

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

### KEY ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector participation is key to enhancing ecosystem conservation and protection and to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Increased engagement with the private sector can support businesses to make their practices more sustainable, greener and innovative for improved ocean governance.

This strategic framework seeks to enhance private sector engagement in the conservation and protection of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) in the Western Indian Ocean region, as well as to promote the mainstreaming of ecosystem-based management (EBM) practices in their operations.

This strategic framework identifies:

- **Best practices** for the engagement of private sector stakeholders in marine and coastal ecosystem management and protection
- Potential **Public-Private Partnerships**
- Mechanisms and tools to **enhance the mainstreaming of the LME/EBM** approach into private sector business operations
- An effective **system to enhance voluntary contributions** from the private sector
- Mechanisms used to report on private sector contributions to environmental and social wellbeing and Environmental Quality Objectives





# BENEFITS

## of the Private Sector in Partnership





### POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

- Reduction of stress on the WIO LMEs;
- Contribution to achievement of SDGs, sustainability, Nairobi Convention work programme;
- Identification and implementation of innovative solutions to environmental problems;
- Mainstreaming of environmentally-friendly practices into private sector operations;
- Access to private sector knowledge, technology and innovations;
- Facilitation of information-sharing, including best practices;
- Acceleration of the transition to a blue economy;
- Improved policy making that is responsive to private sector needs;
- Improved governance.



### POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Improved understanding of the risks and opportunities related to the environment, climate and sustainability;
- Improved understanding of environmental impacts and how to decrease risks and secure more robust supply chains;
- Assistance in meeting statutory requirements;
- Access to funding through, for example, the Green Climate Fund, Blue Action Fund, etc.;
- Cost-savings through more efficient resource use and improved sustainability;
- Access to stakeholders and technical assistance;
- Insight into current and future policy environments;
- Improved publicity, enhancing their profile with stakeholders and consumers;
- Ability to meet emerging client demands and develop forward-looking business models.
- Business innovations that generate profit and also benefit the environment.



By 2030, engagement with the private sector will have resulted in measurable reductions in stress on the LMEs of the WIO region particularly in relation to water quality degradation, habitat and community modification, and declines in living marine resources



# PRIORITY SECTORS

Based on the relative size of the sector (footprint) and the nature and extent of its environmental impacts, this framework focuses initially on these economic sectors:

## FISHERIES

Fisheries in the WIO region are diverse, with more than 200 fisheries operating in the coastal zone. They include both small and industrial scale operations, using diverse fishing gears, that support the livelihoods of thousands of people. Some catches are processed to high standards and exported to international markets.

## TOURISM AND RECREATION

Tourism is an important part of the economies of almost all the WIO states, both as contributors to GDP as well as a source of employment. Ecotourism can have a big impact on the ability to preserve marine ecosystems to sustain the industry. This provides strong incentives for communities to conserve and benefit ecosystems upon which tourism depends.

## EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

The primary oil and gas operations in the region are in Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa. However, there are potential reserves in other countries of the WIO which could be developed in the future. This, together with the drop in the oil price and other factors, makes the coastal mining sector a priority for partnership development.

## SHIPPING AND PORTS

The African continent relies heavily on ships and ports to service its intercontinental trade, which contributes 7% and 5%, respectively, of maritime exports and imports by volume. The increase in the exploitation of offshore oil and gas reserves suggests that improving the capacity for a regionally coordinated response should be considered a priority.

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