Twelfth meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP12) to the Convention on 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)

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

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA
A. **EXPERT SEGMENT**

The following annotations to the draft agenda were prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate the deliberations at the meeting. The opening session is usually preceded by an informal meeting of heads of delegations at 8.00.

1. **Opening of the expert segment**

   The meeting shall be held at Hotel Le Vaisseau, Abidjan – Republic of Côte d’Ivoire. Prior to the expert segment, UNDSS-Côte d’Ivoire shall make a presentation on security conditions and measures to be taken to ensure a secure COP12. This presentation shall be followed by addresses by the President of the COP 11 Bureau, the Honorable BEE Molewa of South Africa and the Director General of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) or his representative, as well as general statements by the Executive Secretary of the Abidjan Convention, Mr. Abou BAMBA. The opening address shall then be delivered by the Honorable Mrs. Anne Desirée OULOTO, Minister of Sanitation, Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d’Ivoire.

2. **Organizational matters**

   The opening session shall be followed by a short break, during which participants shall remain seated while the officials leave the room. The President of the COP or her representative shall reopen the plenary meeting.

   a) Admission of observers

      In accordance with the Rules of Procedures, the UN Environment Executive Director shall invite international bodies, and national governmental and non-governmental organizations to attend the meetings of the Contracting Parties as observers (a COP document with the list of registered observers shall be proposed at the meeting).

   b) Appointment of the credentials committee

      In accordance with article 21 of UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) Rules of procedures/ABC – WACAF/COP.12. Ref.3, the conference shall designate members of the Bureau to verify accreditations.

   c) Adoption of the rules of procedures of the meeting

      The Conference shall examine the document titled UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) /ABC – WACAF/COP.12. Ref.3 Rules of Procedures for meetings and conferences of Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention, and shall adopt it as the Rules of Procedures of the 11th meeting of Contracting Parties.

   d) Adoption of the agenda of the meeting– expert segment

      The draft agenda jointly prepared and finalized by the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties has been produced as UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) Document/ABC – WACAF/COP.12.1. Subject to the rules of procedures referred to in paragraph 2.d, the meeting may wish, if necessary, to adopt the agenda and the timetable in the Appendix to the present document, modified where necessary.

3. **Workshop on Integrated Ocean Management Policy in Africa**

   When all measures and procedures related to the opening session and organizational matters have been dealt with, the experts shall be invited to take part in the workshop on ‘Integrated Ocean Management Policy in Africa.’

   **3.1 Presentation on the theme of COP 12: ‘Integrated Ocean Management Policy in Africa’**

   The Executive Secretary of the Abidjan Convention shall describe the general context and present the main objectives of the workshop:

   - to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders (from the environment, tourism, fisheries, hydrocarbons, maritime transport sectors) operating in the coastal and marine region with
at times apparently different perspectives, but who all intend to contribute to the quest for the well-being of populations.
• To share experiences between experts from the Southeast Atlantic area and those from other regions of the world.
• To agree on a roadmap for providing support to Parties in drafting their national integrated ocean and coastal management policies.
• To draft the Abidjan Declaration on integrated ocean management policy in Africa.

3.2 Presentations by experts
Following the presentation of the Executive Secretary of the Abidjan Convention, a series of exposés shall be delivered by the Group of Experts selected to give the perspectives of other regions of the world on IOM implementation in Africa and to present case studies illustrating the application of this concept. Presentations shall be made by the following experts:

i. Mr. Tibor VEGH, Policy Associate, Environmental Economics Programme at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions; Duke University, USA.
ii. Mr. Lawrence P. Hildebrand, Head of the Oceans Sustainability Department. Governance and management specialist; World Maritime University, Sweden (to be confirmed)
iii. Mr. Justin Ahanhanzo, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – UNESCO – Head of the Marine Policy Department and Regional Coordinator (to be confirmed)
iv. Dr. Pierre FAILLER, Director of research at Portsmouth University, Department of Economics: the evaluation of marine and coastal ecosystems of the Atlantic Seaboard of Africa.
v. Mr. Seck Abdul Sherif, Agency for the Protection of the Environment in Liberia: ocean acidification, relations with regional seas conventions.
vi. Mr. Andre Share, Head of the Secretariat for Environment Economy, Operation Phakisa, South Africa.
viii. Mr. Steve Fletcher, Director of the Marine Programme, UNEP-WCMC, UK. (to be confirmed)
x. Mr. Jeff Andrews, Environment and Security Programme, US-AFRICOM.

