

National ICM Strategy Launch

Statement by Hon. Arcado Ntagazwa (MP) Minister of State (Environment) Vice President's Office



Hon. Arcado D. Ntagazwa

The relief map of Tanzania shows a large coastal area. The area is endowed with abundant and unique resources. 25 per cent of the country's population is domiciled in the coastal area. One of the unenviable descriptions of this segment of the population is that of being the poorest of the poor. The abundance of resources in coastal areas contribute immensely to the efforts targeted towards the betterment of the peoples' quality of life and their livelihoods.

To attest the above one should keep in mind the following. 75 per cent of all industries in the country are to be found in the coastal areas. Dar es Salaam, the largest urban centre in the whole country, is a coastal city. Coastal tourism need no elaboration. Mariculture development and sea-bed natural gas exploration and exploitation, are activities bound to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of coastal people in their communities.

The fact that about eight million Tanzanians share the coastal area with some of the most diverse and biologically important species on the planet, makes the coast a uniquely productive but fragile part of the environment. This is the place where land meets the sea; where a multiplicity of human activities occur not forgetting the imperative integrated decision-making requirement. This must be so because existing policies with respect to land, fisheries, forestry, water, minerals, agriculture, wildlife, industry, transport, energy, health, education and human settlement recognize the uniqueness of our coastal areas. It is indeed in view of the above

that the National Environment Policy spells out broad guidelines with regard to managing the environment in general but with more specific targets in the question of coastal and marine areas. Equally so the National Vision 2025 recognises the need for quality environment and life as some of the goals and the outcome of sustainable development.

The National Integrated Coastal Management Strategy provides a framework under the National Environment Policy that links sectors at district level, and creates partnerships among them towards sustainable use of coastal resources and development. Although sectoral policies for many coastal resources are in place, the coastal people, especially the rural communities, are still poor. An integrated strategy, that overcomes the fragmentation inherent in single-sector management approach is necessary to address these persistent but easy to solve problems.

Coastal resources are under increasing pressure from the people that depend on them for food and income. Unless quick action is taken, coastal resources will not support future coastal communities. Moreover there are large economic developments being proposed and executed, and more are yet to come. Such developments will, positively or adversely, affect many communities and sectors though participatory planning and execution of the same will ameliorate the would be negative impacts. Indeed the challenge we now face is how to harness and manage coastal resources in an equitable and sustainable manner

The challenge calls for a balance between development,

conservation and utilization of coastal and marine resources; which is achievable when the people are aware, respect, value and responsibly manage the resources. This can be achieved through a well coordinated and integrated approach that creates conducive and enhancing environment of collaborative partnership between the government and the community. Scientific management of cross-sectoral interests, at both national and local levels, are the key tenets of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

In recognizing the value of the coast and the need to facilitate sustainable development nationwide, Tanzania is committed to sustainable coastal governance through ICM. Tanzania is signatory and has ratified a number of multilateral environmental agreements that recognize the need for an integrated approach for managing the coastal area. Tanzania has translated these international and regional agreements into national action plans and tangible efforts to address our coastal problems. The National Integrated Coastal Environment Management Strategy currently draws some experience from several local ICM programmes that translate into action our understanding of the international and regional agreements. The ICM seeks to strengthen national programmes and initiatives to ensure their harmonized implementation.

Finally, I would like to state that the National Integrated Coastal Environment Management Strategy is the result of an open, transparent and participatory process that extended for over two years. It needed reflects the collective views

and interests of a wide range of stakeholders who live and work in the coastal area. It is also built on a solid foundation of scientific and technical knowledge. It is hoped that by applying the principles and practices of ICM, Tanzania can and will realize the benefits of sustainable coastal development and the overall objective of the National Environment Policy in this regard.

In conclusion I would like to thank and pay tribute by taking liberty in mentioning the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island. And of course this does not belittle in anyway invaluable aid and assistance that we have had from NORAD, Ireland AID, IUCN, Finnish Government, Dutch Government, PEW Foundation and WWF. I also would like to thank those who participated and contributed to the development of this Strategy and particularly those who generously supported the entire process whom I may have omitted to mention.

