

Meeting of the Focal Points and Implementing Partners

27 September 2020
10:00 – 11:30 AM
MICROSOFT TEAMS

Concept Note

1. Background

The Nairobi Convention in executing the projects on ‘Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities’ (WIOSAP) and ‘Western Indian Ocean large marine ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reform’ (SAPPHIRE), is organizing a virtual meeting of the Focal Points and project implementing partners to be held on 27 May 2021 in Microsoft Teams at 10am EAT.

The WIOSAP Project objective is *‘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 partly implementing 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 has availed 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.

The SAPPHIRE project objective is *‘to achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the WIO large marine ecosystems in line with the Strategic Action Programme as endorsed by the participating countries’*. The work builds on the previous activities completed under the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project where a SAP was produced based on a comprehensive process of national Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDAs) that informed the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and finally the SAP. The SAPPHIRE Project focusses largely on implementing the SAP by improving ocean governance in the WIO region through five integrated components, and makes use of both demonstration activities at a local level and regional approaches to achieve this.

Both Projects are being implemented and executed through a ‘Partnership Approach’ with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat being the Executing Agency. The participating countries include Comoros, France (La Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and South Africa. France is not a project beneficiary.

2.0 Meeting Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to discuss: i). the progress on implementation of demonstration projects being executed by the convention, ii). the projects' extensions, and iii). the preparedness for the midterm review of both WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects.

3.0 WIOSAP Project progress

The WIOSAP 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 important value of healthy critical coastal and marine habitats for *the future well-being of people in the WIO region*. Under this component, the following are the key achievements:

1. **Demo projects:** 11 demo projects already approved by PSC and at various stages of implementation focusing on ICZM, MSP, ecosystem restoration, community livelihoods and climate change. Seven have already received funding.
2. **Project Guidelines:** Two approved by PSC, i.e. Mangrove Restoration Guidelines and Seagrass Restoration Guidelines which have been launched already and available for application by partners across the region. Two more guidelines awaiting testing before finalization i.e. Economic Valuation and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.
3. **Regional Frameworks:** In collaboration with other projects under the Convention and regional partners, the Project is supporting the development of various regional approaches, frameworks and strategies, e.g. Economic Valuation of the Kenya – Tanzania Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA), Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Framework, Regional MSP Strategy, Mangrove Restoration Case Studies.

Component B: *Improved water quality* focuses on the need for the WIO Region's water quality to attain international standards by the year 2035. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

1. **Demo projects:** Six demo projects approved and at various stages of implementation focusing on wastewater management, marine litter, estuarine water improvement and strengthening of regulatory frameworks on water quality management.
2. **Regional Frameworks:** In collaboration with other projects under the Convention and regional partners, the Project is supporting development of various regional frameworks and strategies: Water quality monitoring framework, Constructed Wetlands Case Studies
3. **Marine Litter:** WIO regional marine litter action plan developed. Technical, policy/institutional and socio-economic assessments on marine litter underway supported by the Regional Marine Litter and Microplastics Technical Working Group.

Component C: *Sustainable management of river flows* is 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.

Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

1. **Demo projects:** Three demo projects approved, funded and implementation underway.
2. **Project Guidelines:** Environmental Flows Assessment Guidelines completed and launched last year and now available for application in EFAs across the region.
3. **Comprehensive assessment of the Juba-Shabelle Basin** (Somalia) planned to generate policy and management recommendations for this important Basin.

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. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

1. **ICZM Protocol:** 4th and final negotiation held in March 2019. Adoption by meeting of Plenipotentiaries planned for with support from the *Capacity Building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Countries* project.
2. **Ratification of LBSA protocol:** Four countries have ratified and engagement ongoing with other countries for ratification.
3. **Sustainability of the WIOSAP Project:** Through hiring of consultants, direct technical support by Project staff and regional consultative meetings, the Project has successfully supported two projects which have been funded: *Capacity Building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Countries (US\$ 2.0 million)* and *Partnership Project for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth US\$8.6M* as part of pipeline funding. A new partnership project between UN Habitat and UNEP funded by the EU in support of the Government of Kenya's Blue Economy agenda is bringing in US\$7M as WIOSAP co-financing in Kenya.
4. **Improvement of the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM):** The Project hired dedicated capacity to revamp the CHM and now populated with data, datasets, reports and publications. Country MPA Outlook Dashboards which will go live anytime in preparation for the MPA Outlook launch have also been completed.
5. **Science to Policy Platform (SPP):** SPP for 2021 virtually held in March with about 170 attendees comprising of technical experts and policy makers/manager. Thirty-three papers were presented and the Convention secretariat will be working with Focal Points to prepare areas of decisions in preparation for the 10th COP later in the year.
6. **Partnerships:** The Convention has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in support of the project with Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Macquarie University and developed other strategic partnerships with other organizations for project delivery e.g. WIO-C members, Southern Consulting, Council of Science and Industrial Research (CSIR), WIOMSA, IRD, Maritime Technology Cooperation Center (MTCC) Africa and a number of academic and research institutions across the region.

