



# Marine Litter/ Waste in the Abidjan Convention Area

African Marine Waste Network Conference

Port Elizabeth, 9 – 13 July 2017

## The Abidjan Convention area and the challenges

The coastline of this area from Mauritania to South Africa exceeds 14,000 km

Spanning 22 countries and marked by the Canary, Guinea and Benguela large marine ecosystems (LMEs).

Among the most productive marine zones in the world

From an economic perspective, the most important resources include fisheries, diamonds, oil and gas (among the world top three) and other minerals like limestone and sand. Tourism is also growing in importance

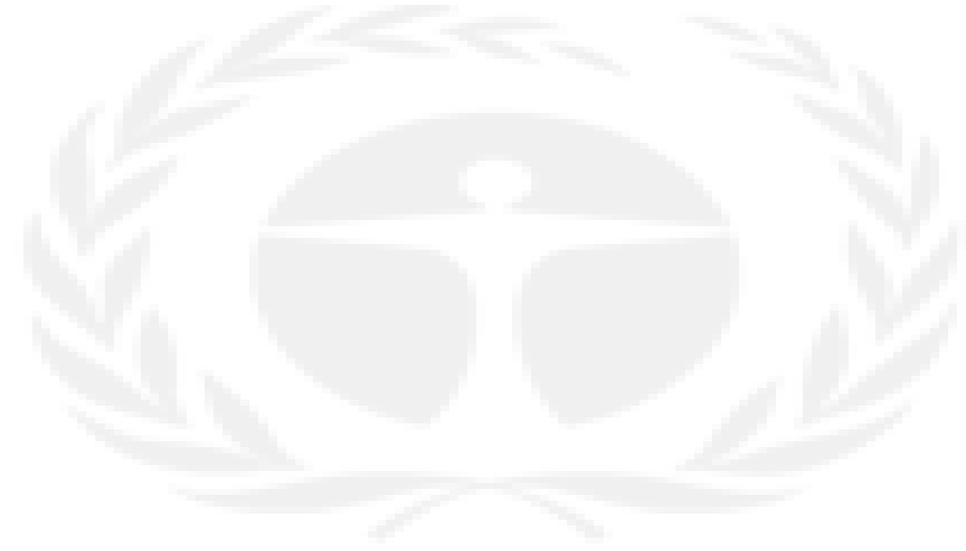
### The (many) issues

- Land-based sources of pollution (LBS)
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) /
- Oil spill contingency/recovery plans /
- Coastal habitat management /
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) /
- Fragmented Coastal Zone Management /
- Marine Litter, including ship generated marine pollution /
- Economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services



# OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Impacts
  - On biodiversity
  - On human health
  - On tourism
  - On infrastructures
  - On fisheries
3. Initiatives in the Convention Area
  - The convention's action Plan**
    - LBSA protocol
    - COP decisions
    - At Country level - Policies to ban plastic bags
4. Initiatives at the national level
5. Conclusion



# 1. INTRODUCTION

- Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution is a global phenomenon
- The Boundary-Less aspect of the ocean makes it challenging to sustain the problem
- Absence of sustainable waste management structures on the continent
- Lack of better knowledge within local communities
- Illegal waste dumping
- Heavy production of plastic and other non biodegradable material

## 2. MARINE WASTE/LITTER IMPACTS

Marine litter has a transversal impact on livelihoods.

- On Biodiversity
  - Several Species facing the danger extinction (Plastic Ingestion, starvation, entanglement);
  - Plastic is set to outweigh fish soon if nothing is done;
  - Frequent coral reefs injuries;
  - Deep Seas destruction
- On Infrastructures
  - Obstruction of sewage pipes causing domestic floods
  - Ports and navigation infrastructures
- On Human Health
  - Intoxication by consumption of intoxicated animals ;
  - Reduction of seafood in the ocean;
  - Hazardous materials loose in the ocean (Medical instruments and devices).

## 2. MARINE WASTE/LITTER IMPACTS

- On Tourism
  - Coastal areas become less attractive due to ugly marine waste accumulating on coastline and near waters .
  - Beach space reduction and recreation sites are invaded
- On Fisheries



# 3. INITIATIVES IN THE CONVENTION AREA

- The emergency Protocol
  - Amended protocol for the cooperation in combatting marine pollution in case of emergency in the convention area
  - Refers to: pollution incident
  - Hazardous and noxious substances

Articles 5 through 9 of the convention cover pollution questions in the convention areas. From pollution through the atmosphere to pollution of sea beds.

- The LBSA Protocol (adopted June 12 2012)
  - Additional protocol to the Convention
  - 29 Articles 3 annexes
  - The objectives of the protocol include prevention, mitigation and control of pollution from Land Based Activities



Photo Credit: Barry Greville-Gyre

# 3. INITIATIVES IN THE CONVENTION

## AREA (C'd)

- **The LBSA Protocol (Cont'd)**
  - Best available Practice: the latest stage in time, of development of a process, facility or method of operation that indicates the practical suitability of a particular measure for limiting discharges, emissions and waste (Art 3)
  - Contracting parties shall harmonize their national policies in regards to marine litter (Art 5)
  - Regional cooperation (Art5)
  - Education and public awareness (Art 6)
  - Regulation for point source pollution (Art 7)
  - Control of diffuse sources of pollution (Art 8)
  - Cooperation in Transboundary Pollution (Art 10)
  - Environmental assessment and audit (Art 15)

### 3. INITIATIVES IN THE CONVENTION AREA (C'd)

- Decision CP 12/16: Marine waste
- *To collect* reliable data and information on marine waste in order to help the African Marine Waste Network to develop a database available to all, and to conduct analyses aimed at establishing a referential framework likely to inform specific management and/or information programmes, to ensure monitoring of progress and to constitute a model for the future in the field of marine waste;
- *To use* the database thus developed, and the resulting analyses, 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 seawater of the Abidjan Convention area, economic and social pressures exerted on this system, and the effectiveness of actions carried out to mitigate their effects;
- *To ask* the secretariat and its relevant partners to create a database on marine waste that would be used as a basis for the strategies developed in the region on marine waste, thus contributing to well-founded decisions and policies at the municipal, national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- *To ask* the Secretariat and the partners to establish a programme to build awareness on the harmful effects of marine waste and the importance of confronting it, targeting relevant agencies and organizations of the region

# 4. INITIATIVES AT COUNTRY LEVEL

- The most common policy at country level currently is the ban on plastic bags
  - Mauritania was the first country to adopt such policy due to loss of up to 70% of livestock to plastic ingestion (Earth Policy Institute)
  - Other African countries include:
    - Senegal,
    - Côte **d'ivoire**, (plastic bags ban, Pollumar plan launched on WOD 2017 in Assinie)
    - Mali, Ghana,
    - Cameroon,
    - Kenya,
    - Ethiopia,
    - Malawi,
    - Uganda
    - South Africa

# 5. CONCLUSION

- ML is more than an environmental issue
- ML has significant impacts on GDP and economic growth of (fragile) African countries
- No proper regional framework
- Combatting requires a lot of \$\$\$ which are not available
- Need to unite the efforts of UN, World Bank, Regional Development Banks, the Private Sectors, CSOs/NGOs
- Strengthening the existing stakeholders
- Implementation of Decision CP 12/16: Marine waste
- Turning this crisis into an opportunity

THANK YOU!

[www.abidjanconvention.org](http://www.abidjanconvention.org)

