Resilient Coasts (RC) is a partner-led initiative that addresses the high level of vulnerability of ecosystems and livelihoods by increasing their resilience using a “resilience framework” that integrates four components: (i) Ecological and Social Diversity, (ii) Innovative and sustainable infrastructure and technology, (iii) Equitable and resilient governance systems, and (iv) Data and information for adaptive management. Implemented by IUCN, the Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA and CORDIO in collaboration with participating Governments, RC provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues.

The goal of the initiative is to strengthen the resilience of coastal socio-ecological systems in the Western Indian Ocean region, which is being achieved by engaging in 4 focal areas: (i) Strengthening adaptive capacities of local communities dependent on coastal and marine resources; (ii) Enhancing the resilience of critical coastal ecosystems and habitats; (iii) Influencing coastal economic development to be more environmentally sustainable and socially equitable; and (iv) Improving the effectiveness of local governance in managing and influencing coastal ecological and social systems. The focus areas are intimately aligned with the Nairobi Convention Strategic Action Plan, and as such the programme contributes directly to its implementation.

The Resilient Coasts Initiative is developed based on the Mangroves for the Future initiative (MFF), which was catalyzed by the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Discussions to extend this programme to the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) soon developed among countries in WIO region, but it was ultimately concluded that a separate MFF-WIO programme would provide a more effective, efficient and regionally relevant approach. Pilot countries currently include Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Mangroves are the flagship of the initiative, but Resilient Coasts is inclusive of all types of coastal ecosystem, such as estuaries, coral reefs, sea grass beds, sandy and/or muddy beaches and wetlands. The Resilient Coasts Initiative also adopts a reef to ridge approach, engaging with territorial waters, river basins and catchments affecting and being affected by coastal systems.

Resilient Coasts addresses priorities for long-term sustainable coastal ecosystem management which include, among others: climate change adaptation and resilience, promotion of ecosystem conservation and management, development of sustainable livelihoods, and influencing coastal economic development to be more environmentally sustainable. Resilient Coasts engages with all three aspects of the Knowledge–Practice–Policy nexus. The emphasis is on generating knowledge, empowering local communities and advocating for policy solutions that will support best practice in integrated coastal management.

Learn more at: [www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/esaro/what_we_do/the_resilient_coasts_initiative/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/esaro/what_we_do/the_resilient_coasts_initiative/)