

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

CALL FOR DEMO PROJECT CONCEPTS

Call title: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP)

Participating countries: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and France (not project beneficiary)

Executing organization: Nairobi Convention Secretariat

Duration of demo projects: 2 years

Stage of the call: Concept stage

NB: 1. *Concepts being submitted should focus on just one Output within a Component. However, well argued and justified concepts focusing on more than one Output (strictly within a specific Component) may also be considered. A sound and practical explanation must be provided to make a business case for such combination.*

2. *Full concepts should strictly NOT EXCEED 10 A4 PAGES (excluding the cover page, budget and annexes) prepared as a WORD Document, using Times New Roman 12 pt, single spacing, normal margins (2.54 cm for top, bottom, left and right margins),*

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention have received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a Project entitled ‘*Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities*’ (WIOSAP).

The Project is intended ‘*to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems through the implementation of the agreed WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels*’. The WIOSAP Project is largely based on the WIO-LaB Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the protection of the WIO Region from land-based sources and activities that was developed as part of the UNEP-GEF WIO-LaB Project that was implemented in the WIO Region in the period 2004-2010. The WIOSAP Project is thus a response to a request made by the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention and it presents an opportunity to the governments in the region and their conservation partners to jointly implement strategies of protecting the coastal and marine ecosystems from land-based sources and activities to provide essential goods and services on a sustainable basis. It is important to note that the project is being implemented against a back-drop of increasing pace of large scale developmental opportunities concentrated around coastal regions ranging from ports, roads and railways, oil and gas bioprospecting and extraction, mining, agricultural expansion and urbanization. While these opportunities are timely for the region’s economic development, they also have great potential to threaten the integrity of coastal and marine resources if appropriate environmental risks aren’t considered. It is hoped that some of the threats arising out of these developments can be addressed during the WIOSAP implementation and promote sustainability. The Project is also envisaged to support the Contracting Parties in delivering their voluntary commitments towards SDG 14 and agenda 2030 in general.

The Project will be implemented and executed through a ‘Partnerships Approach’ with the UNEP Nairobi Convention Secretariat being the Executing Agency. The participating countries include Comoros, France (La Reunion – which wont be a direct beneficiary), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and South Africa. As part of this “Partnership Approach” WIO-C members including WWF, IUCN, CORDIO, WCS and BirdLife among others are strongly encouraged to express interest and submit concepts especially those aligned to their current investments in the region to leverage on co-financing for greater impact.

2.0 PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

The **Goal** of the WIOSAP Project is to improve and maintain the environmental health of the region’s coastal and marine ecosystems through improved management of land-based stresses.

The **Specific Objective** is to: ‘To reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of the WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels.’ The Project Objective will be delivered through the following Components:

3.0 PROJECT COMPONENTS

Component A: *Sustainable management of critical habitats* focuses on the protection, restoration and management of critical coastal habitats and ecosystems recognizing the important value of healthy critical coastal and marine habitats for *the future well-being of people in the WIO region*.

Component B: *Improved water quality* focuses on the need for the WIO Region’s water quality to attain international standards by the year 2035.

Component C: *Sustainable management of river flows* aims at promoting wise management of river basins in the region through implementation of a suite of activities aimed at building the capacity for environmental flows assessment and application in river basins of the region.

Component D: *Governance and regional collaboration* focuses on strengthening governance and awareness in the WIO region with a view to facilitating sustainable management of critical coastal ecosystems and habitats.

Covering the four Components, demonstration projects financed *through a competitive Call for Proposals scheme* will be implemented with the objective of reducing stress from land-based sources and activities in the WIO.

