

QUICK GUIDE TO THE

# S A P P H I R E

PROJECT

Regions of the world's oceans, otherwise known as Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), are under threat from overfishing, pollution, invasive species, climate change and other human activities. Because LMEs are either shared by multiple countries or beyond any one country's national jurisdiction, fighting back against their degradation requires strong ocean governance.

The Nairobi Convention, whose ten member states formed a partnership to combat ocean degradation and strengthen the protection and sustainable management of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, is a natural platform through which cross-country governance issues can be addressed.

The Nairobi Convention's SAPPHIRE project promotes policy harmonization and institutional reform to help improve the management of the WIO LME. It will build capacity among governments, conventions, regional economic communities (RECs), partners, intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector in sustainable resource management and ocean governance.

*Implemented by UNDP, executed by UN Environment*



## Progress (as of June 2019)

- **Scoping Meetings and National Inception Workshops:** SAPPHIRE has held national level inception and scoping meetings in all nine participating countries to introduce the project, identify country priorities, build partnerships, and establish the National Intersectoral Coordination Committees (NICC), whose role is to coordinate the implementation of planned activities at the national level.
- **Call for proposals for demonstration projects:** SAPPHIRE has now released a call for proposals to participating countries for projects that contribute to achieving Component 1 (Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms). Technical committees will be established to review proposals against set criteria. The proposals can focus on national level policy harmonization; realignment; and related institutional capacity building, including on areas such as ocean policy, blue economy strategies, marine spatial planning roadmaps, ecosystem-based management tools, etc.
- **Strengthening the Science to Policy interface in WIO:** SAPPHIRE has supported the Nairobi Convention's convening of science to policy forums in the region, in recognition of the need for science-based policy formulation, decision-making and adaptive management.
- **Partnership Building for Oceanographic Data and Research Management in the WIO region:** The SAPPHIRE project has held four partnership meetings on oceanographic data and scientific research between March and June 2019. The sessions brought together scientists, policy makers, and partners to discuss the status of national data centers; identify priorities of countries in using, managing and owning data findings; and agree on mechanisms and partnerships to improve data collection, sharing, and archiving, among others. Accordingly, a small scale funding agreement with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute and the Institute of Marine Sciences—which will support data collection and research in North Kenya and the Pemba channel of Tanzania—is ready to be signed.
- **Developments on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP):** several workshops have been held on MSP, which have provided a platform to examine MSP practices and tailor the implementation of MSP to maritime domains. At the last workshop in Tanzania, organized by the SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects, governments and partners asked the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to lead in the development of a Regional MSP strategy and a regional MSP technical working group.

## Coming up in 2019:

- **Regional conference on Ocean governance in the WIO region (August-September 2019)**
- Potential Marine Spatial Planning training for Somalia and a partnership meeting on private sector engagement in sustainable use and management of the WIO LME

## QUICK FACTS:

- **Objective:** To achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean LMEs in line with the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), as endorsed by the participating countries.
- **Participating countries:** Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, and France (non-project beneficiary)
- **Project Period:** 2017-2023
- **Projected outcomes:**
  1. Policy, legislative, and institutions reformed and realigned for the effective implementation of the Large Marine Ecosystems SAP.
  2. Improved capacity for effective ocean governance
  3. Ecosystem-based management approach integrated into existing Local Economic Development Plans and blue economy strategies at local and national level
  4. Artisanal and subsistence fisheries supported through ecosystem-based practices to reduce over-exploitation of natural resources
  5. Effective private sector engagement to reduce pollution and stress over the LME
  6. Innovative management options for High Seas areas identified and demonstrated