Twelfth Conference 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

DRAFT DECISIONS
Preamble

The Contracting Parties of the Cooperation Convention for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Atlantic coast of the West Africa, Central and Southern Region (Abidjan Convention)

Recalling that 2014 marked the 20th anniversary of the entry into effect of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides the legal framework regulating all activities to be carried out in the oceans and seas and drawing attention more particularly to part XII of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment;

Recalling, moreover, paragraphs 158 to 177 (“Oceans and seas”) and 178 to 180 (Small and developing island states) of the final document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), held in Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil on June 20-22, 2012, titled “The future we want” and unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Recalling paragraphs 162 and 177 of the final document of Rio + 20 on the importance of creating protected marine areas and the urgent need to make a decision on launching international negotiations on a legal instrument allowing for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas located beyond national jurisdictions;

Recalling the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, (CoP21, CCNUCC) concerning the Paris Agreement on climate change, which stresses the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including the oceans and the protection of biodiversity;

Recalling the 22nd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris in December 2015 and relating to the Marrakech Proclamation on Climate Change, more precisely on the implementation of the Paris Agreement of December 2015;

Taking note of Resolution A/RES/70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly on: Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, whose paragraph 33 relates to the conservation and reasonable use of seas and oceans;

Considering the thoughts coming out of the African ministerial conference on ocean economies and climate change, whose theme was “Towards COP 22”, and which was jointly organized by the World Bank and Mauritius, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the regional conference in Madagascar on the blue economy as a lever of sustainable, innovative growth in the Indian Ocean area, organized by the Indian Ocean Commission (May 2015);

Recalling, moreover, the commitment made by the international community within the framework of the “Aichi Objectives”, the decennial strategic plan adopted by the Convention on biological diversity in 2010, and particularly Objective 11, aimed at achieving the conservation of 10% of marine surfaces by 2020, and Objective 6, aimed at reducing direct pressure on biodiversity and promoting its sustainable use;

Noting, further, the global process of describing of the marine areas of ecological or biological importance through the organization of a series of regional workshops and, in particular, the workshop for the Southeast Atlantic Region, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in April 2013, and the regional capacity building workshop for West Africa, held in Dakar in February 2013 within the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative;

Recalling the active and ongoing collaboration between the Convention on biological diversity and the Abidjan Convention on issues such as marine areas of ecological or biological importance, areas beyond national jurisdictions and the achievement of the Aichi objectives;

Acknowledging the fact that the description of ecologically or biologically important areas must be founded on scientific expertise and, where necessary, on technical information and opinions on biological marine diversity as well as on the implementation of an ecosystemic approach and on the principle of precaution;

Recalling the 13th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on biological diversity (CoP13 UN CBD), held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016, particularly decisions
CBD/CoP/DEC/XIII/7, CBD/CoP/DEC/XIII/9, CBD/CoP/DEC/XIII/10 and CBD/CoP/DEC/XIII/12 relating respectively to the Aichi Objectives, spatial marine planning, the impacts of marine debris and underwater noise pollution on marine and coastal biodiversity, and marine surfaces of ecological and biological importance;

Recalling UNEP/EA.2/Res.11 decision of the 2nd Annual Meeting of the United Nations (May 2016, Nairobi-Kenya) for the Environment relating to plastic and micro plastic waste in the marine environment

Recalling the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy - Horizon 2050 (Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050) adopted by the African Union on January 31, 2014, for which it was requested that its principles be taken into account in the 2063 Agenda of the African Union, whose adoption is planned for the next session of the Parliament in June 2014;

Noting the importance of the United Nations mechanism for systematic notification and evaluation worldwide of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects (regular mechanism) and taking note of the workshop held in Grand-Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire, on 28-30 October 2013 to support the regular mechanism; and, moreover, encouraging contracting Parties to appoint experts to serve in the pool of experts from the regular mechanism;

Conscious of the opportunity offered by the concept of green economy for the socio-economic development of African countries, based on rational exploitation of coastal and marine natural resources;

