being the inaugural meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology (CST), this marked a special occasion. He highlighted that the Terms of Reference and proposed modus operandi had been well set up from the previous meetings and COPs.

5. He underlined that the objectives of the meeting included procedural matters about the CST. He noted that the CST could also further the interests of the Abidjan Convention by sourcing and providing information to advance the blue economy. This meant keeping abreast of other conventions. In addition, the committee needed to facilitate new ways of approaching the economy and some of these included the ecological or biological significant areas, which have been described around Africa. This would enable Africa to increase biodiversity protection on the basis of sound knowledge. Another example he cited was the application of the marine planning techniques, where the conservation and development, as well as use needs of areas within the region were considered. He noted that it was also imperative that the CST considered and sought win-win possibilities for the region, and avoids a stand-off between environmental concerns and sustainable development. The CST would be important in enhancing the functioning of the large marine ecosystem (LME) structures and also cooperation between the structures.

6. The regional coordinator of the Abidjan Convention, Mr. Abou Bamba, addressed the meeting. He noted that the objectives of the meeting were to adopt certain documents and to inform politicians of the scientific basis for the decisions they may need to make. He highlighted that it was the first time in the history of the Abidjan Convention that such a group was being created. The group will provide Ministers with the much needed relevant scientific information for them to make decisions regarding environmental and related matters relevant to their individual countries and Africa as a whole. The CST also presented a formal body from which countries could request advisory and technical aid from the Abidjan commission via the COP.

7. Mr. Francois Baillet, a representative of the United Nations DOALOS, noted that the United Nations believed that this would be a strong body and was happy to assist in its development and work. He noted that scientists were increasingly being called upon to reinforce the role of science in decision-making and in the development of international ocean affairs frameworks and ocean governance. The establishment
of the CST within the Abidjan Convention would be a tangible tool to help with decision-making, which is crucial for sustainability and development of the region.

II. Attendance

8. The following countries attended the meeting (attendance list Annex 3)

9. The Nigerian delegate failed to attend due to difficulties in organizing travel/visa, and the following countries have not yet nominated representatives:

10. Additional specialists were also in attendance.

III. Organizational Matters

A. Election of officers

11. Mr. Mamonekene, the Chair, after consulting the regional coordinator and also bearing in mind the provisions in the secretariat’s Report on the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4), submitted to the meeting that the Chair of the committee would be filled by the country hosting the particular meeting of COP and that the committee’s Vice-Chair would be filled by the country that held the previous COP. There was no objection. The South African representative, Mr. Alan Boyd, then chaired the meeting and the representative of the Republic of Congo served as the Vice-Chair. The meeting approved the nomination of the representative from Benin as the Rapporteur.

12. Regarding the election of the other members of the bureau, it was agreed to provide more time for the LME regions to meet and identify their candidates.

13. The election of the remaining officers took place during the COP and the officials are to be nominated for the following LMEs: 3 Guinea Current, 2 for Canary Current and 2 for Benguela Current. This was done before the end of the COP for the Guinea Current region and the members are Mr. Jacques Abe, Côte d’Ivoire; Mr. George Wiafe, Ghana; and Mr. E O Ajao, Nigeria; for the Canary Current region, one member is Mr. Moussa Ba from Mauritania. Another member is needed from either Senegal, or Guinea-Bissau, or Gambia for this LME. For the Benguela Current region, matters still need to be finalized as Angola and Namibia have not yet joined the Convention. However, for scientific purposes it would be very valuable to have both these countries represented; with the chair representing South Africa.

B. Adoption of agenda

14. The provisional agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/1), prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Convention, was submitted by the Chair for adoption and adopted.

IV. Organizational Matters

C. Organization of Work

15. The organization of work proposed in the annex to the provisional agenda was adopted, however the Committee split into two groups to consider agenda item 6.2
V. Item 3 - Matters Related to Modus Operandi of Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

16. In considering this item, the Committee had before it the draft modus operandi prepared by the secretariat. It also had before it (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/REF.4). The secretariat introduced the document and provided enough details, particularly for French-speaking members who could read the document available only in English.

17. After reviewing the document, there were discussions on what amendments would be necessary to ensure the CST functioned effectively. These proposals were then incorporated into an updated document, which was presented firstly to the Expert Segment and then to COP.

18. It was noted that the modus operandi took its lead from the Report on the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology prepared by the secretariat, which the Contracting Parties had already approved. This earlier document outlined proposals for the mandate, institutional structure, and manner of operation and funding of the Committee.

VI. Recommendation on Modus Operandi

19. Recommendations on the modus operandi were discussed and in particular the financial aspects, the potential contribution of outside experts and the inter-sessional meetings.

20. The regional coordinator of the Abidjan convention cautioned members to be careful with the wording Ad Hoc. He called for the transformation of the Committee from an Ad Hoc to a permanent committee as the work that the Committee will do would be vast and continuous.

21. It was suggested that the seed money for the Committee be provided under request from the convention i.e. trust fund budget, which is money provided by the contracting parties.

22. The meeting expressed that the deliberations of the CST should be open to other experts so as to be flexible. The door should be open for commercial operations or businesses but it was stated that this be done cautiously to ensure that in doing so the objectives of the Committee would not be compromised. Caution was also raised about engaging companies with a history of polluting or transgression of environmental laws.

23. Potential host countries for the two planned inter-sessional meetings included Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo, but this would need confirmation.

24. The Chair concluded the session by summarizing the discussion that included:

- COP has approved the creation of an Ad Hoc CST, therefore we have a mandate which needs funding
- CST needs to be innovative and save costs as well as engage in raising funds
- CST needs to be creative in sourcing funding and be prepared to adopt a business-orientated approach where appropriate
- The need for, and the value of, scientific information should be well communicated, as this would increase support for the CST
VII. Item 4 - Operationalization of Abidjan Convention Article 22 with Regard to Reports on Convention Implementation at level of States Parties

25. The Committee had before it the report on the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/1/ Rev.1

VIII. Recommendation

26. Recommendations on operationalization of article 22 were summarized by the Chair after the presentation and discussion.

A. Presentation on a Reporting Template Tested on 5 Countries by Martin Sorensen of Grid-Arendal

27. Grid-Arendal has been working with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat on national reporting. There are different tools and methods of reporting. The report should include the institutional information on the party submitting to the Convention, and information on the measures taken by the party to implement relevant provisions of the Abidjan Convention and its protocols.