3.3 Review and examination of the Abidjan Declaration on Integrated ocean management policy in Africa
Participants shall submit their contributions to the draft declaration to be adopted by the ministerial meeting of COP12.

3.4 Conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.
This session shall close the workshop on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Policy in Africa.

3.5 Closing of workshop

TUESDAY 28th MARCH 2017
EXPERT SEGMENT
DISCUSSIONS ON KEY ISSUES, EXAMINATION OF DRAFT DECISIONS AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
4. Report of the UN Environment Executive Director on the progress made in the implementation of COP 11 decisions
This item shall entail the examination of the document titled ‘UN Environment (Ecosystems Division)/ABC – WACAF/COP.12.3: Executive Director’s report. The work done by the secretariat and its partners on the implementation of COP 11 decisions shall be submitted to the meeting for review.
5. **Report of the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology**

This item of the agenda shall examine UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document / ABC-WACAF/COP.12. Ref.11 - Report of the second meeting of the ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology.

The president of the Ad Hoc committee on Science and Technology shall submit the report of the second meeting of the STC, held on March 14 and 15 and aimed mainly at guiding Parties and the Secretariat on technological and scientific issues identified in the items of the agenda of the 12th meeting of Conference of Parties, taking into account the works proposed and included in the budget.

6. **Review of COP 12 draft decisions by the Contracting Parties**

This item of the agenda shall examine UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document / ABC-WACAF/COP.12.6 - draft decisions for examination by Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention, which contains all the draft decisions.


UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document / ABC-WACAF/COP.12.4 – Work programme 2017 – 2020 for the implementation of the Abidjan Convention shall be reviewed. Emphasis shall be placed on execution, particularly of its main components, including evaluation, management, coordination and legal aspects, information / sensitization and cross-cutting/emerging issues. The review shall also take into account the constraints of the Secretariat regarding the non-payment of contributions and arrears, timeframes and available resources.

   b. **Draft decision CP 12/2: financial matters**

This section shall review UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document / ABC-WACAF/COP.12.6 – Financial report of the Abidjan Convention Trust Fund for 2014 – 2016.

The fund’s manager shall provide an overview of the Abidjan Convention Trust Fund report for 2014-2016, including the contributions of Contracting Parties and the operational costs charged against the trust fund.

The draft 2018-2020 budget shall be submitted on the basis of the work programme, with 100% of the cost of the coordinator charged to the trust fund, along with the recruiting of additional staff for the implementation of the work programme and the core functions required for the proper functioning of the Secretariat from 2018 to 2020.

The meeting shall then review ways to establish a strong financial mechanism capable of maintaining the stabilization phase of the Convention through the commitment of Parties to support the work of the Convention. Along the way, the Secretariat shall work to increase the diversity of activities in States Parties.

Extra budgetary resources and voluntary contributions shall also be discussed during the meeting. It is envisaged to establish a working group for this item of the agenda.

   c. **Draft decision – CP 12/3: Amendments to the Abidjan Convention text.**

UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) document / ABC-WACAF/COP.12. Inf.3 – report on amendments to Abidjan Convention text, shall be reviewed. It provides an overview of the work done to revise the text of the Convention and highlights emerging issues for the Convention, the most recent developments regarding the protection and conservation of the coastal and marine environment, and the relevant provisions of modern multilateral environmental agreements, in consultation with the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat of the Convention held regional and national consultations in order to garner Parties’ views and, above all, to ensure dissemination of the text to national actors. The experts discussed amendments proposed by Parties and submitted the present draft for approval.