Considering the Abu Dhabi Declaration and the results of the Summit on the Blue Economy, which took place in Abu Dhabi on 19-20 January 2014;

Conscious of the importance of how a blue economy approach makes it possible to create prospects for ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth throughout the continent;

Acknowledging that the United Nations General Assembly has also reasserted its central role in the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions and noting the work achieved in this field by the States Parties, qualified bodies and intergovernmental organizations were invited to take part, according to their respective fields of specialization, in the study of these issues within the framework of the process which it launched in its Resolution 66/231;

Recalling that the United Nations General Assembly also reaffirmed the commitment made by the States in the document entitled “The future we want” to urgently tackle the issue of conservation and sustainable exploitation of biological and marine diversity in the zones beyond national jurisdictions, particularly by deciding on creating an international legal instrument within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

Recalling Decision CP 11/2 approving the work programme of the Convention for the 2015-2017 period and noting with satisfaction the level of achievement of tasks carried out to date;

Commending the States which have made the effort to pay their contributions to the Trust Funds of the Convention since COP 10 was held in Pointe-Noire;

Acknowledging the financial contributions granted by the Swedish government, the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection, Construction and Nuclear Safety, the United States Agency for International Development - USAID- through the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change program - WABICC- and the MAVA Foundation, for the implementation of the Abidjan Convention;

Considering the financial rules and regulations applicable to funds under the responsibility for the United Nations and the areas in which specific financial procedures would apply;

Concerned by the constant degradation of coral reefs, seagrass and mangrove ecosystems, taking into account the essential functions they fulfill in the conservation of marine biodiversity and recognizing the need for establishing partnerships for the development of knowledge about these ecosystems;
Acknowledging the need for evaluating and updating the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of the West and Central Africa Region since its adoption in 1981;

Acknowledging the need for reinforcing the mechanisms for implementing the Convention at the regional level, thanks to the participation of various actors and institutions for the protection of maritime and coastal areas;

Finally acknowledging the importance of strengthening South-South co-operation in the protection of oceans and their resources as well as the protection of marine biodiversity,

Recalling the practical guide published by the Economic Commission of the United Nations for Africa (ECA) on the blue economy, particularly its provisions aimed at gradually helping African states to better integrate the blue economy in their strategies, policies and national legislations,

Recalling the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) report entitled “Releasing the full potentialities of the blue economy: Are African developing small Island states ready to seize all opportunities?”

Noting the recommendations of the International Conference on Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, held on 27-30 April 2015 in Brazzaville, aimed particularly at the development of a common African strategy against this trade,

Recalling the 2015 African Strategy on Combatting Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, particularly its provisions relating to the illegal trade in fisheries products and other marine species

Recalling the Lomé Charter adopted in 2016 by African Heads of States on security, maritime safety and development in Africa, whose objective is to ensure the development of the blue economy by various means, particularly through the preservation of the marine environment, maritime security and safety.

Acknowledging the enormous economic potential of the African coastline and the awareness-building role played by members of Parliament and local councillors in the socio-economic development process of the Atlantic seaboard of the continent.

Recalling the Integrated Maritime Strategy (IMS) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which defines the Strategic Framework for the reinforcement of maritime governance, of the management of the marine environment, the safety and security of the maritime domain in West Africa,

Acknowledging moreover, the role of the project to support the regional Network of Parliamentarians and local councillors for the integrated management of the coastal and marine zone of the countries of the West African coastline, PREPARE, and on the theme of “Fishes, hydrocarbons and mangroves”.