28. State of the Marine Environment Reporting is based on the structure of the World Ocean Assessment (WOA), a global assessment of the oceans. Regional workshops are arranged to give regional input to the global assessment. The need for building national capacity for making State of the Marine Environment reports has been identified in this process, and Grid-Arendal has hosted regional capacity-building workshops. The expert elicitation method has been used and workshops have been conducted in Bangkok, September 2012, for the South China Sea area, as well as for the Gulf of Guinea and Sierra Leone. The organization also uses software to facilitate report writing.

29. The expert elicitation method is a cost-efficient way of making SOME reports. Based on a four-day national workshop with national experts to try and come up with providing information relevant for the state of the marine report. This is done by assessing the:

- Baseline
- Present condition of the environment
- Trends in the last 5 years
- Confidence of experts
- Spatial focus, best 10 per cent, most, worst 10 per cent (environmental conditions)

30. A number of parameters are assessed for the different components:

- Biodiversity assets and values: condition of habitat, species and processes
- Ecosystem health: condition of physical and chemical processes, pests, invasive species, diseases and blooms
- Pressures and socioeconomic benefits: factors detrimentally affecting the biodiversity and the consequent social and economic values of dependent human communities
  - Estimation of pressure associated with separate industries
  - Estimation of totality of socioeconomic benefits of the industry
- Risk assessment: Short- and long-term likelihood of impact and the consequences of the impact

31. After the workshop the countries need to organize, drafting and maintenance of the report

B. Discussion

32. The Secretariat proposed that instead of considering another proposal that the Abidjan Convention Secretariat agrees to use one reporting format that captures all the relevant information. The report must:
• Assess the status of the marine areas and the coastal environment
• Assess the value of all these areas in terms of resources, social aspects, economies
• Provide trends to assess the pressure on the marine areas
• Assess threats to do a risk assessment on the marine environment

33. The Chair concluded that:
• In-depth reporting of the state of the coast should be done approximately every five years
• A year of detailed reporting on key environmental variables should be produced every 2 years
• Reporting should be relevant, replicable and sustainable
• Each country must have people mandated to take on this role
• There must be synergy within countries and LMEs and other organizations with respect to reporting

IX. Item 5 - Scientific and Technological Advice on Relevant Items on Agenda of Eleventh Conference of the Contracting Parties

5.1 The 11th Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention

34. The regional coordinator of the Abidjan Convention gave a presentation on the draft decisions before the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention.

35. In his presentation, the regional coordinator regrouped the draft decisions into 7 clusters to facilitate their consideration by the CST:

• Pollution, oil and related extractives
• Partnerships
• Workplan and financial matters
• Science – policy linkages
• Biodiversity
• Assessment
• Management/Governance

36. The Clusters are described below

• Pollution, oil and related extractives
  The decisions indicated in this part of the presentation included the COP 11/1 E: environmental standards for the offshore exploration and exploitation activities of mining and mineral resources of the coasts of the States Parties; the COP11/1 F: Environmental Cooperation with the Ports in the Convention area; and the COP11/1 G: hosting as indicated by the general secretariat.

• Partnerships
  The decisions under partnerships as indicated by the regional coordinator included CP 11/6, which deals with partnerships on coral reefs; CP 11/7, which looks into partnerships with international organizations; and CP 11/12, which concerns the development of South-South cooperation.

• Work plan and financial matters
  The work plan and financial matters decisions include CP 11/2, which looks at the work programme for 2012-2015; as well as decision CP. 11/3, which centres on financial matters.

• Science – Policy Linkages
  The recommendations that come from this meeting will be added to the decisions relating to the linkages that exist between science and the policy-making process of the Abidjan Convention on the establishment on a committee on science and technology.
• **Biodiversity**
  The decisions that deal with biodiversity as stated in the presentation are the COP 10/1M, which looks into sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in the area of influence of the Abidjan Convention; CP 11/9 which looks into marine areas of Ecological or Biological Significance (EBSAs); and decision CP. 11/10, which is the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity of the areas beyond national jurisdictions.

• **Assessment**
  The decisions under the topic of assessment were stated as decisions CP 11/11 Economic Assessment of the Marine and Coastal Environment of West, Central and Southern Africa; and CP 11/12 Reporting System on the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

• **Management/Governance**
  The management and governance decisions were stated as decisions CP 11/4 Ocean Governance; CP. 11/5 Establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness; CP 11/18 Revitalization of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West Central Africa Region; CP 11/14 Logo and Mission Statement of the Abidjan Convention; and decision COP 10/4 Abidjan Convention National Implementation Committees.

**X. Discussion of Decisions of 11th Conference of Parties to the Abidjan Convention**

37. It was decided that the delegates split into two groups to look into the draft decisions as set out in the presentation by the regional coordinator. Two delegates were selected to lead the groups. Group One chaired by Mr. George Wiafe and met to discuss draft decisions relating to pollution, science, policy linkages and partnerships. The second group, chaired by Mr. Adnan Awad, met to discuss biodiversity, assessment and management/governance. After working in parallel the groups shared their deliberations and the recommendations are contained as in Annexure 1.

38. It is recommended that the COP give consideration to the CST suggestions as set out in the annexure, this being one of the key functions of the CST to provide such review.

**XI. Comments from Delegation Meeting Groups**

39. Comments from the meeting groups resulted not only in suggested changes as captured in Annex 1 but also highlighted a number of more general points. In particular the group stressed that (as scientists) we needed to be clear in terms of our objectives and appropriate mechanisms when proposing or establishing partnerships in order to get the maximum value from such partnerships. It was noted that this should be stressed because partnerships were one of the four pillars of the Convention.

40. Mr. Boyd requested that the decisions discussed and agreed upon be captured in the report. (As an annex. See Annex 1)

**XII. Item 6 - Draft Provisional Agenda, Dates and Venue of Second Meeting**

41. The CST must meet early enough before the next COP meeting. The next COP meeting would, according to the current schedule, take place in April 2016. It was, therefore, proposed that the next CST meeting take place in February 2016 and that the intercessional meeting between two COPs meet in June 2015 if possible and if resources permit. It was proposed that the next meeting take place in West Africa.

42. It was agreed that, as reflected in the modus operandi, that at the end of COP meetings some Bureau members and the regional coordinator should list all items that require CST attention and develop a draft
agenda for next meeting(s). The draft agenda would be shared with all CST members and also all the parties. This agenda would form the basis of the inter-sessional work. (Note- In this instance this was not possible due to the late end of the COP and the fact that several key members had left earlier).