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Implementation mechanisms of the ICM Strategy

Following the Government's approval of the adoption of the ICM Strategy, coastal practitioners at both national and local level are expected to undertake the strategy implementation with the goal to preserve, protect and develop the coastal resources for use by the people of today and succeeding generations, to ensure food security and to support economic growth. For the benefit of all coastal practitioners and stakeholders, this special issue is featuring the seven strategic actions and their implementation mechanisms as detailed in the National ICM Strategy.

Strategy One: Support environmental planning and integrated management of coastal resources and activities at the local level and provide mechanisms to harmonise national interests with local need.

This strategy will address the following issues:

- i) Improvement of the environment, well-being and livelihood of all beneficiaries of coastal resources which include the poor coastal communities engaged in small scale agriculture, artisanal fisheries, small-scale mariculture, use of forests and mangroves, small-scale business, the informal sector and extraction of coastal resources.
- ii) Supporting local initiatives, decision-making for intersectoral development and harmonizing national interests with local needs

Implementation

mechanism

District Integrated Coastal Management Action Plans. Create and support a district level ICM process as part of the overall district environmental planning to develop, approve and implement District ICM action plans. National ICM guidelines for preparing district level action plans shall be developed. The guidelines shall encourage each district to focus on their own priority issues and areas. The action plans shall specify local ICM goals and issues, and shall identify how to effect change (immediate voluntary actions, infrastructure, comprehensive planning, new or revised by-laws, etc.). The National ICM Strategy recognizes that districts have limited technical and financial capacity for taking on new management responsibilities. Participation in this program can

be encouraged through a variety of incentives provided by ICMU. These can include support for outreach and awareness raising, a small grants program, technical assistance, and access to information. For national consistency the ICMU shall facilitate districts planning and implementation by way of providing technical support. The ICMU shall assist districts to translate the National Environment Policy and other related policies and instruments into district ICM action plans.

The maximum extent of district ICM action plans includes the full district and offshore to the seaward edge of territorial waters. However, District ICM Action Plans can be for smaller geographic areas within the district (for example, a sub-district, village, or bay area) where intersectoral coastal issues are

most urgent. If division/ward or village action plans are prepared, they shall include inputs from the District.

Local Environmental committees shall coordinate and execute the development and implementation of the action plans.

For coordination and integration, district ICM plans shall be reviewed by the regional coordinating committee prior to being sent to the NSC-ICM for review and endorsement. The district councils shall then approve district action plans. The ICMU shall seek to create a cooperative environment for affected parties to resolve resource use conflicts.

Strategy Two: Promote integrated, sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches to the development of major economic uses of the coastal resources to optimize benefits

The economic opportunities available in the coastal area, both large and small scale, could improve the livelihood and well being of the communities if planned and managed taking into consideration environmental concerns. The following issues are addressed by this strategy:

- i) Environmental Planning and management of key economic opportunities
- ii) Improvement of the well being and livelihoods of all beneficiaries of coastal resources.

Implementation mechanisms

Tourism, agriculture, mariculture, industrialization, mining, and gas development are expected to

expand along parts of the coast. ICMU shall, as resources and capacity allow, work with relevant sectors to convene Issue-Specific Working Groups to develop integrated sustainable approaches to coastal economic development and ensure that all forms of pollution in coastal areas are properly prevented, controlled and managed.

Coastal Activity Guidelines

Convene and facilitate interagency Issue-Specific Working Groups to develop guidelines for major coastal economic development activities. The guidelines shall be in accordance with national Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines and shall include precise definitions of what constitutes a "major" economic development for

that sector, siting requirements, permit procedures, good operational practices and monitoring protocols.

The NSC-ICM shall review and endorse the guidelines. Guidelines shall be implemented through:

- Sectoral agencies, assisted by ICMU and an Issue-Specific Working Group, collaborating with the private sector to voluntarily adopt good management practices; and
- Sectoral agencies, assisted by ICMU, incorporating recommended guidelines directly into their relevant regulations in line with operational national Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and

permit approval processes).

Coordinated Permit Review for Major Economic Uses of the Coast.

