

The Second Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme Policy

Harmonization and Institutional Reforms Project Steering Committee Meeting

26 November 2020

14h00 – 17h00 East Africa Time

Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams

Meeting Report

Introduction

The Nairobi Convention is executing the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project which is implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project promotes policy harmonization and institutional reform for the improvement of the management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems. It is building capacity among Governments, communities, intergovernmental organizations, academia, research institutions and the private sector in sustainable management of coastal and marine resource and ocean governance.

The overall objective of the project is to achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean LMEs in line with the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) as endorsed by the participating countries. It has five integrated components and each of them are intended to achieve various outcomes:

- ❖ Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance.
- ❖ Component 2: Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management.
- ❖ Component 3: Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices
- ❖ Component 4: Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstration
- ❖ Component 5: Capacity Development to Realise improved ocean governance in the WIO region

The project is under implementation in nine out of ten contracting parties of the Convention: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. The participating countries have assigned two national project focal points who are members of the regional project steering committee (PSC). As the highest decision-making body in the project management structure, the PSC meets annually to review project progress, approve annual work plans and budgets and

provide recommendation as well as propose joint solutions for identified problems and challenges during the course of the implementation of planned activities, among other duties.

The first PSC meeting was held in June 2019 in Durban, South Africa and the second was planned to take place in Maputo in August 2020 but could not take place due to the global restrictions caused by COVID-19. During the lock-down period the SAPPIRE focal points jointly with the Nairobi Convention focal points participated on two virtual meetings organized by the Secretariat to discuss how the focal points were responding to the COVID 19 pandemic and its impacts on the implementation of Nairobi Convention project activities at the national level. In addition, SAPPHIRE focal points met on 12 August 2020 and reviewed project progress as well as discussed the impacts of COVID 19 at national level and on the implementation of planned project activities. Since the travel restrictions and lock down extended for unexpected period, the Secretariat was forced to organize the second PSC meeting virtually.

Objectives of Meeting

The main objective of the second PSC meeting was to review the progress in project implementation and the impact of COVID 19 at national and regional level and propose possible acceleration mechanisms as well as seek joint solutions to identified problems that are affecting the implementation of the project. In addition, the meeting served as an avenue to share national best practices and experiences in project implementation and coordination of planned activities.

Expected Outcome

- a) Discuss the progress of implementation of demonstration projects at national level and seek joint solutions to challenges caused by COVID 19 and other factors
- b) Review and endorse the SAPPHIRE Annual Work Programme and Expenditure for 2020, and progress in the implementation of planned project activities
- c) Discuss and share national experiences among Focal Points on project coordination at national level

Summary of Proceeding of the Second WIO LME SAPPHIRE Project Steering Committee Meeting

Session I: Opening Remarks

Nairobi Convention Secretariat

1. The meeting was called to order at 14h00 by Mr Dixon Waruinge, the Head of Nairobi Convention Secretariat. He mentioned that the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was aimed at getting in touch with the focal points and partners since the last PSC meeting in June 2019 in Durban, South Africa.
2. He appreciated the presence of Mr Andrew Hudson, the Principal Technical Advisor, Water and Ocean Governance Programme at UNDP. He appreciated the presence of Mrs. Susan Otieno, the project focal point for Kenya who would be chairing the meeting.
3. Mr Waruinge thanked Mrs. Sinikinesh Jimma for having steered the project to this point. He mentioned that Mrs. Jimma is the new Portfolio Manager for the GEF International Waters and will be helping with implementation of the project on Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) among others. He thanked Mrs. Jimma for the work done and the work to be done when she starts working in her new position.
4. Mr Waruinge mentioned that there was a survey done on the impacts of COVID-19 on the implementation of the Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention which was shared with the countries. He highlighted that from March to June, much of the Western Indian Ocean region was simply at a standstill with a lot of uncertainties on where Covid-19 would lead. He mentioned that most countries started opening in May – June leading to several virtual meetings happening with the countries participating in the SAPPHIRE project.
5. Mr Waruinge appreciated the work being done by Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) on monitoring the Northern Kenya Banks. He highlighted that during the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project surveys, Kenya and Tanzania were left out hence KMFRI and Institute of Marine Sciences, Tanzania have monitoring programmes in the Northern Kenya Banks and the Pemba Channel respectively.
6. He mentioned that a document on private sector engagement had been developed which had been shared with the countries for comments and input. He highlighted that the Convention has worked in the region for a long time and has always intended to engage with the private sector but did not know how. He mentioned that the strategy would not only help the Nairobi Convention but also other institutions working in the marine and coastal environment to engage with the private sector dealing with ocean resources.

7. Mr Waruinge highlighted that the Convention had engaged on Ocean Governance and a background paper on the status of ocean governance in the WIO region had been developed. He mentioned that the document had been instrumental in bringing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) together to discuss the process of developing an ocean governance strategy since ocean governance is a regional and global issue. He mentioned that the SAPPHIRE project is about policy harmonization and institutional reform hence must involve African Union (AU) and RECs in discussions on policy and/or institutional reform.
8. He highlighted that the project activities are not only supported by the UNDP implemented SAPPHIRE project but also by other projects within the Nairobi Convention Secretariat including the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) project on ocean governance supported by the European Union and a partnership project between the Nairobi Convention and the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) on fisheries. He highlighted that this demonstrates that the Nairobi Convention had resources from various donors to complement the SAPPHIRE project to ensure that its impacts are more than what was anticipated.
9. Mr Waruinge welcomed Mr Hudson to make opening remarks on behalf of UNDP.

