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**Third Project Steering Committee  
Meeting for the WIOSAP Project and  
First Project Steering Committee meeting  
for the SAPPHIRE project**

*25-27 June 2019*

*Durban, South Africa*

**THIRD PSC MEETING FOR WIOSAP PROJECT: SESSION II ON  
PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTING**

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## WIOSAP PROGRESS REPORTING AT THE 3RD PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION.....  | 1 |
| 1. The 2nd Project Steering Committee.....   | 1 |
| 2. Supporting COP Decisions.....   | 2 |
| 3. Capacity building in Marine Spatial Planning.....   | 2 |
| 4. Project implementation Task Forces and Committees.....                                    | 2 |
| 5. Demonstration projects.....   | 2 |
| 6. Key Project Guidelines.....   | 2 |
| 2.0 PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS.....   | 2 |
| 2.1 Component A: Sustainable Management of Critical Habitats.....                            | 2 |
| 1. Outcome A.1: Critical habitats management.....  | 2 |
| 2. Outcome A.2: Appropriate tools and methods support coastal planning and management.....   | 3 |
| 2.2 Component B: Water Quality.....  | 4 |
| 2.3 COMPONENT C: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RIVER FLOWS.....                                  | 4 |
| 1. OUTCOME C.1: Environmental Flow Assessments (EFAs).....                                   | 4 |
| 2.4 Component D: Governance and Regional Collaboration.....                                  | 5 |
| 1. Outcome D.1 Updated policies and strong institutions underpin WIO-SAP implementation..... | 5 |
| 2. Outcome D.2: Knowledge management systems and exchange mechanisms.....                    | 5 |
| 3. Outcome D.3: Project Management and Coordination.....                                     | 6 |

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The WIOSAP Project started in September 2016 after signing of the Inter-Collaborative Agreement (ICA) and launched in April of 2017 in Mauritius. Low key implementation of activities went on till January 2018, when the Project Manager came on board. Since then, project activities have been ramped up to enable full scale project implementation.

This progress report covers the period August 2018 to June 2019 during, which key activities were accelerated to facilitate demonstration projects development and implementation among other project milestones. The main activities include:

1. **The 2nd Project Steering Committee.** The meeting was held in Mombasa, Kenya on 27-28 August. The PSC approved the 2016/2017 progress reports (Technical and Financial); process and criteria for concept/proposal evaluation; 2019 workplans and budgets and noted the 2020-2020 work-plans/budgets; endorsed the development of 3 concepts for

submission to SIDA, GCF and GEF to enhance WIOSAP pipeline funding and sustainability and supported the various proposed COP decisions as discussed and recommended through the July 2018 Science to Policy Forum.

2. **Supporting COP Decisions:** The PMU participated in COP 9 during which important Decisions related to the WIOSAP project were made arising out of the Science to Policy Forum held in July 2018 and PSC recommendations including: management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean, development of a protocol on integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy, development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks.
3. **Capacity building in Marine Spatial Planning:** Two MSP capacity building workshops were held in Kenya (for Anglophone countries) and Mauritius (Francophone countries) in collaboration with IOC-UNESCO and WIOMSA and a total of 81 technical experts were trained on the application of MSP as a tool for natural resource management/development. Additionally, a regional MSP Policy workshop was also held in March 2019 in Tanzania to promote shared progress between WIO countries on the progress made in the adoption of MSP at both policy and practice level.
4. **Project implementation Task Forces and Committees:** During the reporting period, 3 Regional Task Forces for Component A (Sustainable Management of Critical Habitats), Component B (Water Quality) and Component C (E-Flows) respectively were established to offer technical support to the project. Almost all countries have also established their respective National Implementation Committees (NICs), which will have oversight of WIOSAP interventions at national level. These structures will support delivery of all the outcomes of the Project.
5. **Demonstration projects:** The call for concepts for demo projects went out in July and by the dateline of 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 45 concepts had been submitted across the 3 project components. 5 countries which had set up their NICs reviewed their concepts at national level and cumulatively submitted 13 concepts to the PMU. These concepts were subjected to technical review by Regional Task Force experts after which PMU submitted them to the PSC for consideration for approval. The PSC approved the 13 concepts for full proposal development. The demo projects will support delivery of all the outcomes in the Project.
6. **Key Project Guidelines:** The PMU initiated development of key Guidelines to support project implementation of associated project activities and for wider application in the region. These include: Mangrove Restoration Guideline, Seagrass Restoration Guideline, Climate Change Assessment Toolkit, E-Flows Assessment Guideline and Alternative Livelihoods Assessment. The PMU also contracted a consultant to revamp the Nairobi Clearing House Mechanism.