43. Considering the nomination by countries of members to the CST, the regional coordinator said that official correspondence had been sent to the responsible ministries of all parties giving them guidelines indicating the experience, scientific knowledge, competence and skills needed of persons for the CST.

44. A further suggestion was made that the CST (and regional collaborators) should strive to become recognized as the authoritative expert body, not only with regard to meeting the scientific and technical needs of the Convention, but also with respect to environmental matters in the Convention area.

6.1 Inter-Sessional Work of Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

45. What was discussed and agreed here is reflected in the updated modus operandi document, but the discussion also included utilizing additional means of communication and innovative ways of attracting funding.

46. A key suggestion was that the Abidjan Convention website be used as a form of communication by creating a page that would present CST-related activities, as well as to allow delegates and country representatives to upload relevant new documents that may be in the public domain for information and access. Electronic media could also be used to pose questions to and within the CST on matters that may be pressing for certain countries.

XIII. Other Matters

47. No other matters were discussed

XIV. Meeting Closure

48. The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and contributions that had a resulted in a successful inaugural meeting. Then, he declared the meeting closed.

XV. Adoption of Report

49. It was initially agreed before closing that the report would be adopted by the delegation on Monday 17 March 2014 as the report would be finalized in the morning of that day. The delegation entrusted the Chair and Secretariat staff to work on the document so it could be adopted the following day. However, due to delays, the report was only submitted to the CST for adoption on the Tuesday 18 March 2014, at a meeting attended by virtually all the persons present on the main CST meeting on the 16th March 2014.
Annex 1

Explanatory Note by the Chair: As noted in paragraph 3, discussion and CST recommendations regarding the draft decisions took place in working groups, with each working group given a different subset of draft decisions to examine as per paragraph 34. Nevertheless, working group members did comment on decisions outside their subset if such persons had particular expertise in the matter at hand. Hence certain decisions will have comments from both groups. It should also be noted that not all comments were raised in the expert segment and/or the COP, although the vast majority were. The listing of recommendations below is acknowledged as not being optimal in terms of layout, but provides an accurate reflection of matters raised by the CST working groups.

Group 1 discussed Scientific and Technological advice on relevant items on the agenda of the eleventh conference of the Contracting Parties: Pollution, Partnership, Science-policy linkages, Work plan and financial matters, Biodiversity, Assessment, and Management/Governance.

Recommendations by Group One on the Draft Decisions

**Draft Decision CP11/1a:** Environmental standards for the offshore exploration and exploitation activities of mining and mineral resources off the coasts of the States Parties

**Recommendation:**
The title should include “onshore activities”. The following is proposed:

*Environmental standards for the onshore and offshore exploration and exploitation activities of mining and mineral resources off the coasts of the States Parties include.*

**Draft Decision CP11/1f:** Environmental Cooperation with the Ports in the Convention area

**Decision #1:** To encourage the partnership between the Secretariat and PENAf within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding that links them as well as the establishment of a group of experts to assess the environmental performance of the ports and identify the challenges that need to be faced in the Convention region;

**Recommendation:**
The abbreviation “PENAf” must be expanded in the text

**Draft Decision CP11/1g -** Definition of the outer limits of the Contracting Parties’ continental shelf

**Decision #2:** To study the possibility of establishing a working group composed of high-level experts in order to conduct studies on the definition of the outer limits of the continental shelf of the Contracting Parties

**Recommendation:**
The outer limits of the continental shelf have already been defined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The expert group to be constituted could consider supporting Contracting Parties in managing transboundary issues where the capacity is non-existent.

**Draft Decision ll/1m:** Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

**Recommendation:**
The Secretariat should initiate the process that would transform the Ad Hoc Committee into a Substantive Committee for the Abidjan Convention
Draft Decision II/1m: Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

Decision #1: To possibly request the Contracting Parties to complete the process of designating their representatives on the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

Recommendation:
To remove the term “possibly” so as to ensure compliance by Contracting Parties

Draft Decision II/1m Draft Decision II/1m: Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

Decision #2. To request the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology to define a procedure for drafting and adopting reports on the measures adopted in implementation of the Abidjan Convention.

Recommendation:

a) That the preparation of National reports should be collaboration between National Expert and national representative of the CST.

b) That the National Report and State of the Marine Environment Report should be separate.

Group 2 discussed biodiversity, assessment and management/governance. After working on parallel the groups shared their deliberations and the recommendations are set out in the Table below and text which follows:

Suggested Changes to Draft Decisions for COP 11 by the CST Working Group 2, with Detailed Text Supplied below the Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Section/Paragraph</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-amble</td>
<td>Para 2 General</td>
<td>New draft Text proposed follows this table</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consideration be given to restructuring of preamble and decisions to give background and technical justifications relevant to each draft decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Section G, H (2)</td>
<td>Encouragement of further work i.e. Article 76 of UNCLOS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Section E, F</td>
<td>Clarity on outcome of host country was awaited</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/8 E</td>
<td>Urge further resolution in 10/8, section f) extend wording to include “look for solutions”</td>
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<td>General recommendation to add a body or organ of control (or ‘evaluation’) to COP10/8 (e) – may be a function for CST</td>
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<td>Proposal to add wording to encourage a mechanism of integrating the standards before the development of protocols.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Para 1</td>
<td>Change “extend” to delineate and delimit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Support suggested text from Group 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Para 3</td>
<td>Need to change “mechanism” to include “provide guidance for alignment of existing mechanisms”</td>
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<td>The use of “instruct in this paragraph is a bit strong for an informal body – consideration to be given to softening this wording.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Para 1</td>
<td>“approve the establishment” – does this implicitly mean it has to be done by the next COP? And if so can this be made explicit?</td>
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| 11/8 |        | Add wording to request the Secretariat with input from the CST to evaluate and update the action plan.  
Suggestion to strengthen the encouragement of implementation by the ‘relevant bodies’ (i.e. LME’s etc.) |
| 11/9 | New    | Suggest adding a new paragraph 6 – linking work on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) with Marine Spatial Planning initiatives in the region  
Replace “invite convention” with “invite parties to the convention”  
Suggestion to streamline this request generally via the parties, and increase the precision in this invitation (i.e. Parties, Secretariat, Financing) |
|      | Para 3 |                                                                                                                                   |
|      | General |                                                                                                                                   |
| 11/10| Para 2 | Change “scientific marine resources” to “marine scientific resources”  
Change “areas of conservation” to “fields of conservation”  
Remove “Special”  
Request to Secretary to assess available finances and viability of actions |
|      | Para 3 |                                                                                                                                   |
|      | General |                                                                                                                                   |
| 11/11| Para 1 | “States parties” check wording                                                                                                   |
|      | Para 2 | Add wording to include communications plan on “economic value of ecological infrastructure” – this compliments goods and services.  
Note to reference TEBE initiative (social ecological engagement)  
Need to highlight the Regular Process |
| 11/13| Para 2 | Change “fill in” to “submit” if this better captures the intent.                                                                 |