4.0 PROJECT OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

4.1 COMPONENT A: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CRITICAL HABITATS

4.1.1 OUTCOME A.1: *Appropriate tools and methodologies are used to manage critical coastal and marine habitats in order to enhance their resilience and long-term sustainability*

Output A.1.1: National institutions undertake participatory spatial planning in at 2 key marine and coastal zones in selected participating countries to increase the resilience of selected key coastal ecosystems to anthropogenic impacts including the impacts of climate change and variability

Output Descriptions: The primary aim of this Output is the provision of support to the participating countries and partners in the WIO Region to select priority critical coastal and marine zones and develop their spatial plans through participatory processes. The project will aim at enhancing the capacity of 2 countries in the WIO region to develop marine and coastal spatial plans consistent with the requirements of the WIOSAP. Priority will be given to hotspot sites identified by governments of participating countries during the implementation of the WIO-LaB Project including also during the African process. The Output will enhance the capacity of the WIO countries to increase the resilience of key coastal ecosystems to human impacts including the impacts related to climate change and variability. The preparation of spatial plans is considered important in the WIO Region countries in view of increasing, often conflicting multiple uses of coastal and ocean spaces which is creating challenges for sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment. Furthermore, only a few countries in the WIO Region have capacity for the development and implementation of marine spatial plans. This activity will take advantage of the relevant policies and planning processes already existing in target participating countries.

Output A.1.2: Management plans developed and adopted for at least four (4) key critical coastal and marine habitats, thus mitigating habitat loss and climate change impacts

Output Descriptions: The aim of this primary Output is the development and adoption of management plans for at least five (5) key coastal and marine ecosystems in at least five target countries in the WIO Region. The main focus for this activity would be on the critical coastal and marine ecosystems that have potential of yielding significant regional and global benefits through enhancement of their management systems. This Output will involve close collaboration between public institutions with conservation mandate, NGOs and CBOs including also the private sector (tourism, mining, fishing, transport, etc.). Where possible, this Output will reinforce the network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the WIO region and also mitigate the impacts of climate change and habitat loss due to unsustainable practices. This Output will also contribute in enhancing the capacity of countries in the WIO region to develop coastal ecosystems management plans, consistent with the requirements of the WIO SAP as well as their national priorities.

Output A.1.3: At least three key degraded critical coastal habitats restored and resilience increased

Output Descriptions: The primary aim of this Output is the restoration of degraded coastal and marine ecosystems and/or habitats in selected participating countries in the WIO region in order to increase their resilience. The national institutions in participating countries working in close collaboration with NGOs and CBOs will select priority coastal and marine habitat hotspots according to established and agreed criteria and develop and implement pilot in-country interventions for their restoration. By restoring the degraded critical ecosystems (such as mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reef) and increasing their resilience to the impacts of climate change, provision of ecosystem goods and services will be guaranteed on long-term basis and this will contribute in

sustaining livelihoods of coastal communities and therefore increase their economic well-being in the long-term. The restoration of ecosystems will also contribute in the realisation of global environmental benefits. This Output will enhance the capacity of participating countries and institutions to restore degraded coastal and marine critical habitats. The Output will also contribute in mitigating the impacts of climate change in participating countries. The achievements of this Output will be appropriately disseminated to policy-makers in order to influence the formulation of appropriate coastal management policies and also replicate the restoration projects in other equally important sites in the target countries. To ensure sustainability of the restoration interventions, the WIOSAP project will require the projects seeking funds for restoration to provide clear justification for restoration as the best option available, confirm that root causes of the degradation are known and have been addressed and likely impacts of climate change have been factored in the project design. They will also need to design a monitoring programme of the restoration activity and have good adaptive management options in place. Currently, the Convention Secretariat is developing regional Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines for adoption in demo restoration projects.

Output A.1.4: Pilot actions to build capacity in ICZM in at least 3 sites, demonstrating how ICZM can be strengthened at the local level through the empowerment of communities and other actors at demonstration sites

Output Descriptions: The primary aim of this Output will be pilot actions that are intended to build the capacity in the formulation and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plans including building the capacity for ICM implementation at local level. Since many countries in the region already have ICZM Plans, the major focus will be on implementation of the same as appropriate. Priority will therefore be given to actions where ICZM Plans are in place and support for pilot implementation is being sought. This Output will also enable the participating countries to demonstrate the value of ICZM in selected coastal zones (where pilot in country interventions will be implemented) through enhanced engagement of local communities and other actors, particularly the NGOs.