Recalling the annual report of the congress of the IUCN as well as the World Report on the state of the environment in its volume devoted to Africa, GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Africa (2016), stressing the capital role of Nature in development;

Noting the importance of the themes developed within the framework of the Action plan for the Mediterranean, namely governance, land-based and marine pollution, biodiversity and ecosystems, land-sea interactions and processes, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), sustainable consumption and production;

Noting the 2016 United Nations World Water Development Report, whose Chapter 6, devoted to Africa, describes the challenges related to water resources in Africa;
Considering the 2016 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Report on “The State of World Fisheries and Agriculture: contributing to food security and nutrition for all”;

Noting the discussions in Freetown within the framework of the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa, PRCM, on extractive industries, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing - IUU, the management of wetlands, protected areas and the coastline;

Realizing the crucial importance of marine areas beyond national jurisdictions and of negotiations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations to understand the issues and challenges related to them;

Recalling the report of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on its Strategic Objective 5 aimed at promoting international scientific co-operation on the major challenges related to sustainable development;

Recalling the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), whose objective is to help developing countries to implement international maritime rules and standards for the safety of maritime transport and the protection of the marine environment;

Realizing the negative impacts of coastal erosion on the socio-economic viability of the West African coast and the efforts of the World Bank to address this scourge;

Considering the Dakar Declaration, adopted on May 18, 2011, on the establishment of an observatory of the West African coast with the aim of reducing coastal risks and the impacts of coastal erosion;

Recalling the cardinal importance of lagoons in biological productivity and their role in the development of seaside tourism;

Considering the need to work out a management strategy for coastal cities and to develop programmes and policies for their integrated management in the geographical area of the Abidjan Convention;

Have decided:
Draft Decision - CP 12/1: Work Program 2017-2020

1. *To approve* the renewal of the work programme for 2015-2017 for the 2017-2020 period;

2. *To agree* that the elements of the 2017-2020 work programme should continue to give priority to the same thematic areas as the 2015-2017 work program, namely:
   
a) The assessment of ecosystem goods and services, and of coastal and marine habitats;

b) Management for the implementation of the programmes and activities aimed at reducing or preventing the degradation of the marine environment and of coastal areas;

c) Coordination and legal aspects, namely the modification and updating of the Abidjan Convention, improved coordination of activities and exchange of information, as well as the strengthening of institutions with a view to the implementation of the Convention;

d) Communication, awareness-building, information and education, placing emphasis on the exchange of information with communities as well as advocacy, empowerment of communities and capacity building;

e) Cross-cutting and emerging issues as well as funding strategies;

3. *To support* the process of developing the Abidjan Convention’s monitoring-evaluation system and to request the Secretariat to present the final version at COP13;

4. *To exhort* the Secretariat to continue to include in the 2017-2020 Work Programme elements of collaboration with active partners in spheres of activity related to the management of the marine and coastal environment of the area, such as GRID-Arendal, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the *West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change* (WABICC) programme, the MAVA Foundation, World Bank, IDDRI-IASS Potsdam, Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Leaders (APEL) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wetlands International, WWF, PRCM, the sub-regional fisheries commissions, the OSPAR Commission, Convention on Migrating Species (CMS), Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), BirdLife International, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), US-AFRICOM, Ports Environmental Network Africa (REPAf) and other relevant organizations;

5. *To request* the Secretariat to draw up the 2020-2023 Work Programme according to the priority areas for implementing strategies for achieving blue growth; the implementation of the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategic Action plan on ocean governance, pursuant to the objectives of the Abidjan Convention; the development of the partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to determine the protection of marine areas of ecological or biological importance as well as areas outside national jurisdiction in accordance with the process launched within the framework of the United Nations.

Draft Decision - CP 12/2: Financial issues

1. *To request* to the Executive Director of UN Environment to extend the validity of the Trust Fund to 31/12/2020;

2. *To note* that, pursuant to the Decision of COP 10, the cost of the Executive Secretary which was borne by the UNEP from 2010 to 2012 has been gradually transferred to the Trust Fund since 2013, with UNEP sharing 70% of the costs and 30% for the Trust Fund. Since 2014, the salary of the Executive Secretary of Convention has been paid totally by the Trust Fund;

3. *To congratulate* the States which made the effort pay their contributions to the Trust Fund of the Convention since COP 10, held in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo, and to remind them
that the full revitalization on the Convention will depend on available funds and the contributions paid by Contracting Parties;