Detail of suggested changes referred to in the Table

Preamble (to the decisions of COP11)

Redraft of Para 2:

*Recalling* that 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which provides the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, and drawing particular attention to Part XII of UNCLOS on the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

New Para:

*Noting* the importance of the United Nations Regular Process on Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects (Regular Process) and *taking note* of the workshop which was held in Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire, 28-30 October 2013 in support of the Regular Process; and further *Encouraging* Contracting Parties to nominate Experts to serve in the Pool of Experts of the Regular Process
Decision CP 11/1, COP 10/10

Add:

*Takes note* of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) training programme on the “Delineation of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles and for the Preparation of Submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf”, and requests the Secretariat to work with DOALOS on the delivery of such capacity-building opportunities.

Decision CP 11/4 Oceans Governance

Redraft Para 1:

To *urge* Contracting parties to delimit and delineate their maritime zones in accordance with UNCLOS, and *recalls* the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties in their maritime zones, in particular those regarding the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

Redraft of Para 3:

To *request* the Secretariat to direct the working group of the Group of Experts for Ocean Governance in Africa to pursue its efforts to provide guidance for alignment of existing relevant mechanisms; and to develop in partnership with regional and international partners, including the African Union and the International Ocean Institute, a comprehensive ocean governance capacity-building programme.

Para 8 add at end:

“...Ocean governance in Africa, which will be preceded by an event on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in Africa organized by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea with the Abidjan Convention secretariat, other regional bodies and partners on the occasion of the 20th anniversary on the entry into force of UNCLOS.”

Decision CP 11/09 EBSAs

Redraft Para 5 in accordance with the CBD reporting process and its interaction with UN GA:

To *prepare* reports in accordance with the CBD process so as to make them available for consideration by the United Nations....

Decision CP 11/10 Conservation and sustainable use...

Para 2: change to “strengthen marine scientific research...”

Paras 3 and 4: delete “Special” in front of “Ad Hoc open-ended...”
Annex 2

 Recommendation CST1/1 Modus Operandi of the Committee of Science and Technology

The Ad Hoc committee on science and technology recommends that

1. Conference of the contracting Parties approves the modus Operandi of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology as set out.

Appendix 1

UNITED NATIONS

UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/cs
T1/3

Distr.: General
16 March 2014
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United Nations
Environment
Programme

First Meeting of the
Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology under the
Convention for Cooperation in the Protection,
Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the
West, Central and Southern Africa Region.
(Abidjan Convention).
Cape Town, South Africa, 16 March 2014

Modus operandi of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology
1. BACKGROUND

1. United Nations (UN) agencies, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other conventions are serviced by science and technology bodies which provide advice to the main bodies. The roles played by these science and technology wings, which have contributed to advancement in science and technology by these organizations have been enough grounds and good rationale to seek for a similar situation for the Abidjan Convention. In addition, the need to have scientific information in assessing the marine environment and adjacent coastal areas had already been mentioned in the 1974 report on the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. The need for a science and technology committee was thus seen as very important for the revitalised Abidjan Convention. In this view, the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention agreed at its ninth meeting held in Ghana in 2011 to establish an Ad Hoc “Committee on Science and Technology” for the provision of scientific, technical and technological advice relating to the implementation of the Convention (decision CP. 9/10, para. 1).

3. In order to build from ongoing initiatives and existing experiences, the Secretariat of the Convention gathered information through:

(a) Consultations with the Secretariats of UN agencies which engage in marine and coastal activities in the eastern Atlantic African marine and coastal areas. The purpose of these consultations was to seek ways and means for collaboration and synergy with those UN agencies, and to learn on their respective bodies dedicated to marine and coastal issues;

(b) Consultations with the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to build on their experiences regarding the operations, structure and meeting schedules of their scientific bodies;

(c) Liaising and consulting with the Secretariats of the three Atlantic African Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) projects, namely the Benguela, the Canary and the Gulf of Guinea LMEs projects. The purpose was to understand the problems they are encountering in the implementation of their objectives and to know the needs that they have in terms of science and technology regarding their operations, areas of weakness, and resources required.

/...
4. The Secretariat compiled that information and made a proposal for the operationalization of a scientific committee for the Abidjan Convention in document “Report on the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology” (UNEP/DEPI/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4). This report was approved by the conference of the Contracting Parties at its tenth meeting (decision CP.10/16, para. 1), held in the Republic of Congo in 2012. In the same decision, the Contracting Parties created the Committee with the mandate to “provide scientific and technical assistance to the Secretariat in the Office, and through them, to the Contracting Parties” (decision CP.10/16, para. 2).

2. **CORE FUNCTIONS AND SCOPE OF ADVICE**

2.1 Overall Mandate

5. As stated in decisions CP9/10 paragraph 1 and CP.10/16, para. 2, the main function of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology is to provide scientific, technical and technological advice, relating to the implementation of the Convention.

6. More specifically, in line with the Secretariat’s Report (UNEP/DEPI/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4) approved by the Contracting Parties at their tenth meeting, the Committee shall perform the following tasks:

   (a) Respond to requests from the Contracting Parties on matters requiring scientific and technological advice in the implementation of the Convention and its protocols;

   (b) Identify and inform the Contracting Parties on new and emerging issues of relevance to the status and trends of marine and coastal areas; their values; the pressures on, and threats posed to, these areas particularly within the Abidjan Convention area, and the impacts of measures taken to conserve and use resources from marine and coastal areas, including human, institutional and financial measures;

   (c) Prepare scientific and technological background information and advice for consideration when the Contracting Parties are developing their decisions; and

   (d) Review draft decisions to be presented to the conference of the Contracting Parties from a scientific and technical perspective.

7. These functions of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology may be further elaborated and updated, for approval by the conference of the Contracting Parties.