This reporting period will therefore focus on this initial phase of ramped up project implementation highlighting key activities, which have been implemented or whose implementation is underway under different Components.

## 2.0 PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

### 2.1 Component A: Sustainable Management of Critical Habitats

1. **Outcome A.1: Critical habitats management.** This outcome deals with various outputs namely: development of spatial plans, management plans, habitat restoration and demonstration of ICZM.  
**Marine Spatial Planning:** Two MSP capacity building workshops were held in Kenya (for Anglophone countries) and Mauritius (Francophone countries) in collaboration with IOC-

UNESCO and WIOMSA and a total of 81 technical experts were trained on the application of MSP as a tool for natural resource management/development. The trainees from different countries in Africa also had a practical session during the workshop on how to initiate and drive MSP at national level. The WIOSAP Project met travel costs from WIO countries only to these 2 continental workshops. Additionally, a regional MSP Policy workshop was also held in March 2019 in Tanzania to promote shared learning between WIO countries on the progress made in the adoption of MSP at both policy and practice level. The workshop enabled governments and partners to identify new opportunities to accelerate the momentum in MSP implementation with two main recommendations i.e. the Secretariat to work with partners in the establishment of a Regional Technical Working Group on MSP and development of a Regional MSP Strategy. These actions will be undertaken in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019. One proposal on a demo project on MSP has also been approved by the PSC.

## **2. Outcome A.2: Appropriate tools and methods support coastal planning and management**

**MPA and Critical Habitats Outlooks:** The project is developing 2 WIO Outlooks on Critical Habitats and MPAs to establish regional baselines on SDG14.2: *By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans* and SDG14.5: *By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information*. The launch of the MPA Outlook was put on hold during COP 9 in August 2018 to enable countries hold consultations on disputed territories. France, Madagascar and Mauritius met in October 2018 on these consultations and requested Madagascar to develop a caveat as reference to these disputed territories for consideration by other countries. In the meantime since there have been some significant developments e.g. the Republic of South Africa proclaiming 20 new MPAs under Operation PHAKISA and Seychelles expanding their marine area under protection; these have necessitated revision and updating of country chapters to reflect the new changes. The development of the Critical Habitats Outlook is underway. The 2 Outlooks are being developed in collaboration with WIOMSA supported by national/regional experts.

**Tools/Guidelines to support project implementation:** Two ecosystem restoration guidelines have been developed to ensure availability of resources to inform restoration projects under the project and for wider regional application. These will focus on mangroves and seagrass beds. Other guidelines under development include: climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit and economic valuation toolkit. The four guidelines were presented during the May 2019 Science to Policy Platform for discussion and validation. The two restoration guidelines were fully validated and cleared for launch during the 3<sup>rd</sup> PSC, while the climate change vulnerability assessment and economic valuation guidelines will need more time for expert review before finalization.

**Demonstration projects:** Five full proposals on demo projects under this Component have been approved by the PSC addressing various interventions including: spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, development of management plans, alternative livelihoods and demonstration of ICZM. The projects will be presented by proponents

during the sitting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> PSC for further advice in preparation for implementation. The approved proposals include:

- i. Enhancing stakeholder capacity on use of ICZM as a tool for conservation of the coastal and marine environment through a demo ICZM Project in Malindi – Sabaki Estuary Area, Kenya
- ii. Towards integrated spatial planning for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in Kilifi county, Kenya
- iii. Coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius
- iv. Habitat restoration and attraction of seabirds to Ile aux Aigrettes (Mauritius)
- v. Assessment of Blue Carbon Ecosystem in Mauritius

## 2.2 Component B: Water Quality

**Validation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan.** The Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) led in the development of this Action Plan and the project supported regional consultations during the last Focal Point meeting in April 2018, the July 2018 Science to Policy Forum and the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC. In December of 2018, the Project supported a validation meeting in Mozambique comprising of Focal Points and regional experts. The Action Plan is now being implemented through various initiatives. Additionally, and in response to COP Decision 9/3, the Secretariat working with WIOMSA has established a Regional Group of Experts on Marine Litter and Microplastics to among other roles support the implementation of this Action Plan.