4.1.2 OUTCOME A.2: *Appropriate tools and methods (which integrate economic, social and environmental considerations) support coastal planning and management*

Output A.2.1: Economic valuation of at least three (3) key critical coastal and marine habitats including integration of economic valuation to coastal management and planning

Output Descriptions: The sustainable management of the coastal and marine ecosystems in the WIO region has in the past been constrained by lack of data and information on the value of the critical coastal and marine ecosystems such as coastal forests, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, etc. This has been occasioned by lack of capacity to carry out economic valuation studies in most of the participating countries. The primary focus of the Output will be establishment of the economic value of key critical coastal and marine ecosystems in the WIO region, including also the integration of economic valuation principles in coastal management and planning in participating countries. The Output will also establish the contributions of economic valuation to the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems and enhancement of their resilience to the impacts of climate change and variability, through increased understanding of their value by policy makers. This Output will therefore contribute in building the capacity for economic valuations of critical coastal and marine ecosystems in the WIO region and it will also create increased awareness on the importance of conservation and protection of the coastal and marine ecosystems within the government decision-making systems. Wherever possible, this should be implemented as part of participatory ICZM planning and spatial planning process (A.1.1 and A.1.4).

Output A.2.2: Sustainable livelihood strategies regarding extractive use activities developed and adopted for specific coastal and marine natural resources

Output Descriptions: The primary aim of this Output is the development of sustainable livelihood strategies for extractive use of coastal natural resources and implementation of the same in collaboration with local communities who are dependent on these resources. The Output will also involve promotion of alternative sustainable livelihood systems for the local coastal communities in order to curtail the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems occasioned by over-dependency on limited coastal natural resources. In this Output, in-country reviews should be conducted to identify alternative livelihoods that have shown promising results and have high potential for replication and upscaling. Amongst criteria that will be used to identify successful alternative livelihood activities include: the extent of involvement of beneficiaries, gender, sustainability and measurable impacts on environment.

4.2 COMPONENT B: IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

4.2.1 OUTCOME B.1: *Quality of coastal receiving waters improved through pilot interventions*

Output B.1.1: Cost-effective technologies for municipal wastewater treatment demonstrated in at least two (2) sites

Output Descriptions: In most countries in the WIO Region, management of municipal wastewater is a major challenge that need to be addressed as per the requirements of the participating countries as elaborated in the WIOSAP. The primary goal of this Output is the reduction of stress to the coastal and marine ecosystem through adoption of innovative, appropriate and cost-effective technologies for the treatment of municipal wastewater in at least three (3) sites identified in target participating countries. This Output envisages review of innovative and cost effective technologies for the treatment and recycle/reuse of wastewater and adaptation of the same to suit the existing local conditions. The WIOSAP envisages that in the medium to long term, wastewater treatment systems would be constructed in participating countries using appropriate technologies to ensure adequate treatment of all municipal effluents before they are discharged into the coastal waters including estuaries. As the construction of conventional wastewater treatment plants is a capital-intensive activity requiring substantial injection of funds which this project will not provide, the project will promote the adoption of less expensive and environmental friendly technologies such as constructed wetlands (surface and sub-surface types), seepage management, ecological sanitation, among others. The focus of such interventions will in the first instance be on the hot spots of pollution as identified by participating countries in the WIO-LaB TDA. Improved water quality, including reduction in the level of suspended solids, also requires better land use management and in particular soil erosion control in river basins. This issue is addressed in Component C of the Project, which deals with managing river flows and sediment loads. While the project focuses on ‘low-investment’ wastewater treatment, where the opportunity presents to catalyse preparation of investments in larger municipal wastewater treatments, the project will support such initiatives. Participation of private sector in supporting public wastewater treatment pilots will be a major strength of concepts/proposals submitted.

