

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RECENT WIO-COMPAS CERTIFICATION EVENT



WIO-COMPAS candidates during the boat patrol simulation exercise

The WIO-COMPAS programme concluded its latest intensive competence evaluation for marine protected area (MPA) practitioners in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The event, which spanned four days from 27 October 2023, brought together 17 dedicated professionals from Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Seychelles, South Africa and Kenya.

The certification process is a pivotal step in enhancing the capabilities of these practitioners in the sustainable management of marine ecosystems. It began in August 2023 with a meticulous review of applications. This initial assessment aimed to gauge the candidates' knowledge and skills in the WIO-COMPAS competence areas. Subsequently, participants spent six weeks preparing workplace portfolios and case studies, delving deeply into the intricacies of MPA management.

In Zanzibar, seven assessors meticulously scrutinized the candidates' experience, knowledge and skills in MPA management. The evaluation incorporated a diverse array of tools and instruments, including presentations, interviews, quizzes, written assessments, and practical simulations of boat and beach patrols.

The event was structured as a combined Level 1 Assessment for rangers and a Level 2 Assessment for wardens and MPA managers. This dual-level approach ensures a nuanced evaluation, recognizing the diverse roles and responsibilities within the realm of MPA management.

The results

Following the Zanzibar assessment, 14 candidates were certified as WIO-COMPAS MPA PROS. In addition, the WIOMSA Board, which is the certifying body for WIO-COMPAS, approved the certification of one candidate from the previous certification event held in Seychelles in May 2023.

Level 1 MPA PROs

1. **Brenton Booysen** – CapeNature, South Africa
2. **David Fondo** – Kenya Wildlife Service
3. **Neville Agesa** – Kenya Wildlife Service
4. **Hashim Kilawi** – Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Tanzania
5. **Hassan Machafu** – Kenya Wildlife Service
6. **Paschal Mkongola** – Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Tanzania
7. **Susan Wanjiru** – Kenya Wildlife Service
8. **Ali Yussuf Machano** – Chumbe Island Coral Park
9. **Jason Bastille** – Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority
10. **Masanja Joram** – Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Tanzania
11. **Norton Cossa** – WWF Mozambique

Level 2 MPA PROs

1. **Remi Asman** – Seychelles Parks and Garden Authority
2. **Thobeka Dlamini** – Department of Environment, Eastern Cape, South Africa
3. **Abraham Songok** – Kenya Wildlife Service
4. **Nelson Mdogo** – Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Tanzania

The certification of these 15 candidates brings the number of certified MPA PROs in the western Indian Ocean region to 139.



Peter Chadwick, a WIO-COMPAS assessor briefing the candidates on the beach and boat patrol exercises