4. *To remind States* that non-payment of contributions and arrears to the Trust Fund will undermine the progress achieved within the framework of the revitalization of the Convention and could compromise its viability;

5. *To urgently request* Parties to pay their contributions as soon as possible to the Special Assignment Fund and direct those who have not yet complied to pay their contributions arrears in accordance with Decision MoP.1/5/2008;

6. *To approve* the revision of the 2017 budget of the Trust Fund as presented in the UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12.Inf.6;

7. *To approve* the 2017-2020 budget of the Convention, as presented in UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document /ABC-WACAF/COP.12.Inf.6 and its subsequent modifications, made following the meeting of Experts of the 12th Conference of Parties;

8. *To approve* the rules of management and financial procedure of the Abidjan Convention, which will supplement the financial rules and regulations of the UN/UN Environment, in order to:

   a. To provide clear and precise directives to dealing with the fiduciary fund of the Abidjan Convention, update the terms of reference of the fiduciary funds, and to incorporate in a single document the previously established financial arrangements, which currently appear in various documents and are difficult to understand in a comprehensive manner;

   b. To provide clear and precise directives for the global management of the fiduciary fund in support of the Abidjan Convention;

   c. To help Contracting Parties to easily understand the applicable UN/UN Environment financial rules and regulations;

   d. To make additional arrangements to take into account the specific nature of the Abidjan Convention;

   e. To clearly define the responsibilities and the financial obligations of UN Environment in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention, along with those of the Parties;

9. *To adopt* specific financial rules, regulations and procedures of UN Environment for the functioning of the Convention and its protocols as well as its subsidiary bodies, in addition to the operation of the Secretariat of the Convention, which appear in Appendix III of this decision;

10. *To examine* these rules and procedures at COP 13 in 2020 and, if necessary, modify the procedures pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on the relationship between UN Environment and multilateral agreements on the environment for which it is the secretariat or carries out the functions of a secretariat;

11. *To express* their sincere thanks to the above-mentioned organizations for their financial contributions to the implementation of the Abidjan Convention;

12. *To agree* on improving the financial viability of the implementation of the Convention by taking into account matters related to coastal and marine areas in national policies, strategies, plans and budgets;

13. *To ask* the Secretariat to continue to develop projects, mobilize resources and encourage contributions in kind to support the implementation of the Action Plan and of the Convention at the national level;

14. *To congratulate* the Convention secretariat for its efforts to collect arrears and unpaid contributions by Parties;
15. To authorize the opening of a bank account in Abidjan to facilitate the operation of the Secretariat and its co-operation with financial partners; this shall be done through a management mechanism to be defined by States Parties.

Draft Decision - CP 12/3: Modification of the text of the Abidjan Convention

1. To congratulate the Secretariat for the organization of national and regional consultations on the amendment of the text of the Abidjan Convention;
2. To validate the final version of the amended text such as it appears in Appendix 1;
3. To encourage Governments to request the Secretariat to hold, as soon as possible, the meeting of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the aforesaid text.

Draft Decision - CP 12/4: Work of the Convention on the interface between freshwater bodies and marine and coastal ecosystems

1. To congratulate the Secretariat for the organization of the national consultations on the additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention on Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
2. To validate the final version of the protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
3. To request the Secretariat to continue the process of developing the action plan for the implementation of the abovementioned protocol;
4. To encourage Governments to expressly request the Secretariat to hold as soon as possible the meeting of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the protocol on integrated coastal zone management.

Draft Decision - CP 12/5: Sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in the geographical area of the Abidjan Convention

1. To congratulate the Secretariat for organizing the national consultations on the additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention related to the sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem
2. To validate the final version of the protocol on the sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem and to invite the Secretariat to continue the process of developing the action plan for the implementation of the abovementioned protocol;
3. To encourage governments to expressly request the secretariat to hold as soon as possible the meeting of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the protocol on the sustainable development on the mangrove ecosystem.