Output B.1.2.: Effluents at a minimum of two (2) demonstration sites are collected, treated, recycled and/or disposed of in accordance with international best practices

Output Descriptions: The primary aim of this Output is the treatment of effluents emanating from land-based sources and activities in selected coastal areas. Special attention will be given to effluents in key hotspot sites in target participating countries. This is considered important in view of the fact that increasing levels of pollution resulting from discharge of untreated effluents into the inshore waters of the WIO Region, are threatening human health and the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems. Human contact with contaminated waters is leading to increasing cases of diseases which are consequently reducing the productivity of coastal communities. This is in turn increasing poverty since more resources are channelled to addressing health challenges associated with the degradation of the environment. Waters polluted by effluents also result in contamination of fish and other marine products thus threatening public health including export markets for fish and other marine-related products.

Pollution is also affecting the sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystems thus limiting goods and services that can be derived from them. These threats can be managed by preventing generation of effluents from various sources and ensuring that all industrial and domestic effluents are collected and treated to acceptable standards before discharge into the coastal and marine waters. In most countries in the WIO region, effluent control or treatment regulations are largely ineffective or are poorly applied. Under this Output, it is envisaged that sites and technologies for effluent treatment will be selected with community participation and countries will implement pilot in-country interventions on effluent treatment using inexpensive technologies such as constructed wetlands and algal ponding systems. The project can also demonstrate wastewater recycling approaches.

4.3 COMPONENT C: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RIVER FLOWS

4.3.1 OUTCOME C.1: Environmental Flow Assessments (EFAs) underpin the integrated management of river flows and coastal areas and implementation of assessment recommendations strengthens ecosystem resilience

Output C.1.1: Environmental flow assessments conducted in at least two (2) pilot river basins to determine the environmental, economic and social trade-offs in water allocation and the need for management of river flows with respect to coastal areas

Output Descriptions: The WIO Region has several important river basins whose runoff drain to the coast through estuaries and deltas. In many instances, poor management of river basins has resulted into changes to river flows, degradation of water quality and changes in sediment loads. These hydrologic alterations are now impacting critical coastal and marine ecosystems leading to reduction in ecosystem goods and services that support the livelihoods of coastal communities including also national economies. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach which some of the countries in the WIO Region have adopted through reforms in their water sectors, adopts a holistic approach to the management of water resources. However, capacity for IWRM implementation in most of the participating countries has been limited by lack of appropriate decision-making tools for allocating water to various users including water allocation (environmental flows) for sustaining ecological systems that includes coastal and marine ecosystems. To remedy deficiencies in the management of river basins, the SAP proposes to focus on building capacity for Environmental Flow Assessment (EFA) and implementation in the region. EFA is an important decision support tool for the management of river flows because it provides a scientific process of allocating water for various purposes. EFA has certain fundamental benefits in that it allows for informed allocation of river water resources while at the same time allowing adequate volume of river flow to reach the downstream areas where it is required to maintain aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The application of EFA is still underdeveloped in most countries in the WIO Region. In this regard, awareness on the value of EFA needs to be created and capacity for EFA implementation developed.

The primary aim of the Output is the achievement of the WIOSAP Environmental Quality Objective “*River flows in the WIO Region are wisely and sustainably managed*”. Realisation of this environmental quality objective will mean healthy and functional rivers, assuring the inhabitants of the WIO Region of continued clean water and flourishing coastal ecosystems delivering essential goods and services including global environmental benefits.

