Dear colleague,

Welcome to Mombasa.

Mombasa, Kenya’s second largest city, is one of Africa’s major tourist destinations. The city is centred on an island about 4km across and 7km wide, but sprawls into the mainland. It is one of the oldest town in Kenya and is the most significant port in East Africa with a complex history. This is best appreciated by a visit to Fort Jesus and the Old Town. It owes its development to its location, for the island forms an ideal national harbour. The coastline is renowned for its fine beaches and resorts, groves of coconut palms, mangrove swamps, sheltered bays, coral reefs and schools of multicoloured fish. The beautiful forests of the Shimba Hills National Park, which is less than an hour’s drive from Mombasa, provide a refreshing contrast to the coast.

The hot and humid weather is pleasantly cooled by the monsoon winds blowing off the Indian Ocean. The south east monsoons, also known as the kusi, brings cooler temperatures and some rains along the Kenyan coast during the months of April – September. The mean temperature in Mombasa in July is 24°C., and the average high and low temperatures are 27.7°C and 20.4°C respectively. Average number of rainy days in July is 11.

Mombasa has an amazing selection of restaurants, with various types of cuisine ranging from Swahili and other Kenyan dishes to Arab, Chinese, Indian, and European. The nightlife is vibrant and interesting to say the least! There is a local saying that “Mombasa Raha, kuingia harusi, kutoka matanga” – Mombasa is fun, arriving is enjoyable as a wedding, departing is a very difficult and sad affair, like a funeral! Many who go to Mombasa settle there and never think of returning home!

There shall be an excursion within Mombasa city and its environs on July 20th 2008 which will cost USD 35 per person. Those who are interested in touring the town can register at the secretariat during the meeting.

Nyali Beach Hotel, is the venue of both the ODIN AFRICA meetings from the 14-17 July followed by the IOCWIO-VII Regional Committee meeting from the 18 – 22 July. The hotel is located on Nyali beach to the north of Mombasa island.


We look forward to your company and contribution to the workshop. We are sure that you will enjoy your stay in Mombasa. Contact information for the meeting will be provided via email.
1. **VENUE OF THE MEETING**

Nyali Beach Hotel, is the venue of the IOCWIO-VII Regional Committee meeting to be held at the Puani Conference Centre, Nyali Beach Hotel. It is also the same venue of the proceeding ODINAFRICA meetings from the 14-17 July. The hotel situated on Nyali beach, to the north of Mombasa island, and approximately 15 kilometers from Moi International Airport is full of charm with a relaxed atmosphere.

Nyali Beach Hotel
P.O. Box 90581, Mombasa, KENYA.
Tel: [254] 41 471551, 474640 / Fax: [254] 41 471987, 472877.
URL: [www.nyalibeach.co.ke](http://www.nyalibeach.co.ke)

2. **TRAVEL TO MOMBASA.**

**Malaria prophylaxis:** Participants are advised to take anti-malarial medication before travelling to Mombasa as a protective measure.

**Visas:** Most people travelling to Kenya require a visa, which can be applied for at Kenyan Embassies and High Commissions. Where these do not exist in your country then please inform us as soon as possible for assistance. Details on visa requirements are available at [http://www.immigration.go.ke/index.php?id=13](http://www.immigration.go.ke/index.php?id=13).

**Tickets:** Participants sponsored by UNESCO/IOC will receive their air-tickets through the UNESCO Nairobi Office.

**Arrival:** Most of you will transit through the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya on your way to Mombasa.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU COLLECT YOUR LUGGAGE AFTER GOING PAST THE IMMIGRATION DESK IN NAIROBI – EVEN IF YOUR LUGGAGE WAS CHECKED THROUGH TO MOMBASA.**

The flight to Mombasa is taken at the Domestic Flights terminal (Unit 3), where you will check in the luggage again.

**Airport transfers:** Arrangements have been made to meet participants at the airport in Mombasa. Please ensure that you provide your itinerary Ms Alice Kazungi - [akazungu@kmfri.co.ke](mailto:akazungu@kmfri.co.ke) (in copy to Rita Anyamba [r.anyumba@unesco.org](mailto:r.anyumba@unesco.org)) so that someone can pick you from the airport on arrival.

**Accommodation:** All participants sponsored by IOC have been booked at the Nyali Beach Hotel. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on the meeting days. Please inform us in advance of any changes in your travel arrangements so that we can adjust/change your hotel bookings accordingly (and cancel travel bookings).

**Reconfirmation of air-tickets:** Please provide your tickets for reconfirmation (Mombasa outwards) to the coordinators at the workshop by the end of the day, Saturday 19th July, 2008.

3. **WORKING ARRANGEMENTS.**

**Working times:** The working hours for the workshop will be 09:00 – 17:00 daily from Friday 18 July – Tuesday 22nd July 2008, with a rest day on Sunday 20th July 2008. The session will be inaugurated by the Kenyan Minister for Fisheries Development Hon Dr Paul Otuoma.

**Working Languages:** The working languages for the meetings are English and French. The draft report, to be adopted during the Session, will be available in English.

**Working breaks and meals:** There will be breaks in the morning (11:00 – 11:30) and afternoon (15:30 – 16:00) during which tea/coffee and snacks will be provided. Lunch will be served at 13:00 – 14:30.

**Equipment:** Overhead projector, LCD projector (for PowerPoint presentations) and flip charts will be available in the meeting room. Please confirm you requirements in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Meeting documents can be accessed through the IOC-WIO pages: [http://www.ioc-unesco.org/iocwio7docs](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/iocwio7docs).