**Demo projects:** Three proposals have been approved by the PSC on water quality. Others are still under development. The approved ones will also be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PSC for further advice and include:

- i. Improving Mtwapa Creek water quality by use of Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment technology in Shimo la Tewa
- ii. Strengthening regulatory framework and national capacity for monitoring effluent discharges, water, and sediments quality in coastal and marine areas of Madagascar
- iii. Improvement of ecosystem health and water quality by implementing a Source to Sea based approach to tackle marine litter in five priority river systems in Durban, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

## 2.3 COMPONENT C: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RIVER FLOWS

**1. OUTCOME C.1: Environmental Flow Assessments (EFAs).** This Outcome has three outputs namely: Environmental flow assessments, Implementation of flow assessment recommendations and Implementation Environmental Flow Assessment plans. During the reporting period, there have been two major deliverables under the Component:

**Development of the WIO E-Flows Guideline:** This was validated during the Science to Policy meeting in Mauritius on 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. Focal Points and experts gave their input for the finalization of the Guideline, which was cleared for launch at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PSC. The consultant has now submitted the finalized Guideline, which is ready for presentation and launch at the Durban PSC meeting.

**Demonstration projects:** 2 proposals (For Madagascar and Tanzania) are currently under development on E-Flows assessments and implementation of relevant management recommendations:

- i. Sustainable management of E-flow for west coast rivers of Madagascar (case of Betsiboka river)
- ii. Sustainable Catchment Management through Enhanced Environmental Flow Assessment and Implementation for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities in Tanzania.

## 2.4 Component D: Governance and Regional Collaboration

### 1. **Outcome D.1 Updated policies and strong institutions underpin WIO-SAP**

**implementation.** This Outcome is dealing with various project outputs including: development and adoption of ICZM protocol, ratification of LBSA protocol, implementation of the WIO-SAP project and Coordinated management, monitoring and learning

**Finalization of the ICZM Protocol:** The 4<sup>th</sup> and final negotiation of the WIO ICZM Protocol was held in Tanzania between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. The Parties concluded the negotiations thus paving the way for adoption at a meeting of Pleinpotentiaries to be organized sometime next year/2020.

**Ratification of LBSA protocol:** The workshop on LBSA Protocol was held on 10-11 December. It was organized in collaboration with the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land based activities (GPA). The workshop appreciated global, regional and national interventions in combating land based sources and activities in the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and the challenges facing the region in combating pollution of receiving waters. A number of monitoring tools developed by the GPA were made available to the countries and practitioners for possible adoption to support interventions and to promote shared learning across the region. Updates on efforts leading to the ratification of the LBSA Protocol were received from each country. Countries in the region are at different stages of implementation of interventions of the LBSA Protocol and this provides an opportunity for promoting shared learning and for addressing national challenges. The meeting targeted regional experts and policy makers.

**Operationalization of Regional Task Forces:** The first regional task forces meeting for Components A (Critical Habitats), B (Water Quality), and C (River flows) of the WIOSAP Project was held on 12-13 December. The meeting formalized the regional task forces and selected lead chairs/vice-chairs for each component. The task forces reviewed the terms of reference for each component task force, and reviewed the technical strength of potential concepts for implementation of demonstration projects as proposed by respective National Implementation Committees (NIC). A total of 13 concepts received from the NICs in Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, South Africa and Seychelles were recommended for full project proposal development.

2. **Outcome D.2: Knowledge management systems and exchange mechanisms.** This Outcome has 2 outputs: Expansion of the Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism and Nairobi Convention science-policy exchange platform. On the CHM, a structure for the Community of Practice has already been developed, data entry from various sources, relevant documentation uploaded and currently exploring potential applications for visualization. The latter will enable development of an interactive database and dashboard. Countries will be given nodes for uploading and sharing their



data. The CHM will be a joint deliverable with the SAPPHIRE Project. On the Convention science-policy exchange platform, a Science to Policy meeting was held in Mauritius from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 during which the TORs, membership and mode of operation of the Science to Policy Platform were discussed. Establishment of the Platform was approved with recommendations to enhance and finalize the TORs.