Draft Decision - CP 12/6: Environmental standards for oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities off the coasts of the States Parties

1. To congratulate the Secretariat for organizing national consultations on the additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention concerning environmental norms and standards related to offshore oil and gas activities;
2. To validate the final version of the protocol concerning environmental norms and standards related to offshore oil and gas activities, and to direct the secretariat to continue the process of developing the action plan for the implementation of the abovementioned protocol;
3. To encourage governments to expressly ask the Secretariat to hold as soon as possible the meeting of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the protocol on norms and standards related to offshore oil and gas activities.

Draft Decision - CP 12/7: Integrated coastal and ocean management policy
1. To ask the secretariat to collaborate with relevant international institutions to develop a regional integrated coastal and ocean management policy in the Abidjan Convention area;
2. To request the Secretariat to take into account Sustainable Development Objective 14 relating to the sustainable conservation and exploitation of oceans, seas and marine resources in developing the regional integrated coastal and ocean management policy
3. To request the Secretariat, taking into account available resources, to organize broad regional consultations in order to agree on a final version of the integrated coastal and ocean management policy which will be presented for review and adoption at COP 13.

Draft Decision - CP 12/8: Establishment of the Guinea Current Commission by a protocol of the Abidjan Convention

1. To note the progress of the work done by the Secretariat with UN Environment, FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (ONUDI) on the installation of the Guinea Current Commission by a protocol to the Abidjan Convention and the conversion of the strategic action plan into a programmatic Global Environment Facility (GEF) approach for the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME);
2. To urge UN Environment and other United Nations agencies involved in the GCLME project to make financial resources available for the development of the additional protocol aimed at creating the Guinea Current commission;
3. Request the Secretariat to prepare the draft additional protocol as soon as possible in order to create the Guinea Current Commission as soon as the financial resources are available.


1. To take note of the progress made in updating the Action Plan for the Protection and the Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of West, Central and Southern Africa
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Committee on Science and Technology, to finalize the updating of the action plan and to coordinate its revitalization process, pursuant to the objectives of the Abidjan Convention;
3. To request the Contracting Parties and, in particular the focal points, to contribute to the finalizing and updating of the Action Plan, particularly by providing technical support or suitable recommendations;
4. To urge the secretariat to present the final updated version of the Action Plan at COP 13.

Draft Decision - CP 12/10: Climate change

1. To remind the Secretariat, pursuant to Decision CP.9/14, to initiate a programme to operationalize Article 10 of the Abidjan Convention on coastal erosion with the support of the relevant organizations;
2. To request the Secretariat to work in collaboration with the States in order to ensure that issues related to oceans and coastal zones are taken into account in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate change;
3. To recall the institutional, political, technical and legal mandate entrusted by the States to the Abidjan Convention within the framework of the fight against coastal erosion in West, Central and South Africa;
4. To request the Secretariat to develop and implement a joint work programme with the
support of international organizations and regional economic integration partner
organizations;
5. To support and to promote the implementation of the West Africa Coastal Areas
Management Program initiated by the World Bank Group;
6. To request the Secretariat to become involved in the implementation of the abovementioned
programme and to exhort the Secretariat to undertake discussions with the World Bank
Group so as to extend the programme to the other regions faced with the problems of coastal
erosion;
7. To request the Secretariat to encourage national and regional organizations in charge of
developing risk-reduction strategies related to natural disasters to include coastal risks
among the priority areas to be dealt with at the national and regional levels;
8. To request the Parties to strengthen their coastal governance policy and internalize the
results of work on erosion, integrated coastal zone management and the reduction of risks
related to the littoral.

Draft Decision - CP 12/11: Marine ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSA)
1. To note the need for promoting the search for complementary follow-up, in accordance with
national and international law, in order to improve ecological or biological information in the
areas within the jurisdiction of the States Parties to the Abidjan Convention in order to
facilitate the future description of marine ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSA)
based on scientific criteria or other relevant criteria;
2. To invite the Convention on Biological Diversity, governments and other partner organizations
and institutions to provide the Secretariat with the financial and human resources required to
build the capacity of the countries to respond to their regional priorities within the framework
of Aichi objectives 6 and 11, particularly developing small Island states, by organizing regional
or sub regional workshops on capacity-building on identifying EBSAs;
3. Link the work on EBSAs to the initiatives on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and on the State of
the marine environment (SOME) assessments within the framework of the Large Marine
Ecosystems so as to develop an integrated ocean management policy.