8. The Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology is expected to act as the Convention’s think tank for the provision of guidance on the best available options to address conservation and sustainable use of resources. Its activities and advice should respond, as much as possible, to the needs of all, and be prepared and carried out building on, and in coordination with, existing initiatives. They should also contribute to filling the gaps in technical and scientific knowledge for the management of the marine and coastal areas and to the benefit of all in the region, to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

2.2 Operating Principles

9. The Committee shall be guided by the principle of providing the best advice available on science and technology for the marine and coastal environment of the Abidjan Convention area.

10. It shall support the implementation of the plans of action of the Convention, in a manner that is consistent, coherent and possibly in synergy with other regionally and globally agreed goals relevant to the objectives of the Convention. Collaboration with other stakeholders including essentially the scientific community engaged in the Abidjan Convention area will always be a central approach of the Committee’s operations.

11. The Committee shall constantly endeavour to improve the quality of its scientific and technical advice and other outputs by improving its knowledge of the status and trends in the environmental health of marine and coastal areas of the Abidjan Convention area, of the threats to and pressures on them, of the measures taken to conserve and sustainably use their resources, including funding strategies and paying attention to new and emerging issues. The Committee shall always endeavour to inform the Contracting Parties using appropriate terms and languages.

12. The Committee shall adopt short-term work plans based on the requests of the conferences of the Contracting Parties and develop budgets for those plans, for submission to the Contracting Parties so that they can be approved and considered in the Convention’s budget. The Committee shall keep the Contracting Parties informed about progress made as well as opportunities and constraints in the implementation of its work plans.
3. RULES OF PROCEDURE

13. The rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contacting Parties to the Convention shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology, including in particular rules 26 (on sessional working groups), 29 (on the official languages of the meetings), 30 (on interpretation during meetings), and 31 (on documentation for meetings and their proceedings). The main changes are described in the following sections and paragraphs. Rules 19 and 20, on credentials, will not apply. Other rules specific to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee can be decided from time to time during its meetings.

4. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

4.1 Composition

14. The Committee shall be composed of:

(a) Nominated experts, one from each country in the Abidjan Convention area. During nominations, the Contracting Parties will be encouraged to also provide names of alternates;

(b) A scientist from each of the three Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) projects in the Abidjan Convention area i.e. from the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project and the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) project.

(c) Either a representative from each partner institution or research organization, if they are not too many, or a co-opted expert from each of the groups of partner institutions and research organizations within the Abidjan Convention community. The Secretariat will develop and regularly update, in collaboration with the Committee, a list of such institutions and research organizations, and submit to the Bureau of the Convention for its approval.

15. Observers representing relevant United Nations organizations and programmes, multilateral environmental agreements and/or their scientific bodies, and other organizations dealing with marine and coastal areas in other regions and/or at the international/global level will also be invited. Observers must first identify themselves through correspondence with the secretariat for clearance. The conventional observer status of merely sitting in and contributing to discussions at meetings shall be adhered to strictly.

4.2 Nomination Procedure

16. The Secretariat will serve notice, including the criteria for selection, to Parties, the LME projects, and partner institutions or research organizations to identify and nominate representatives to membership of the Committee. An indicative list of criteria is given in the endnotes.

4.3 Officers

17. A Bureau consisting of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chair and 7 members including the Rapporteur of the meeting will be appointed at the first sitting of the Committee and thereafter following a schedule that will ensure some staggering of membership to ensure continuity in the Bureau. The President of the Convention Bureau will supervise the first election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee will supervise the following elections of officers.

18. The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology will be from the country hosting a regular meeting of the Contracting Parties. The Vice-Chair will be from the country that would have hosted the preceding conference of the Contracting Parties. Their terms of service will start at the beginning of the ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties and expire at the beginning of the following ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties. Once a country that will host a meeting of the conference of the Contracting Parties is known, it can nominate the person who will serve as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology who can participate in the Bureau as an ex-officio member.

19. The other members of the Bureau will be selected as follows: two from the CCLME region, three from the GCLME region and two from the BCLME region. One of them will be elected as Rapporteur following a proposal from the Chair. The terms of office of these Bureau members will start at the time they are elected at a meeting of the Committee and expire thereon at the end of the third ordinary meeting of the Committee. In order to ensure institutional memory for the Ad Hoc Committee, the concept of staggering of membership will be introduced so that 3 or 4 members (one from the CCLME region, one or two from the GCLME region and one from the BCLME region) will be appointed at each meeting.
region) will step down for new elections at every ordinary meeting of the Committee, bearing in mind that there will be no elections of new Bureau members (excluding the Chair and Vice-Chair) at the second meeting of the Committee. The same members can be elected to the Bureau not more than twice.

20. The Chairperson and, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson chairs the meetings of the Committee, reports on the work of the Committee to the Bureau and the meetings of the Contracting Parties, and represents the Committee in scientific and technical components of other marine and coastal areas-related processes and oversees its work inter-sessionally.

21. The Chairperson can assign other Bureau members specific tasks (for example, the responsibility of coordinating and facilitating the work of the task forces and working groups, as needed) during the meetings and the intersessional periods.

4.4 Oversight Responsibility

22. The oversight responsibility of the Committee is vested in the Bureau of the Convention, which is the overall authority of the Abidjan Convention during and between meetings of the Contracting Parties.

5. MEETINGS

5.1 Frequency, timing and duration of meetings

23. The Secretariat’s “Report on the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology” (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4), which was approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its tenth meeting (decision CP.10/16, para. 1), provides that the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology will meet at least twice in between meetings of the Contracting Parties, with one meeting taking place immediately after the meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to identify science and technology issues referred to it by the Parties, and another meeting before the following meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to review and advise on science and technology issues. At its first meeting, the Committee recognized the importance of two intersessional meetings and requested that the timing of its meetings be left flexible so that the dates can be defined taking into account possibilities of maximizing the participation of members and the opportunities for drawing from other initiatives.

24. At the end of the meetings of the Contracting Parties, at which he/she will present the report of the Committee, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology or the Vice-Chair will work with the Secretariat to collate science and technology requests referred to the Committee by the conference of the Contracting Parties, develop the agenda of the following meeting, and propose the intersessional work of the Committee for discussion, approval and implementation by the Bureau of the Committee.

25. The Secretariat will also ensure that the duration of the meetings is sufficient for the effective and comprehensive consideration of all the matters on the meeting agendas.