- 3. Outcome D.3: Project Management and Coordination.** There are two main Outputs under this Outcome: Regional Project Coordination and National Project Coordination  
**Regional Project Coordination:** The PMU is now fully constituted with the Project Manager, Policy Officer (reporting in July), Communication Officer, Finance assistant (all 3 cost-shared with SAPPHIRE at 50%) and an Admin Assistant are all in place.

**Project Steering Committee:** The second WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held in Mombasa on 27-28 August under output D.3.1. The meeting comprised of National Focal Points of the participating countries, representatives of UN Environment, UNDP, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and partners. The following major items were discussed:

- PSC reviewed the 2016/2017 progress reports, revised workplans and budgets and the annual work-plans 2018, 2019, 2020–2022 and budgets 2018, 2019, 2020–2022 of the WIOSAP project as well as countries co-financing arrangements.
- The meeting reviewed progress in the development of the Western Indian Ocean Critical Habitats Outlook (Component A), and the WIO Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Outlook (Component A) that is being supported by the project to establish baselines on the status of major ecosystems and MPAs in the region in response to SDG 14 targets 2 and 5 respectively. The meeting further held discussions on the role of critical ecosystems in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Guidelines for the submission of concepts for demonstration projects under WIOSAP were presented by the Project Manager. A total of 45 concepts had been submitted for consideration. PSC approved the process and criteria for concept/proposal review and approval.
- PSC reviewed a number of pipeline funding proposed for the sustainability of the WIOSAP project beyond the project's life cycle. The proposed projects presented included:
  - *'Transition to a Resilient Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean region' to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund;*
  - *'The Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries management in the Western Indian Ocean Region' that has been developed in collaboration with South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission and which was to be submitted to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); and*
  - *'Development of a Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania' to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility. The project national focal points were requested to provide endorsement from their respective Governments for the proposed WIOSAP sustainability projects.*

The 2nd PSC adopted and approved the following project asks:

- Approved the 2016/2017 progress reports (Technical and Financial);
- Approved the process and criteria for concept/proposal evaluation;

- Approved the 2019 workplans and budgets and noted the 2020-2020 work-plans/budgets;
- Endorsed the 3 concepts for submission to SIDA, GCF and GEF to enhance WIOSAP pipeline funding and sustainability;
- Endorsed proposed COP decisions as discussed and recommended through the July 2018 Science to Policy Forum.

**Ad Hoc PSC Meetings:** As approved during its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the PSC had intersessional meetings to approve concepts and proposals for demo projects. The PSC gave two virtual approvals of concepts (for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round submissions respectively) to facilitate progress towards full proposals development. The PSC also convened for a physical meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 at the sides of the Science to Policy meeting in Mauritius to consider and approve full proposals which had been recommended by regional experts. The PMU is aligning the proposals to specific WIOSAP project outputs/activities and available funding before final decisions on funding are made.

**WIOSAP participation at COP 9:** The PMU for the WIOSAP project participated in the Nairobi Convention Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) on 29-31 August in Mombasa under output D.1.4. PSC members were supported to participate at COP9 where PSC recommendations on WIOSAP were presented and informed key policy COP decisions related to the project. Among these were:

- Decision CP.9/1 on the Work programme for 2018–2022,
- Decision CP.9/2 on the ratification, accession and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities,
- Decision CP.9/3 on the management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean,
- Decision CP.9/4 on development of a protocol on integrated coastal zone management,
- Decision CP.9/10 on Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy, and
- Decision CP.9/11 on the development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks, among others.

**National Project Coordination:** Project Focal Points have continued to play a very important role in supporting the implementation of the Project as exemplified through active participation in various project meetings, coordination at national level and most significantly through the constitution and convening of National Implementation Committees (NICs). Almost all countries now have already operationalized their NICs which will be critical in giving oversight in demo project implementation and promotion of the WIOSAP Project in their respective countries.

#### **Request from PMU**

*The PSC is requested to note, advise and consider for approval the progress report*