Draft Decision - CP 12/12: Conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity of areas
located beyond national jurisdictions

1. To request the Contracting Parties to recognize the importance of safeguarding and
sustainable use of areas located beyond national jurisdictions within the framework of
Abidjan Convention and in conformity with the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention;
2. To urge the Contracting Parties to the build research capacity and marine scientific
decision-making at the national and sub-regional levels in the area of conservation and
sustainable use of the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdictions;
3. To exhort the Contracting Parties to participate in and contribute to the ongoing process
within the framework of the United Nations and, in particular, the proceedings of the ad hoc
Open-Ended Informal Working Group in order to study the issues relating to the conservation
and the sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond the areas of national
jurisdiction.

Draft Decision - CP 12/13: Fighting invasive marine and coastal species

1. To invite governments of the region to support research and monitoring activities on invasive
marine and coastal species so as to improve the understanding of these phenomena and
determine their causes in order to develop precise forecasting models and set up effective
early-warning systems and solutions adapted to the local contexts.
2. To invite governments of the region to strengthen their cooperation with partners and
stakeholders on the Western shore of the tropical Atlantic Ocean so as to acquire a better
understanding of transnational issues linked, for example, to the arrival of Sargasso weeds
on regional beaches, with a view to jointly developing appropriate solutions.
3. To adopt the regional strategy for fighting against invasive plants as indicated in the 
document titled UN ENVIRONMENT(DEPI)/WACAF/COP.12.11 and to quickly undertake to 
implement it;
4. To invite Governments of the region to develop national action plans to combat invasive 
marine and coastal species;
5. To urgently request States to cooperate between them in order to exchange information to 
combat invasive marine and coastal species and to facilitate the rapid provision of 
assistance.

Draft Decision - CP 12/14: Illegal trade, illicit trafficking, consumption and other uses of protected, 
endangered and/or vulnerable marine and coastal fauna and flora.

1. To encourage State Parties to implement the African Strategy on Combatting Illegal 
Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa.
2. To encourage partners to support an assessment of the sampling for commercial purposes 
of aquatic mammals, reptiles and amphibians; to collect data on the origins of meat used for 
consumption, on the traditional nature of the captures and consumption, the extent of the 
domestic and external trade; this shall be done to supplement data available on 
assessments of the sale of land-based bush meat;
3. To exhort partners to explore the possibilities for reducing accidental and intentional deaths 
of marine species related to fishing, including the adoption of by-catch reduction technology 
and practices such as turtle-exclusion devices and the abandoning of baiting techniques 
using threatened or protected species in fisheries;
4. To request the secretariat, in partnership with relevant institutions such as the Convention on 
the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of wild fauna and flora, the Convention 
on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), CBD, FOA, IUCN, WABiCC, OceanCare, Born 
Free... to draw up an action plan to combat illegal trade, illicit trafficking, consumption and 
other uses of protected, endangered and/or vulnerable marine and coastal fauna and flora;
5. To exhort the secretariat to present the report on these consultations, as well as appropriate 
recommendations, including a biennial, quantified work plan based on a results-oriented 
approach, for review at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties and
6. To ask the Secretariat, considering the available resources, to organize vast regional 
consultations in order to agree on a final version of the action plan against illegal trade, illicit 
trafficking, consumption and other uses of protected, endangered and/or vulnerable marine 
coastal fauna and flora, which will be presented for review and adoption at COP 13.