Parties shall be requested to react to UN Environment’s comments and validate the revised version. A contact group shall be established to present the final version of the amended text for approval at COP 12 and launch the process of preparing for the meeting of plenipotentiaries that shall adopt the said protocol.

   d. **Draft decision – CP 12/4: the Convention’s work on the interface between fresh water and marine and coastal ecosystems.**
The meeting shall review UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) Document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12. Inf.4. – Draft additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention on Integrated coastal zone management.

The formulation of the protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management has been an inclusive, participative and iterative process. Regional meetings and national consultations were organized in States Parties in order to collect national experts’ opinions, disseminate the protocol and ensure ownership by stakeholders.

Parties will be invited to decide on UN Environment’s comments and validate the new version. A contact group shall be established to present the final version of the amended text for approval at COP 12 and launch the process of preparing for the meeting of plenipotentiaries that shall adopt the said protocol.

e. Draft decision - CP 12/5: Sustainable Management of mangroves ecosystems.

The meeting shall analyse UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12. Inf.5. – Draft additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention on Sustainable Management of Mangrove Ecosystems.

The process of transforming the mangrove charter into an additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention, like the previous ICZM protocol, has been an inclusive, participative and iterative process. Regional meetings and national consultations were organized in States Parties in order to collect the opinions of national experts, disseminate the protocol and ensure ownership by stakeholders.

The Parties shall be invited to decide on UN Environment’s comments and validate the new version. A contact group shall be established to present the final version of the amended text for approval at COP 12 and launch the process of preparing for the meeting of plenipotentiaries, which shall adopt the protocol.

f. Draft decision – CP 12/6: international norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation.

The meeting shall discuss UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12. Inf.6. – protocol on international norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation. The formulation of the protocol on international norms and standards for offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation has been an inclusive, participative and iterative process. Regional meetings and national consultations were organized in States Parties in order to collect the opinions of national experts, disseminate the protocol and ensure ownership by stakeholders. Private partners, particularly multinational oil firms, through the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers, actively contributed to the draft of the present text.

Parties shall be invited to react to UN Environment’s comments and validate the new version. A contact group shall be established to present the final version of the amended text for approval at COP 12 and launch the process of preparing for the meeting of plenipotentiaries, which shall adopt the protocol.

g) Draft Decision - CP 12/7: Regional policy on the integrated management of coastal and marine areas

The assembly shall analyse the UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) Document /ABC-WACAF/COP.12.Inf.9. regarding a conceptual note on the strategy for formulating the ocean management policy.

In partnership with GRID Arendal and the Convention on Biodiversity, and with the support of the German Ministry of the Environment, the Abidjan Convention secretariat initiated the process of developing a regional strategy for integrated ocean management. It shall contribute towards supplementing the protocol on integrated coastal zone management. The parties shall be invited to make suggestions on actions to be taken to implement said draft decision.

h. Draft Decision – CP 12/8: Creation of the Guinea Current Commission through a protocol to the Abidjan Convention

The meeting will discuss the creation of a Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Commission, through a protocol of the Abidjan Convention. Such a commission is considered by States Parties as a good approach for ensuring the sustainability and effective implementation of the provisions of the legal and institutional framework which the Abidjan Convention represents.

i. Draft Decision - CP 12/9: Revitalization of the Action plan for the protection and the development of the marine environment and coastal zones of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region
The experts will discuss the finalizing of the Action Plan, which the Secretariat has been tasked with updating and revitalizing in collaboration with the Committee on Science and Technology and with the support of Contracting Parties and partners.

WEDNESDAY 29th MARCH 2017
EXPERT SEGMENT

7. Review of COP 12 draft decisions by Contracting Parties

j. Draft decision - CP 12/10: Coastal Erosion and Climate change
This section shall work on the ongoing discussion between the Secretariat, MOLOA1, the World Bank, the WADB about the implementation of Article 10 of the Abidjan Convention on coastal erosion in reference to the Marrakech Declaration and Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate change.

k. Draft decision – CP 12/11: Marine areas of ecological and biological significance (EBSA)
The experts shall discuss the progress made on describing EBSAs and on the practical measures for implementing the decisions of the 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

l. Draft decision -CP 12/12: Conservation and sustainable use of the marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdictions.
This session is meant to raise awareness on the issues linked to the preservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions and to discuss the action to be taken to ensure strong involvement by the Parties in ocean governance.

The group of experts on invasive coastal and marine species shall present its findings contained in UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) document / ABC – WACAF / COP. 12/11. The experts shall be requested to review and approve the said report and the regional strategies for presentation and adoption by the Contracting Parties during COP.12.

n. Draft decision – CP 12/14: Illicit trade, trafficking, consumption and other uses of protected, endangered and/or vulnerable marine and coastal fauna and flora.
This item of the agenda shall review the ongoing work being done in collaboration with the WABICCC Programme in its component 1, the World Bank, Ocean Care and Wetlands International Africa, as well as the option of setting up a working group composed of high-level experts for an action plan to combat the illicit trade in coastal and marine plant and animal species. The training of magistrates within the framework of the implementation of the present decision shall also be examined.

This item shall examine the ecological interests of lagoons, their ecosystem functions and the opportunities they offer for the well-being of local populations. It shall address the possibility of creating a working group of high-level experts to conduct studies on the health of lake and lagoon ecosystems at the Abidjan Convention level in order to find solutions to serious problems of pollution facing lagoons.

p. Draft decision – CP 12/16: Marine litter

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This point shall deal with the need to take stock of the situation of marine litter (particularly plastic litter) in the geographical area of the Abidjan Convention.

The Contracting Parties shall instruct the secretariat, with the support of partners to collect available data and develop an action programme to be submitted at COP13.


With the support of UN-Habitat, the secretariat has considered mounting a programme of coastal-town planning to cater for population displacements due to the effects of climate change (coastal erosion and floods). This session shall contribute towards decisions on measures to be taken to create a sustainable planning framework for coastal towns in the Abidjan Conference geographical area.

r. Draft decision – CP 12/18: Ocean energy

This item shall be an opportunity for experts to discuss options for enhancing the ocean energy potential of the Abidjan Convention States Parties. The meeting shall review UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) document / ABC – WACAF/ COP.12. Inf.15 on the ocean-energy potential of West Africa and present proposals for the implementation of a regional action plan to assess the ocean-energy potential of the Abidjan Convention.

s. Draft decision – CP 12/19: Alliance of parliamentarians and Local Elected Representatives in support of the Abidjan Convention.

The meeting shall analyse UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) document/ABC – WACAF/COP.12.13 on the concept note for the establishment of a network of parliamentarians and local government representatives of the Abidjan Convention area.

In partnership with IUCN and the WABICC Programme, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat shall introduce the issue and the President of the Network shall present the strategic orientations of the said network so the Parties may decide on the matter.

t. Draft decision – CP 12/20: Transatlantic Cooperation on environment

Experts shall discuss synergies to be developed between coastal countries on the south, north, east and west sides of the Atlantic Ocean with a view to reinforcing one another and finding mutually beneficial solutions to issues caused by drifting ocean currents. Talks are ongoing between the Secretariat of the Conference and the European Union’s project on transatlantic cooperation between protected marine areas. In this regard the foundation should be laid for setting up the framework of environmental cooperation between regions sharing the Atlantic Ocean.

u. Draft decision – CP 12/21 African Forum on Oceans

This agenda item shall generate debate on the added value of an information sharing network between stakeholders and the main actors in the African maritime sector.


The assembly shall draft a vote of thanks to the Government of Côte d’Ivoire for organizing the 12th Conference of Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention.

8. Discussions and finalization of Abidjan Declaration

The meeting shall examine the draft Abidjan Declaration discussed on day 1 of the workshop on “Integrated ocean and coastal management policy”. The Declaration shall be finalized and presented for adoption at the ministerial meeting.

9. Adoption of report and recommendations of the expert segment.

The meeting shall examine the draft report and expert-segment recommendations, drawn up by the Secretariat, to be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting in Abidjan.

10. Any other business
Participants shall be invited to comment under ‘any other businesses’ on any other issue, regarding the draft decisions and the Abidjan Declaration that were addressed at the session, and to submit proposals for the creation of a new Bureau to conduct the Convention’s activities up to COP13 prior to their submission to the Ministerial Meeting for adoption.

11. Closing of the expert segment

Thursday 30th March 2017

B. HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

This session on the first day of the Ministerial Meeting of COP12 shall review the final version of the draft decisions and check the credentials of parties.

1. Opening of the meeting

There shall be an opening plenary session addressed by high-level officials, first by the representative of the secretariat of UN Environment, followed by the chair of the Bureau and the guest of honour. This shall be followed by the statement of the Minister of the Environment of Côte d’Ivoire, after which the Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire shall address the meeting and declare it open. The opportunity shall be given to the other heads of delegation to address the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters

The meeting shall examine UN Environment (Ecosystem Division) document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12.1 on the draft agenda and United Nations Environment (Division of the ecosystems) document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12.2: on the draft annotated agenda.

The President of the meeting shall deliver an address on the organization of work and the Contracting Parties shall have to review and adopt the agenda of the meeting.

3. Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment

This point shall deal with the United Nations Environment Document (Ecosystem Division) Document/ABC-WACAF/COP.12.1.3: Report of the Executive Director.

The Executive Director of UN Environment or his representative shall present a report outlining the progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the tenth and the eleventh meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention. Additional notes shall be made on the issues and challenges faced by the Convention and possible solutions.

4. Report of the Chairman of the ad hoc Committee on Science and Technology

This item shall analyze UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) document /ABC-WACAF/COP.12. Inf.12: Report of the first meeting of the Science and technology committee. The Chairman of the ad hoc Committee on science and technology shall give an overview of the report on the first and the second meetings of the STC, held
in Abidjan on 25-26 October 2016 and on 15-17 March 2017, emphasizing the role of this Committee in supporting the work of the Convention.

5. Review of draft decisions
Draft decisions discussed and approved during the expert segment to build consensus before the Ministerial session shall now be submitted for adoption. The Contracting Parties shall be able to make new proposals at the meeting, provided that these proposals cover:

- Urgent matters arising from discussions at the meeting, or
- New, unforeseen developments.

6. Report on credentials and full powers
The report of those who examined the accreditations shall be presented to the Ministers and their representatives. As in the past, these officers shall have to ensure that the credentials of the delegates representing the Contracting Parties are presented in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish, and, in accordance with the rules of procedure, that they are issued by the Head of State or Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or by an official authorized by the State to accredit representatives to international meetings.

Friday 31 March 2017
The last day of COP12 shall be devoted to the adoption of decisions; the choice of the venue of the next meeting and the adoption of the report of the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

7. Adoption of decisions
The Conference shall review the decisions finalized by the Ministerial Committee. If there is no objection, or no amendment to the text adopted in plenary, the COP shall proceed to adopt, unaltered, the draft decisions on the agenda, and there shall be no more of these draft decisions.

If, however, a Contracting Party opposes a draft decision, or proposes to delete, add or modify the text, a consensus on these changes shall first be sought in the plenary. If a consensus is reached, the Secretariat shall prepare and provide a revised draft decision for formal adoption.

In the event of disagreement with certain aspects of the text of a draft decision, the President shall guide the plenary session according to the rules of procedure of the Conference of Parties to the Abidjan Convention.

8. Date and venue of the next ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties
The meeting shall decide on the date and place of the 13th meeting of the Contracting Parties, which is expected to take place in 2020.

9. Election of the Bureau of the meeting.
In accordance with article 21 of the UN Environment (Ecosystems Division) Rules of Procedures /ABC – WACAF/COP.12. Ref.3. the assembly shall elect its Bureau based on proposals made by delegations.

10 Any Other Business
The parties may ask to take the floor to present other points relating to the Abidjan Convention and its Action Plan and propose the formation of a new Bureau for the activities of the Convention until COP13.

11. Adoption of the Abidjan Declaration
The meeting shall review the Abidjan Declaration that was presented and discussed at the expert segment with a view to adopting it.

12. Adoption of the report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention
The Contracting Parties shall adopt the report of the meeting after review.

13. Closing the meeting
The closing ceremony shall include brief remarks by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme or his representative, the Chair of the Bureau and the Minister representing the host Government, who shall declare the meeting closed.