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

25-26 June 2019

Durban, South Africa

**THIRD PSC MEETING FOR WIOSAP PROJECT: SESSION III ON
PRESENTATION AND LAUNCH OF PROJECT
GUIDELINES/TOOLKITS**

UNEP Nairobi Convention
3rd WIOSAP Project Steering Committee meeting

Durban, 25th – 27th June 2019

Session III. Presentation and Launch of Project Guidelines/Toolkits

1.0 Background

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention have received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a Programme 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 Programme 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 sustainable basis.

The Project is implemented and executed through a 'Partnerships Approach' with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat being the Executing Agency. The participating countries include Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and South Africa.

The Project has four main components:

Component A: *Sustainable management of critical habitats* focuses on the protection, restoration and management of critical coastal habitats and ecosystems recognizing the enormous 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.

2.0 WIOSAP Mode of Implementation

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. It is anticipated that the sum of the learning derived from these projects will be significantly enhanced if the projects within each component share standardised approaches to their design and implementation, to subsequent analyses and to the reporting of results. To facilitate this, a set of Guidelines/Toolkits are being developed to be made available to project implementation teams and wider regional adoption and application. The following Guidelines have been under development:

1. Methodologies for the Valuation of Coastal & Marine Ecosystems (VCME)
2. Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guideline
3. Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Guideline
4. E-Flows Assessment Guideline
5. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) Toolkit

The Guidelines/Toolkits capture respective WIO specific case studies on how the various interventions have worked and lessons learnt. Where useful examples from the WIO region could have not been available, Consultants were at liberty to draw on appropriate and relevant experiences from elsewhere.

3.0 The Process

Although the need for the Guidelines was already identified and captured in the WIOSAP Prodoc, this was reiterated during the Focal Points meeting held at Nosy Be Madagascar in April 2018. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) approved the development of the indicated Guidelines during its 2nd sitting in August 2018 in Mombasa, Kenya. The PMU then proceeded to develop respective TORs for the Guidelines, widely advertised the same globally and consultants competitively recruited to work with experts in respective Regional Task Forces of the WIOSAP Project to facilitate the development of the said Guidelines. Progress on the Guidelines was presented to Project Focal Points and regional experts during the Joint WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE Focal Points meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique in December 2018. The Regional Task Force members have been appointed by their respective governments taking into account their professional expertise in line with the Components of the WIOSAP Project to among other roles ensure quality assurance of project outputs. The consultants have been working in consultation with Regional Task Forces at various stages of the Guidelines development process. Since no Task Force on Environmental Economics has been established under the Project, the PMU reached out to leading environmental economists from various government institutions in the region to give support in the development of the Economic Valuation Guideline.

The consultants submitted the 1st Drafts of the respective Guidelines/Toolkits, which were discussed and input given by policy makers and experts at the WIO Science to Policy Meeting held in Mauritius from 27th to 29th May 2019. Three Guidelines were fully

validated (i.e Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guideline, Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Guideline and E-Flows Assessment Guideline) and cleared for launching during the 3rd WIOSAP PSC Meeting, while the Economic Valuation Guideline and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) Toolkit will be subjected to further regional expert review before finalization and launch. Consultants have now incorporated the comments given and prepared advanced/final Drafts of the 3 Guidelines, which will be launched at the 3rd PSC. Completed Guidelines/Toolkits approved by PSC will be availed to project proponents implementing demonstration projects to ensure a harmonized and systematic approach in executing relevant activities and also for adoption by other stakeholders/partners in the region for application in relevant coastal and marine resource management interventions. During the validation meeting, governments recommended that some of the Guidelines be customized at national level and be translated into applicable national languages. The PMU will support this request after the launch.

4.0 Objectives of the session

The main objective of the session will be to officially launch the validate Guidelines and clear them for adoption across the region in relevant coastal and marine resource management interventions.

5.0 Expected outputs

1. Launched Guidelines
2. PSC recommendations on the dissemination and adoption of the launched Guidelines.

Annex 1: Proposed structure of the Guidelines

The following is the structure of the validated Guidelines ready for launch at the 3rd WIOSAP PSC

A. Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guideline (Seagrass Restoration Guideline follows a similar structure)

1. Understanding the Basics - A foundation in Mangrove Ecosystems:
 - a. Understanding Mangrove Ecosystem Function;
 - b. Zonation & Geomorphology;
 - c. Mangrove distribution in WIO;
 - d. Mangroves & Climate Change.