26. The number and length of the meetings and activities of the Committee shall be indicated in the budget adopted by the conference of the Contracting Parties or other sources of extra budgetary funding.

5.2 Organization of Work during Meetings and in the Intersessional Periods

27. The Committee or members of its Bureau meeting after conferences of the Contracting Parties may wish to establish, as and when needed, working groups and task forces to prepare its advice on specific issues on its agenda. In addition, the Chair of the Committee may wish to establish working groups during meetings on the basis of well-defined terms of reference.

28. The selection into these working groups and task forces will be based on their nature and functions and appropriate expertise needed. These working groups and task forces shall be chaired or facilitated by members of the Bureau of the Committee. Financial implications of these arrangements, if any, should be reflected in the budget of the Convention.

5.3 Handling of New and Emerging Issues

29. The Committee will play an important role in identifying new and emerging issues and in bringing them to the attention of the Contracting Parties.
30. Proposals for new and emerging issues should, as much as possible, be accompanied with scientific and technical information on:

(a) Why the issues need urgent attention. This will include *inter alia*: (i) how and how much the new issues impact and could impact, now and in the future, the marine and coastal areas of the Abidjan Convention zone including the well-being of the people living in these areas or depending on these areas for their livelihoods, (ii) why addressing the issues is urgent, (iii) the actual geographic coverage of the identified issues, and the rate and potential extent of their spread, and (iv) the evidence of the absence or limited availability of tools to limit or mitigate the negative impacts of the identified issues;

(b) How they affects the attainment of the objectives of the Convention, its action plans and its Protocols;

(c) Work already under way addressing the issues;

(d) Possible ways and means to address the issues; and

(e) Credible sources of information, preferably from peer-reviewed articles.

5.4 Documentation

31. The Secretariat shall ensure that the documentation prepared for the meetings of the Committee are distributed no less than four weeks before the meetings in the two working languages of the Committee. The documents should be concise and focused. They will include proposed conclusions and recommendations for the consideration and possible adoption by the Committee.

32. In preparing the meeting documents, the Secretariat will endeavour to liaise with as many relevant partners as possible to ensure coherence and facilitate complementarity and synergy in the actions to be proposed to the Contracting Parties and thus ensure efficiency and cost effectiveness.

5.5 Reporting

33. All issues discussed by the Committee will be included in the reports of its meetings. The Chair or his/her representative will table the reports at the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

34. The Committee will also regularly assess its performance and report to the Contracting Parties on its effectiveness, including its strengths, weaknesses and constraints met, and proposed ways and means to improve its effectiveness.

6. COOPERATION

35. The Secretariat will seek, on behalf of the Committee, scientific and technical support and cooperation from relevant bodies within the United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), from MEAs such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its agreements, and from other international (e.g. IUCN, World Tourism Organization, the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), World Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Conservation International (CI)), regional and sub-regional institutions and organizations (e.g., *Partenariat régional pour la conservation de la zone côtière et marine en Afrique de l’ouest* (PRCM), *Réseau des aires protégées d’Afrique centrale* (RAPAC) and *Réseau des aires marines protégées en Afrique de l’ouest* (RAMPAO)). Specific efforts will be made to liaise with the existing nodal structure involving the three Large Marine Ecosystems (Benguela, Canary and Gulf of Guinea), their special Task Forces or Working Groups; and the multi-sectoral platform which seeks to incorporate the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) working groups and other initiatives of collaboration within the Convention. Such cooperation will ensure that the Committee is building upon the vast experience, knowledge and expertise available in the region. To facilitate such cooperation, the Chair of the Bureau of the Committee or his/her representative as well as the Secretariat may represent the Committee at relevant meetings of these partners, and keep them informed about the needs and activities of the Committee.
36. Similarly, the Secretariat will make sure that information about the work and output of the Committee is disseminated widely within countries and the region including through national focal points of the Abidjan Convention and other related or relevant conventions, and through existing mechanisms that facilitate cooperation at the national levels (e.g. the clearing house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity).

37. In this context, the Secretariat will create and maintain an up-to-date roster of experts and of partner institutions/organizations at the regional level.

7. **FUNDING OF THE COMMITTEE**

38. The Committee will develop its plan of work and related budget, including support needed by the Secretariat to assist the Committee, for the consideration of the conferences of the Contracting Parties. It will also explore and inform the Contracting Parties on possible sources of funding for its activities.

**Annex 3**

UNITED NATIONS

UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/2

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First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology under the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention).

Cape Town, South Africa, 16 March 2014

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Introduction

39. At its ninth meeting, held in Ghana in 2011, the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention agreed to establish an ad hoc “Committee on Science and Technology” for the provision of scientific, technical and technological advice relating to the implementation of the Convention (decision CP. 9/10, para. 1).

40. The Committee was created at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, held in the Republic of Congo in 2012, with the mandate to provide scientific and technical assistance to the Secretariat in the Office, and through them, to the Contracting Parties (decision CP.10/16, para. 2). The Contracting Parties urged the
Secretariat to organize the first meeting of the Committee in parallel with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 21 March 2014.

41. The Secretariat’s “Report on the establishment of an ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology” (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4), which was approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its tenth meeting (decision CP.10/16, para. 1), provides that the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology will meet at least twice in between meetings of the Contracting Parties, with one meeting taking place immediately after the meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to identify science and technology issues referred to it by the Parties, and another meeting before the following meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to review and advise on science and technology issues.

42. The first meeting of the Committee will thus take place in Cape Town on 16 March 2014, essentially to advise on science and technology issues identified within the items on the agenda of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, taking into account its work proposed and budgeted in document UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4.

43. In accordance with the procedure outlined in section 1.1 of this document, the Regional Coordinator of the Abidjan Convention sent out, from 25 April 2013, invitations to all the Contracting Parties and relevant partner organizations for the nomination of the members of the Committee. The Committee should be composed of:

(a) Nominated experts, one from each country in the Abidjan Convention area;

(b) A scientist from each of the three Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) projects in the Abidjan Convention area i.e. from the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project and the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) project.

(c) A scientific representative from each partner institution or research organization within the Abidjan Convention community; and

(d) Observers representing relevant United Nations organizations, multilateral environmental agreements and/or their scientific bodies.

44. The procedures for selecting the members of the Committee are described in section 1.3 of document UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4.