OUTPUT C.1.2: Implementation of flow assessment recommendations and participatory river basin management approaches yield environmental, economic and/or social benefits as a result of improved river flows to the coast (this should as much possible be combined with Output C 1.1 in demo applications)

Output Descriptions: The primary aim of this Output is implementation of flow assessment recommendations and promotion of participatory river basin management approaches in at least two (2) river basins in target participating countries. The environmental flow assessment (EFA) is an important tool for river basin management since it allows for integration of freshwater and coastal zone management policies, plans and institutions, and ultimately leads to an improvement in river water abstraction management and contributes in sustaining ecosystem functioning at the river-coast interface. There is limited capacity for environmental flow assessment in most of

the participating countries, except for South Africa. Also, in most of the participating countries, the allocation of water resources is done with little regard for downstream ecosystems and the participation of key river basin stakeholders in river basin management is often limited although there have been some recent improvements following implementation of reforms in the water sector in some of the countries. The project would thus attempt to address some of the major capacity constraints in key national institutions charged with the mandate of river basin management. A concept on river flows management can thus potentially combine Outputs C.1.1 and C.1.2. if necessary and appropriate. Implementation will be key as part of project sustainability beyond just assessments.

5.0 CRITERIA FOR CONCEPT EVALUATION/SELECTION

The following key criteria will be used for both concept and full proposal evaluation:

- 5.1 Relevance of the action:** The concept should clearly address TDA/SAP priorities; (short and medium term hotspots/ stress reduction potential) and generally demonstrate linkages between its objectives and the WIO-SAP project objectives as well as relevant issues identified in the SAP (15 points).
- 5.2 Link to national, regional and global priorities:** National policy relevancy and possible alignment to regiona/global commitments e.g. SDGs will be critical (10 points).
- 5.2 Participatory project design:** The concept should originate from consultations and wide engagement with stakeholders, including the beneficiaries and target group of the project and with emphasis on particular interest groups and gender considerations (in line with the gender guidelines developed as part of the implementation plan). The concept should show how the project stakeholders were involved in designing and preparing the concept. Documented evidence will be required for concepts which are selected for full proposal development (15 points).
- 5.4 Cost effectiveness and Leverage co-funding:** It is expected that the proposed project will meet cost effectiveness criteria as well as leverage co-funding, either in cash or in-kind from sources within and outside their countries (10 points).
- 5.5 Sustainability of the action:** The concept should show how sustainability will be secured after completion of the action. This can include aspects of necessary follow-up activities including potential for replication, built-in strategies, ownership etc., if any (15 points). *Concepts building on successful or completion of promising WIOLAB demos will be favourably considered.*
- 5.6 Innovative value in terms of proven solution:** Priority will be given to concepts aiming at improving existing and/or developing new and innovative tools, approaches, mechanisms and technologies for effective management of critical habitats and waste water (10 points).
- 5.7 Theory of change:** The pathway to achieving the desired change through the project intervention has to be clear in an iterative and incremental manner. This will be critical in giving clarity on the logical implementation design with inbuilt mechanism to lead to the desired change (15 points).
- 5.8 Institutional mandate:** Whether the lead institution is indeed mandated legally or has the proposed project scope as part of their core business. Basic capacity to support project implementation is also important (10 points).

6.0 CONCEPT/PROPOSAL SUBMISSION/APPROVAL PROCESS

The process for development and selection of on-the-ground intervention projects will entail the steps below:

- 6.1 Submission of project concepts:** All the project concept notes will be submitted to the PMU (jared.bosire@un.org) and copied to the respective Focal Point for each country (see country Focal Points in section 7 below). The initial reviewing and selection of the submitted concept notes will be done at the national level by the National Implementing Committee (NIC). Each country will forward a maximum of three prioritized concepts to the WIOSAP PMU for further reviewing and shortlisting of potential concepts that will be invited to submit full proposals. The PMU will review national project proposals to ensure the projects concepts are; a) within budgets, b) thematically relevant and are supportive of the SAP implementation and stress reduction targets, c) have policy relevance at the national level and have a demonstrative value at the regional level; d) demonstrate gender sensitivity and are e) innovative. After this review, the PMU may deviate from recommendations given by the NICs backed up with sound justification as to the contrary recommendations.

6.2 Prioritisation of concepts: The PMU will prioritise and submit shortlisted concepts to respective Regional Task Forces. After review, the PMU will request proponents for successful concepts to develop full proposals.

6.3 Submission of full proposals: Full project proposals will be submitted to the PMU for review by the respective Regional Task Forces that reviewed the PMUs priority list.