2. Mangrove Restoration - What is it and when to use it:
 - a. When is mangrove restoration necessary;
 - b. Restoration approaches;
 - c. Restoration as part of integrated mangrove management;
 - d. Identifying & reversing drivers of local mangrove decline;
 - e. Critical factors for restoration success.

3. Restoration Site Identification - Where and when:
 - a. Criteria & Issues for Site Selection (e.g. checklist);
 - b. Site description variables:
 - i. Hydrological classification;
 - ii. Soil Surveys;
 - iii. Existing mangrove community structure, etc;
 - c. Understanding the institutional & legal context of potential restoration sites.

4. Principles of Best Practice - A Restoration Protocol:
 - a. Elements of a restoration plan;
 - b. Community/public participation;
 - c. Choice of species;
 - d. Nursery Basics;
 - e. Site preparation;
 - f. Plantation establishment & indicative work schedule;
 - g. A restoration maintenance programme (weed control, growth measurements, gap filling, hydrological maintenance etc.);
 - h. Budgeting: What does it cost under different conditions;
 - i. How it has worked, lessons learnt and recommendations.

5. Is Restoration Working? Implementing a systematic monitoring plan:
 - a. Linking Programme objectives and monitoring;
 - b. Indicators of success & necessary data;
 - c. Sampling protocols;
 - d. Silvicultural management;
 - e. Ecosystem services assessment;
 - f. How it has worked, lessons learnt and recommendations.

6. Developing a Mangrove Restoration Management Plan (MRMP):
 - a. Planning principles & policies;
 - b. A MRMP Checklist;
 - c. Implementing mitigation measures (to ensure the same drivers of change don't persist);
 - d. Communication strategies.

7. Speaking the same language - A Glossary of terms.

Appendix 1: Key Methods for Site Assessment:

- i. Social Survey Questionnaire (incl. drivers of mangrove loss; political context to restoration etc.);
- ii. Vegetation Survey (species; basal area; complexity index etc.);
- iii. Soil Analysis (e.g. Redox potential, Ph; SBD; Salinity etc.);
- iv. Any other....

Appendix 2: Some worked examples of best practice analyses:

- i. Survival rates;
- ii. Growth rates;
- iii. Correlation analyses (e.g. environmental parameters vs survival rate).

Appendix 3: Further Information:

- i. A checklist of monitoring equipment and approximate costs;
- ii. Sources of mangrove restoration expertise.

B. E-Flows Assessment Guideline

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Purpose and structure of the WIO EFlows Guidelines
- 1.2 Definitions

2 Environmental Flows

- 2.1 The need for Environmental Flows
- 2.2 The effects of human developments on rivers and estuaries
- 2.3 Negotiating objectives for river and estuarine ecosystem status
- 2.4 An integrated river basin management approach

3 EFlows Assessments

- 3.1 EFlows Assessment methods
- 3.2 Trends in EFlows Assessments in the WIO region
- 3.3 Information provided by EFlows Assessments
 - 3.3.1 EFlows information to support the sustainability of marine ecosystems

4 Undertaking an EFlows Assessment

- 4.1 Nature of the assessment, budget, method and team
 - 4.1.1 Purpose and scope
 - 4.1.2 Budget
- 4.2 Select an appropriate EFlows Assessment method
 - 4.2.1 Supporting models
- 4.3 EFlows Assessment team
- 4.4 Spatial and temporal units of assessment
 - 4.4.1 Site selection
 - 4.4.2 Time-scales for analysis
 - 4.4.3 Baseline conditions
- 4.5 Stakeholders engagement
- 4.6 Scenarios
- 4.7 Biophysical and social indicators
 - 4.7.1 Mapping indicator links
- 4.8 Data requirements
 - 4.8.1 Physical/chemical
 - 4.8.2 Biology

4.8.3 Social

4.9 Field visits 4.10 Set-up and calibrate EFlows models

4.11 Analyse the scenarios and present the results

5 Managing data limitations

6 Mainstreaming the uptake of EFlows Assessments

6.1 Harmonizing policies and working with government agencies

6.2 Building technical capacity in E-Flows Assessment

6.3 E-Flows information systems

6.4 Funding to support EFlows

7 References