45. The rules of procedure of meetings and conferences of the Abidjan Convention shall apply to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology, *mutatis mutandis*. The languages of the meeting will be French and English. Advice of the Committee will be approved by consensus.

46. Registration of participants will commence on 15 March 2014 at 5.30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Cape Town International Conference Centre, in Cape Town.

**ITEM 1. Opening of the Meeting**

47. The meeting will be opened at 9 a.m. on 16 March 2014 by the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Convention. A representative of the host country and the Regional Coordinator of the Convention will welcome the participants. Representatives of one or two partner organizations may also make some opening remarks.

**ITEM 2. Organizational Matters**

48. The guidance in the Secretariat’s “Report on the establishment of an ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology” (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4), which was approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its tenth meeting, provides that:

(a) The Committee will have a Bureau and a Chairperson;

(b) The Bureau of the Convention may organize the members of the Committee into Working Groups that will be chaired or led by a member of the Bureau of the Committee.

49. In accordance with the procedures approved in the Secretariat’s report (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4), the Bureau will consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and seven...
members selected as follows: countries from the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) region will select two representatives to the Bureau; countries from the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) region, three representatives; and countries from the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) region, two representatives. Provisions will be made to allow the three LME regions to meet in the evening of Saturday 15 March to select their representatives to the Bureau from among the members of the Committee present at the meeting. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson will be selected by the Bureau of the Convention possibly among the members of the Bureau of the Convention. The terms of office of the Bureau members as well as the duration of their service in the Bureau will be discussed in details under agenda item 3 below.

50. The election of these selected members will be submitted to the meeting.

Item 2.2. Adoption of the agenda

51. The Committee will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/1). This provisional agenda was prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Convention.

Item 2.3. Organization of work

52. In accordance with its modus operandi, the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology may wish to establish working groups and task forces, as and when needed, to promote the business of the Committee and support the Convention. These special groups may be considered as subcommittees and will be coordinated by members of the Bureau. The selection into the subcommittees will be based on the nature and functions of the respective working groups or task forces and appropriate expertise needed.

53. A list of documents prepared for the meeting is provided in annex I below and a provisional organization of work is contained in annex II.

ITEM 3. Matters Related to the Modus Operandi of the ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology

54. In paragraph 1 of decision-/CP.10/16, the Contracting Parties approved the report of the Secretariat entitled "Report on the establishment of an ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology" (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4). This report outlines the mandate, institutional structure, mode of operation and funding of the Committee. In establishing the Committee, the Contracting Parties explicitly noted that the Committee would work on the basis of the elements contained in the report.

55. The report will be available to the meeting for the information of participants. In addition, the Secretariat will reorganize, for easy reference, the elements of the report relating to the organization of the Committee in a document entitled "Modus operandi of the ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology: a proposal" and will raise some questions dealing with the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations that the Committee may wish to consider. The Secretariat’s document would include sections on (i) historical background or rationale for the establishment of the Committee, (ii) its functions/mandate and scope of its advice, (iii) its composition, the nomination process, its governance/structure, and roles of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Bureau Members (iii) the frequency and duration/timing of its meetings , (iv) organization of work during meetings, establishment of working groups and task forces, development of its advice (v) the handling of emerging issues, (vi) preparation of documents for its meetings and for submitting to the Contracting Parties, and (vii) cooperation with other relevant organizations and bodies such as the scientific bodies of relevant conventions and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

56. Participants in the first meeting of the Committee are invited to review the elements described in the Secretariat’s report (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4.) and document UNEP(DEPI)/ WACAF/CST1/3, and build a common understanding including by relating the elements of the modus operandi to their experiences. The Committee may wish to recommend to the Contracting Parties its modus operandi containing concrete ways of improving the efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its tasks and programme during its meetings and the inter-sessional period.

57. In paragraph 4 of decision-/CP.10/16, the Contracting Parties noted that one of the topics on the agenda of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology should be the operationalization of Article 22 of the Abidjan Convention with regards to reports on the implementation of the Convention at the level of the States Parties. Article 22 of the Convention states that the "Contracting Parties shall transmit to the Organization reports on the measures adopted in the implementation of this Convention and of protocols to which they are Parties, in such form and at such intervals as the meetings of Contracting Parties may determine".

58. To assist the Committee, the Secretariat prepared proposed elements for the operationalization of Article 22 of the Abidjan Convention with regards to reports on the implementation of the Convention at the level of the States Parties (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/4), which include proposals on the format of the national report, intervals of reporting, baselines and sets of indicators for use in monitoring and reporting. In developing the document, the Secretariat took into consideration the need to avoid overburdening the Contracting Parties. For this purpose, the Secretariat took into account that the Contracting Parties had to develop or were already developing reports on marine and coastal environments/ecosystems/biodiversity as part of their obligations under other processes and regional or global agreements to which they are Parties, such as the United Nations Regular Process on Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (fifth national report on biodiversity due in March 2014, including the status of implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity under the Convention, and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 1, 2, 5 to 10, 11, 14, 18 and 19), and the Millennium Development Goals (focusing on Goal 7). The information portal for the fifth national report under the Convention on Biological Diversity (http://www.cbd.int/np5/) contains guidelines, a resource manual, a training manual and other resources that can assist with the preparation of national reports. The Secretariat’s proposed reporting elements also took into account ongoing initiatives such as the development of the national state of coast reports (http://abidjanconvention.org/index.php?option=com_content&view-article&id=106&Itemid=206, and the Grid-Arendal pilot project on the state-of-the-marine-environment (SoME) reports using a reporting template being tested in five Parties to the Abidjan Convention (Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia and Sierra Leone).

59. The Committee is expected to review the reporting elements and modalities proposed in the Secretariat’s document UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/4, and amend them so as to improve them, as needed, and develop its recommendation to the Contracting Parties.

ITEM 5. Scientific and Technological Advice on Relevant Items on the Agenda of the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

60. The Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology was established to provide scientific, technical and technological advice on the implementation of the Convention, in response to demands from the Contracting Parties (see document UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4). The tenth meeting of the Contracting Parties did not make any direct demand to the Committee for its first meeting except regarding the operationalization of Article 22 of the Convention (see item 4 above).

61. In order to make a substantive contribution to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Committee will consider the agenda of that meeting, and identify science and technology needs and issues under relevant items. In considering the identified issues, the Committee will bear in mind the theme of the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties, which is "Promoting Blue Growth in Africa: Towards Sustainable Management of Marine Resources".