6.4 Final approval: The recommendations of the Regional Task Forces will be forwarded to the Project Steering Committee for the final decision. Depending on the need and as recommended by the Regional Task Forces, the Steering Committee may approve the projects as submitted or approve with a provision for further improvement. After final approval, the PMU will develop SSFAs with successful project proponents.

7.0 NAIROBI CONVENTION FOCAL POINTS / AND ALTERNATES

Proponents will submit concepts to the PMU and copied to their respective country specific National Focal Points with contacts below. The dateline for submission of concepts is **23rd July 2018**.

Contracting Party	Focal Point and alternate	Email
Comoros	Mr. Ismael Bachirou	ismael_269@yahoo.com
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8.0 CONCEPT CALL SUMMARY

Project Goal: Improve and maintain the environmental health of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems through improved management of land-based stresses.			
Specific Objective: To reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of the WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels.			
Component A: Sustainable management of critical habitats			
Output	Proposed no of sites	Max Budget per a concept (USD)	Remarks
Output A.1.1: National institutions undertake participatory spatial planning in selected participating countries to increase the resilience of selected key coastal ecosystems to anthropogenic impacts including the impacts of climate change and variability	2 sites	100,000	The WIOSAP Project will focus on spatial plan development but not implementation. However other resources can be leveraged on for implementation of such plans.
Output A.1.2: Management plans developed and adopted for key critical coastal and marine habitats, thus mitigating habitat loss and climate change impacts	4 sites	50,000	Implementation of existing management plans will be strongly encouraged where they exist.
Output A.1.3: Key degraded critical coastal habitats restored and resilience increased	3 sites	70,000	As a demo on successful ecosystem restoration, proponents are urged to propose sites which have the highest probability of success to create opportunities for replication. This is not intended for experimental trials.
Output A.1.4: Pilot actions to build capacity in ICZM demonstrating how ICZM can be strengthened at the local level through the empowerment of communities and other actors at demonstration sites	3 sites	100,000	Focus should be on ICZM Plans implementation and concomitant capacity building esp at community level.
Output A.2.1: Economic valuation of key critical coastal and marine habitats including integration of economic valuation to coastal management and planning	3 sites	50,000	The site selected must be important to influence development/policy decision making and the output must feed into a relevant policy process.
Output A.2.2: Sustainable livelihood strategies regarding extractive use activities developed and adopted for specific coastal and marine natural resources	3 sites	50,000	Many examples of failed livelihood options abound in the region. Proponents must carefully capture lessons learnt and make a convincing business case why they consider that proposed interventions have a reasonable degree of success. Lessons learnt from other livelihoods options must inform proposed interventions.
Component B: Improved water quality			
Output B.1.1: Cost-effective technologies for municipal wastewater treatment demonstrated	2 sites	600,000	Proposed wastewater treatment technologies must be for public benefit, use low cost innovations and be completed

			and operational during the project period including a sufficient testing period incorporated in the planning.
Output B.1.2.: Effluents are collected, treated, recycled and/or disposed of in accordance with international best practices	2 sites	125,000	This could focus on other effluents in hotspot areas besides municipal wastewater.
Component C: Sustainable management of river flows			
Output C.1.1: Environmental flow assessments conducted in pilot river basins to determine the environmental, economic and social trade-offs in water allocation and the need for management of river flows with respect to coastal areas	2 sites	100,000	Any proposed river basins must be those captured under the SAP with a direct and significant bearing on downstream coastal and marine ecosystems. The focus of any assessments should be geared towards providing information and data for enhanced/sustainable river flows. Hence the need to link with the output below.
Output C.1.2: Implementation of flow assessment recommendations and participatory river basin management approaches yield environmental, economic and/or social benefits as a result of improved river flows to the coast (this should as much possible be combined with Output C 1.1 in demo applications)	2 sites	100,000	Where IWRM Plans of flow assessment exist and thus the focus being implementation, such concepts will have an added advantage.