Major economic uses that require permits from more than one national sectoral agency shall be reviewed and acted on through an open, transparent and coordinated review process (see Strategy 7 for public input to this process). Guidelines shall specify what constitutes a major coastal development activity, both in terms of scale and proximity to the coastline, and would therefore be included in the coordinated permit review process. The ICMU, when requested by the responsible sector, shall facilitate a coordinated permit review process using the existing national EIA procedures.

Strategy Three: Conserve and restore critical habitats and areas of high biodiversity while ensuring that coastal people continue to benefit from the sustainable use of the resources

This strategy shall address three issues:

- i) *Improvement of the well being and livelihoods of beneficiaries of coastal resources:*
Most rural coastal communities are poor. Their economy depends mainly on small-scale holder farming, subsistence forestry, artisanal fishing, lime and salt production, seaweed farming, livestock husbandry and small-scale trade. Hence actions need to be taken to increase productivity of current economic activities and to promote alternative environmentally sustainable livelihoods
- ii) *Environmental Planning and managing key economic opportunities within the coastal area, including tourism, agriculture, mariculture, industry and oil and gas exploration:*

Development and use of the coastal area is expected to increase, creating economic opportunities as well as putting unprecedented pressure on both the people and resources of the coast. Development activities including industry, agriculture, mariculture, tourism and urbanization and other activities are potential sources of pollution. Poor waste management (solid and liquid), and improper dumping has led to air and water pollution.

- iii) *Managing geographical areas of concern including and habitats:*

Along the coast there are areas that require intensive proactive planning and management because of their unique ecological importance and economic value or because of intense resource use conflicts.

Implementation mechanisms:

The ICMU, in collaboration with relevant authorities, shall identify critical coastal areas and areas of high biodiversity that should be included within existing or new protected area programs/project include:

- Marine Parks and Reserves Unit: The national coastal program shall work with the Board of Trustees and Marine Park and Reserves Unit to establish new marine protected areas (MPAs) (under the Marine Parks and Reserves Act) in areas with significant biodiversity and where local communities support the concept of a park
- The Mangrove Management

Project (MMP)

- Terrestrial game parks that exist in coastal areas
- Wetlands and fragile lands as defined in the Land Act of 1999

The ICMU shall work with existing programs and authorities in the strengthening of General Park Management Plans, Mangrove Management Plans etc. by providing technical support as specified in the section on duties and responsibilities of the ICMU.

District ICM action plans and SAMPs shall identify locally important critical coastal areas and areas of high biodiversity, and specify actions that provide for their conservation, restoration and sustainable use by coastal residents.

Strategy Four: Establish an integrated planning and management mechanism for coastal areas of high economic interest and/or with substantial environmental vulnerability to natural hazards

Successful development and use of the coastal area would need guided planning with clear principles and enforcement practices. This strategy would address the following issues:

- (i) Increasing pressure on environmental resources (section 3.1 and 3.3)
- (ii) Increasing resource use conflicts on the coastal environment (section 3.4)
- (iii) Inadequate environmental management mechanisms (sections 3.6 and 3.4)
- (iv) Inadequate intersectoral co-ordination for coastal environment management (sections 3.4, 3.2 and 3.5)

Implementation mechanisms:

Special Area Management Plans

SAMPs shall be developed for geographic areas of concern, including:

- Areas with existing important economic/infrastructure facilities where resource degradation and use conflicts are occurring
- Areas where major new economic developments are planned or areas where there is rapid economic transition and substantial resource use conflicts that have environmental implications
- Pollution hot-spots
- Trans-boundary areas where significant coastal management issues exist and
- Areas at high environmental risk from the effects of erosion and flooding.

Special area management planning is a mechanism that allows central government in partnership with local government to plan and manage geographic areas of particular national concern or interest. The SAMP process includes stakeholder input from both local and national levels. For a SAMP site, central government shall work with districts and other planning and management functionaries within the sites to complete a detailed environmental management plan that appropriately guides development.

The ICMU, with guidance from the NSC-ICM, shall identify areas requiring a SAMP. A SAMP area can encompass multiple districts, be a single district, a district/

ward or only a village. They shall not, however, extend beyond the offshore limit of territorial waters and the inshore edge of the coastal district boundaries.

SAMPs shall include management goals, objectives, and implementation mechanisms and actions. ICMU shall develop coastal environmental guidelines and provide technical assistance for SAMP preparation. The ICMU shall assist the SAMP implementing agents to review national environmental related frameworks for consistency with SAMP.

The NSC-ICM shall review and endorse SAMPs. Central and local governments will have responsibility to implement actions specified in the SAMPs.

Strategy Five: Develop and use an effective coastal ecosystem research, monitoring and assessment system that will allow available scientific and technical information to inform ICM decisions

Inadequacy of data on coastal environment and lack of individual and institutional capacity is a hindrance to proper planning and management of resources. This strategy will be addressing the issue related to:

- (i) Inadequacy of environmental information availability for decision-making.
- (ii) Human, institutional capacity and awareness.

Implementation mechanisms :

ICMU shall establish a Science and Technical Working Group (STWG) to facilitate scientific inputs into national and local coastal programmes. The STWG shall:

- Serve as a bridge between environmental scientists, and resource managers and decision-makers
- Identify priority management-related research needs with national and local ICM practitioners and researchers

and ensure that this information is used to drive data acquisition

- Make information about ICM and ongoing monitoring available to resource managers and the public
- Recognize the importance of local knowledge and ensure that it is incorporated in the management process
- Recommend conservation and restoration techniques for inclusion in local planning.
- Design a monitoring

programme that nests local, national and international monitoring efforts that builds on and utilizes existing research and monitoring institutions. This programme should seek to incorporate resource users in the effort.

STWG shall use existing institutions for full implementation and may develop pilot monitoring or research programmes as the need arises.

Strategy Six: Provide meaningful opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the coastal development process and the implementation of coastal management policies

The strategy addresses the following issues:

- (i) The rapid rate of unplanned development in critical coastal areas and resultant environmental implications .
- (ii) The low socio-economic status of coastal inhabitants

The strategy seeks to improve the overall well being of coastal inhabitants through their involvement in the planning of resources. This participatory approach to environmental management requires access to

relevant and necessary information in order to make sound decisions that will take advantage of emerging economic opportunities in the coastal areas.

Implementation mechanisms

This ICM Strategy recognizes that without active participation by the people, the urgent environmental coastal problems will not be solved. This Strategy creates opportunities for participation and empowers people to become active stewards of the coastal environment.

The mechanisms by which stakeholders shall be involved include:

- Public education and outreach programmes to raise awareness of the need and for importance of sustainable coastal management
- Input to district action plans, SAMPs, protected area plans and guidelines
- Initiation of a 45-day public review period for any District Action Plan, Special Area Management Plan, or Economic Use Guidelines before they are submitted to the

NSC-ICM for final review and endorsement. The ICMU shall work with the planning functionaries to respond to each public comment. Specific review guidelines shall have to be developed that describe this review process.

Special attention shall be given to ensure that those most affected by proposed plans, actions or guidelines, are included in the development, review and implementation process.

Strategy Seven: Build both human and institutional capacity for inter-disciplinary and intersectoral management of coastal environment

This strategy addresses three broader issues

- (i) The inadequacy of human and institutional capacity and awareness
- (ii) Lack of readily available information availability for decision-making.
- (iii) The need for support for local initiatives as well as increased decision-making for intersectoral developments, and harmonizing national interest with local needs

Implementation mechanisms:

Human and institutional capacity shall be strengthened primarily by improving the skills, attitudes and knowledge of individuals through the following three primary tools:

- *Learning-by-doing.* Build capacity of both practitioners (local and national) and resource users to plan for and manage coastal resources in an integrated way by providing in-service training and workshops

and by providing opportunities for learning through experience.

- *Information exchange.* The ICMU shall serve as the backbone of a national ICM network where practitioners (local and national) can easily exchange information and ideas.
- *Formal curriculum in coastal management.* Support incorporation of coastal

management-relevant material into educational curricula from primary schools to the university . At the University level, encourage the creation of a formal education track for ICM within existing institutes or universities.

Other types of capacity building, in terms of limited finance and technical assistance, shall be provided to partner sectors and institutions to build their institutional capacity for carrying out specific ICM activities.