62. Having before it the documentation prepared for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Committee is invited to focus on scientific and technological considerations that the experts preparing the ministerial segment should have in mind, during their meetings on 18 and 19 March, while preparing the draft decisions of the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties. Particular attention might be paid to the draft decisions on:
(a) The implementation of decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, in particular regarding: (i) the revision of the texts of the Abidjan Convention; (ii) the sustainable management of ecosystems and mangroves in the area of the Abidjan Convention; (iii) environmental standards for offshore oil exploration and exploitation in the area of the Abidjan Convention; (iv) sustainable tourism based on the sea and coasts; and (v) the work of the Convention as regards the interface between freshwater streams and marine and coastal ecosystems;

(b) Marine areas of ecological or biological significance (EBSAs);

(c) The establishment of an ad hoc committee on communication, education and public participation under the Abidjan Convention;

(d) The work of the Convention regarding coral reefs;

(e) Marine areas beyond national jurisdiction; and

(f) Sustainable management of ecosystems and mangroves in the Abidjan Convention area.

63. The Secretariat will develop a document on these matters on which scientific and technical advice of the Committee may be required by the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/5). Many of these items for the consideration of the Committee are contained in the list of activities identified in the Secretariat’s report (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4), in particular in section 2.3 of the report about the budget proposed for the work of the Committee.

64. The Committee is expected to review and provide its views on the list of issues and related scientific and technical advice prepared by the Secretariat. The Committee’s advice could be organized, in line with the Convention Action Plan, under: (i) status and trends of the marine and coastal areas in the Abidjan Convention region and their biological and socioeconomic value; (ii) threats posed to marine and coastal areas in the Abidjan Convention area, including from present and planned development activities and taking into account the ecosystem approach; and (iii) impact of measures taken in the region to ensure conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

65. Under this agenda item, the Committee may also wish to consider whether it should

(a) Develop a work plan to support the 2014-2016 work programme for the Implementation of the Abidjan Convention contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/4 and in light of the budgeted work programme in the Secretariat’s report (UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4); and

(b) Request the establishment and maintenance of a directory of existing institutional and human capacities, in particular a roster of research institutions and of independent experts with expertise and experience in relevant fields. The secretariat may be requested to update the directory on a regular basis. These independent experts could be consulted informally during the development of working documents of the Committee and formally for peer-reviewing documents.

ITEM 6. Preparation for the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

Item 6.1. Draft provisional agendas and dates and venue of the second meeting

66. After their meeting, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology will participate in the expert segment of the Conference of the Parties, to be held from 17 to 19 March 2014. Because the Committee will not meet again after the high-level Ministerial Segment that will deliver the decisions of the Contracting Parties, it may wish to request the Secretariat to work with the Chairperson of the Committee to compile all the requests that the Contracting Parties will address the Committee and develop an inter-sessional programme of work for the Committee as well as the agenda for the second meeting.

67. It is expected that the second meeting of the Committee will be held prior to, and at the same venue as the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.
Item 6.2. Inter-sessional work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology

68. Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to propose ways and means through which it could carry out its work intersessionally, without pre-empting the decisions to be taken by the Contracting Parties on 20 March 2014. Members of the Committee could, for example, agree on means of communication (e.g. listserv, skype, teleconferences, other meetings where they can meet, etc.) through which they would be exchanging information on the items on the agenda of their second meeting.

ITEM 7. Other Matters

69. Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider any other matters proposed and accepted for discussion, such as emerging issues

ITEM 8. Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Meeting

The Committee will consider and adopt its report, which will be presented by its Chairperson to the experts segment of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on 18 March 2014 and to the High Level Ministerial Segment on 20 March for consideration.

70. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology is expected to be closed on Sunday, 16 March 2014, at 8.30 p.m.
Annex I

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Working title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/1</td>
<td>Provisional agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/2</td>
<td>Annotations to the provisional agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/3</td>
<td>Modus operandi of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology – A proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/4</td>
<td>Proposed elements for the operationalization of Article 22 of the Abidjan Convention with regards to reports on the implementation of the Convention at the level of the States Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/CST1/5</td>
<td>Matters on which scientific and technical advice of the Committee may be required by the eleventh conference of the Contracting Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.11/Ref.4</td>
<td>Report on the establishment of an ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex II

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 March 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:30 – 20:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Cape Town International Conference Center (ICC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Informal meetings of the CCLME, BCLME and GCLME projects for designating</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>representatives in the Bureau</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:00</td>
<td>Registration (ctd.)</td>
<td>ICC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:15</td>
<td>1. Opening of the meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:15 – 09:25</td>
<td>2.1 Election of officers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:25 – 09:30</td>
<td>2.2 Adoption of the agenda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30 – 09:35</td>
<td>2.3 Organization of work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:35 – 10:15</td>
<td>3. Matters related to the <em>modus operandi</em> of the Ad Hoc Committee on</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 – 11:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 – 12:30</td>
<td>4. Operationalization of Article 22 of the Abidjan Convention with regards</td>
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<td>to reports on the implementation of the Convention at the level of the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>States Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 14:30</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 16:30</td>
<td>5. Scientific and technological advice on relevant items on the agenda of</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the eleventh conference of the Contracting Parties</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30 – 16:35</td>
<td>6.1 Draft provisional agenda, dates and venue of the second meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:35 – 16:55</td>
<td>6.2 Inter-sessional work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:55 – 17:00</td>
<td>7 Other matters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19:30 – 20:30</td>
<td>8 Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Examples of criteria for membership to the Committee:

1. Nominated by a Party, an LME project and an INGO
2. Co-option on the basis of special expertise
3. Experience in working on marine and coastal water issues
4. Expertise in knowledge on areas of marine and coastal waters management such as fisheries science, oceanography (marine science), exploitation and extraction mining engineering, social and human sciences, maritime transport services and pollution sciences.
5. Demonstrated capacity to work with others on marine and coastal water biodiversity issues
6. Ability to understand issues pertaining to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal waters biodiversity, especially in trans-boundary situations and areas beyond national jurisdiction
7. Ability to understand problems of pollution and degradation of marine and coastal waters and sea erosion, especially in trans-boundary situations
8. Availability to spend some quality time on the activities and programmes of the committee
9. Availability to attend meetings of the committee
10. Gender and Generational groups to be considered important and relevant

Annex 4

Country Attendance List

Benin, Cameroon, Congo (Dem Rep of), Congo (Rep of), Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo.