

Alexis Martin
Marine Policy Seminar
October 17, 2013

The Nairobi Convention: Drawing the Lessons Learned on Regional Sustainability

Regional ocean governance in the Western Indian Ocean has gone through a dynamic evolution in the past twenty years. Since 1990, the region has established many regional management programs that demonstrate that a range of collaboration has developed through a variety of international treaty arrangements, externally funded development projects, and political organizations. However, the region continues to experience environmental degradation due to, among other factors, a lack of regional capacity to support national implementation of environmental agreements.

The Nairobi Convention is the United Nations Environmental Program Regional Seas Program for the Western Indian Ocean. The Convention's purpose is to help the countries of the region plan and develop programs that will strengthen the capacity to protect, manage, and develop the coastal and marine environment in a sustainable fashion. This presentation will discuss a research proposal that uses regime theory to examine the lessons learned from the development and implementation of the Convention as a regional ocean governance regime in the Western Indian Ocean.