Draft Decision - CP 12/15: Sustainable management of lagoons

1. To recall that Article One of the Convention regarding its geographical scope not only 
includes the marine environment and coastal zones, but also inland waterways under the 
jurisdiction of State-Parties.
2. To request the Secretariat to initiate consultations as soon as possible with partners in 
order to prepare a study on the referential state of the environment and the level of pollution 
of the lagoon areas as well as the socio-economic development opportunities provided by 
this ecosystem.
3. To request the Secretariat to work out an action plan for the protocol regarding land-based 
activities that can constitute sources of marine and coastal pollution and to encourage it to 
develop close cooperation ties with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the 
Marine Environment from Land-based Activities so as to develop a synergy of action in the 
implementation of the abovementioned protocol and of this decision.

Draft Decision - CP 12/16: Marine waste

1. To collect reliable data and information on marine waste in order to help the African Network 
on marine litter so as to develop a database available to all, and to carry out analyses aimed 
at establishing a referential framework likely to inform specific management and/or
information programmes, to ensure progress monitoring and to constitute a model for the future in the field of marine waste;

2. *To make use* of the database thus developed, and of the resulting analyses in order to develop, in collaboration with the African Marine Waste Network and other relevant institutions, a joint assessment of the current state of the production of waste in Africa, the environmental state of marine water in the Abidjan Convention area, economic and social pressures that are exerted on this system, and the effectiveness of actions carried out to mitigate their effects;

3. *To request* the secretariat and its relevant partners to create a database on marine waste which would be used as a basis for the strategies developed in the region on marine waste, thus contributing to well-grounded decisions and policies at the municipal, national, sub-regional and regional levels.

4. *To request* the secretariat and its partners to set up a programme of building awareness on the harmful effects of marine waste and on the importance of confronting them; this programme shall be developed for the relevant agencies and organizations in the region.

**Draft Decision - CP 12/17: Management of coastal cities**

1. *To take note of* discussions in progress between the secretariat of the Convention, the United Nations Agency for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), World Bank and the other partners on the issue of urban planning in coastal cities;

2. *To request* the secretariat to develop and implement a regional initiative on this issue in order to improve the living conditions of coastal populations and to report on it at COP13.

**Draft Decision - CP 12/18: Ocean energy**

1. *To take note of* the energy deficit of State-Parties to the Abidjan Convention, which is a major obstacle to the socio-economic development of these States;

2. *To request* the Secretariat to undertake a study on the energy potential of the marine and coastal ecosystems in Abidjan Convention area.

3. *To request* the Secretariat, taking available resources into account, to organize regional consultations in order to agree on a final version of the action plan for the production and distribution of clean energy from the marine and coastal ecosystems, which will be presented for review and adoption at COP 13.

**Draft Decision - CP 12/19: Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Representatives in support of the Abidjan Convention**

1. *To support* the transformation of the Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Representatives in Support of the Abidjan Conference (APESCA) into the Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Representatives of State Parties to the Abidjan Convention;

2. *To take note of the* launch of the Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Representatives of the Coastal Zones of the Abidjan Convention. *To request the secretariat, in partnership with international organizations dedicated to the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources, to develop an action plan in order to ensure the effective functioning of the Alliance of Members of Parliament and Local Councilors from the coastal areas of the Abidjan Convention, which will be presented for review and adoption at the COP.*

**Draft Decision - CP 12/20: Transatlantic co-operation**

1. *To request* the secretariat to undertake consultations in order to study ways and means to set up an ad hoc framework for environmental co-operation linking regions that share the shores of the Atlantic Ocean
2. *To report* to COP13 on the results of these consultations.

**Draft Decision - CP 12/21: African forum on oceans**

1. *To undertake* to set up a platform of exchange and reflection known as the African Forum on Seas and Oceans of the Southeast Atlantic;
2. *To request* the secretariat of the Convention to lead the reflection on this issue by involving the main actors in the debate on active oceans on the continent and to report to COP13

**Draft decision - CP 12/22: Vote of thanks to the host country**

*To express* their gratitude and thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for their cordial hospitality and their active involvement in the successful organization of this 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention. A special motion is addressed to the Head of the State, His Excellency Mr. Alassane OUATTARA, for his personal involvement in the success of this event.