3.1 WIOSAP Project extension

The COVID-19 pandemic caused huge disruptions on demo project implementation due to lock-downs and travel restrictions in all countries across the region. Implementing partners lost between 5 months to 1 full year of project implementation time. Consequently, the 4th PSC held in Nov 2020 recommended that the end of project time be extended from June 2022 to Dec 2022 to compensate for lost time. The Implementing Agency has since approved this request. SSFAs have therefore been extended with June 2022 as the end of demo projects implementation. Noting that some projects already lost a full year of implementation time, the Secretariat hopes that IPs will work hard and complete implementation of all planned demo project activities within the extended period.

3.2 WIOSAP Mid-Term Review

The MTR of the project should have been undertaken between March and May 2020 but this was not possible due to the COVID disruptions. The Implementing and Executing Agencies have now agreed to proceed with the MTR between June and August 2021. TORs for this critical consultancy have been completed and the consultancy advertised. The role of the Focal Points and Implementing Partners in the MTR will be very important as key informants due to their close engagement in the different activities of the WIOSAP Project.

4.0 SAPPHIRE Project Progress

The SAPPHIRE Project has five main components:

Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

- a) Revising the national Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDAs). The process of updating the MEDAs is ongoing in all project countries except Somalia, where a small-scale funding agreement is being formulated to support the process.
- b) Demo projects: Three projects (Madagascar, Pemba - URT, and South Africa) have been approved under this component. The project in Madagascar received funding while the funds for those Pemba and South Africa are being processed.
- c) Regional Frameworks:
 - ✓ Development of water quality monitoring framework underway.
 - ✓ Development of a Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Strategy for the WIO region is in progress with support of the newly established MSP Technical Working Group
 - ✓ Funding to support Economic Valuation of the Kenya – Tanzania Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) is being processed
 - ✓ Discussions on developing a Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean are ongoing with the .

Component 2: Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

- a) Demonstration projects on community led Ecosystem Based Management integration in local economic activities and coastal and marine resources management are in the final stages of being processed. Four projects (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania) have been approved under this component. One project (Comoros) has received funding. Mozambique is being supported to submit a project to the Project Management Unit on mussel culture for review.

Component 3: Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

- a) Framework for Private Sector Engagement has been developed and presented to the region through an online event.
- b) A series of workshops have been organized with partners to further the aims of a multi-stakeholder initiative and potentially facilitate the development of a Blue Economy Platform as recommended in the Framework.
- c) Oil spill preparedness and response to marine spills: Discussions are ongoing with IOC and IMO to collaborate in the implementation of actions and the way forward agreed to at the regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills, which took place in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 03 - 05 March 2020

Component 4: Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstration. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

- a) Four Countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, and South Africa) are being supported to realign their sectoral ocean management process to a coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach
- b) Oceanographic research – Kenya and Tanzania have received funding to support scientific research and capacity building initiatives for improved ocean governance and adaptive management
- c) Management and governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and Contiguous Adjacent High Seas Areas (CAHSA): the project will support the development of a background paper highlighting issues that are relevant to regional Ocean Governance in the WIO to inform the discussions around governance of the High Seas and the bio-physical connectivity between the High Seas and EEZs. The case of the Joint Management Area between Mauritius and Seychelles will be drawn upon to inform area based planning in these areas.
- d) Blue Economy framework: A Blue Economy sector study is being undertaken in Kenya, to support the development of a National Blue Economy Policy. Tanzania, and potentially Somalia will be supported in undertaking a stocktaking sectoral analysis and assessment on integrated Ocean Governance/Blue Economy.

Component 5: Capacity Development to Realize improved ocean governance in the WIO region. Under this component, the following activities are ongoing:

- a) Capacity building in ocean governance and sustainable resources management:
 - ✓ Phase 3 of the Advanced Leadership Workshop for Senior Leaders, Officials and Policy Makers (Women) in Marine Policy and Ocean Governance. The Project has also supported the process towards the establishment of a Women Leaders network for the WIO.
 - ✓ Training for National Data Managers on platform administration, management, developing country profiles, change detection and visualization
 - ✓ Training on Ocean Governance by International Ocean Institute for key persons involved in the development of an Ocean Governance Strategy for the WIO region

4.1 SAPPHIRE Mid-Term Review

The MTR of the project is scheduled to be completed by July/August 2021. The Implementing and Executing Agencies are working together to finalise the ToRs and recruitment of a Consultant to undertake the MTR. It is envisaged that the Project Focal Points and Implementing Partners will provide vital information as key informants during the MTR process due to their close engagement in the different activities of the SAPPHIRE Project.

5.0 Expected Outcomes

1. Understanding by the Focal Points on progress made so far in project implementation
2. Setting up next steps in implementation in light of the project extensions
3. Focal Points and IPs readiness to support the MTR process.

6.0 Provisional Agenda

	Time	Activity	Responsible
1.	10.00 – 10.10	Welcome remarks	Dixon Waruinge
2.	10.10 – 10.30	Focal Points Remarks on overall projects progress	Dixon Waruinge
3.	10.30 – 10.50	WIOSAP Project Progress, Extension and MTR	Jared Bosire
4.	10.50 – 11.10	SAPPHIRE Project Progress and MTR	Timothy Andrew
5.	11.10 – 11.25	Discussions	Dixon Waruinge
4.	11.25 – 11.30	Closing Remarks	Dixon Waruinge



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(Time is Nairobi Time, which is 9am Southern Africa and 11am for Seychelles)