United Nations Development Programme

10. Mr Hudson welcomed the PSC members to the meeting. He mentioned that he has oversight over the projects financed under the UNDP portfolio in the International Waters focal area under which the SAPPHIRE project is a component.
11. He highlighted that Large Marine Ecosystems such as the ASCLME face several threats and pressures including unsustainable fishing, pollution, habitat loss, invasive species and climate change.
12. He mentioned that the SAPPHIRE project will work towards sustainable management and governance of the ASCLME; one of around 12 LMEs UNDP is supporting around the world.
13. Mr Hudson highlighted that according to GEF policy and methodology, each LME starts with a foundational stage during which countries and intergovernmental organizations collaborate to prepare the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) which prioritizes environmental issues and threats in the LME and their immediate causes. He mentioned that the TDA then serves as technical input to the multi-country development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) that consists of agreed policy, regulatory institutional reforms and investments aimed at addressing the agreed priority threats. He mentioned that once the SAP has received high level ministerial endorsement from the participating countries, the GEF can finance initial stages of implementation of the SAP.
14. He highlighted that the diverse approach of the SAPPHIRE project includes strong progress on science- based governance reform, promotion of ecosystem approach, area-based management,

ecosystem valuation, capacity development, demonstration of stress reduction in partnership with the civil society and the private sector.

15. Mr Hudson mentioned that UNDP was ready to hear the updates on the project progress from the SAPPHIRE partners including the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, National Governments among others, and to provide strategic advice and guidance to the SAPPHIRE team and partners in addressing any issues or challenges the project was facing.
16. Mr Hudson finalized by mentioning that UNDP thanks the PCU and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in organizing the SAPPHIRE PSC meeting and looked forward to a fruitful and constructive dialogue.
17. Mr Waruinge invited Mrs Sinikinesh Jimma, the former Project Coordinator to make remarks.
18. Mrs Jimma thanked the PSC members and partners for supporting her in executing the project. She highlighted that it was an honor and great learning journey during which the project achieved a lot with the support of the focal points and partners. She mentioned that its her hope the project will be one of the flagship projects in addition to national level activities, contributing to sustainable management of coastal and marine resources at national and regional level. She expressed her happiness for having been part of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat working under the leadership of Mr Waruinge.
19. Mr Waruinge introduced Dr Timothy Andrew to the PSC members and partners. He mentioned that Tim had been working as a policy officer within the Nairobi Convention Secretariat ensuring that there was complete synergy between the projects executed by the Nairobi Convention. He mentioned that the project activities within the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects are being executed almost at the same time for synergy. Mr Waruinge highlighted that the synergies extend to the MEAs, the partnership project with SWIOFC and the Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NoCaMo) Project.
20. Mr Waruinge mentioned that Tim was requested to take charge of the SAPPHIRE project after Mrs. Jimma moved to her new post, because of his inbuilt knowledge of how the project operates. He then invited Tim to make opening remarks.
21. Tim welcomed the PSC members and partners to the meeting. He mentioned that it was an honour to take up the responsibility of managing the SAPPHIRE project. He mentioned that fine groundwork had been laid on the project and he was ready to continue with the project implementation even in the midst of the challenges imposed by Covid-19.
22. Mr Waruinge mentioned that this meeting should be treated normally even though it would be shorter than other PSC meetings. He highlighted that the meeting was supposed to check on the progress

made in implementation of activities so that the PSC can guide on the steps to be undertaken as envisaged in the project document. He mentioned that given the interruptions of Covid-19, the meeting will focus on updates on implementation of national and regional activities to determine what can be realistically achieved this year and next year subsequent to which the project might come up with a reviewed work programme and a budget.

23. Mr Waruinge finalized by highlighting that since Tim had just taken up the role of project coordination, it would only be fair for him to be allowed to work on the budgets and workplan based on his understanding and where he hopes to lead the project in the coming months.
24. Mr Waruinge requested for the agenda to be presented for adoption. He mentioned that the meeting ends at 17h00 thus urged the participants to be strict with time. He requested the participants to propose any additions to the provisional agenda and actively participate in the meeting since their comments and inputs will guide the project into the future.

Government of Kenya

25. Mrs. Otieno welcomed all the PSC members to the 2nd SAPPHIRE PSC meeting on behalf of the Government of Kenya. She expressed her regret that the meeting could not be held physically due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. She mentioned that these were challenging times for everyone, but we must continue to work.
26. Mrs. Otieno appreciated the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for the continued momentum on the implementation of activities and for organizing the virtual PSC meeting.
27. Mrs. Otieno highlighted the roles of the PSC including:
 - ✓ Forming the highest decision making body of the project, providing overall supervision to the project and its deliverables, workplan, budget and to ensure the project activities are fully integrated into national policies, strategies, programmes and initiatives as appropriate.
 - ✓ Interacting with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the project coordination unit (PCU) for all policy level decisions and report back to the national governments.
 - ✓ Advising the PCU and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat on all matters on national or regional activities and policies related to effective SAP implementation.
 - ✓ Advising on appropriate administrative and institutional mechanisms for long-term SAP implementation and to agree on sustainability measures for SAP implementation, particularly long-term funding.
28. Mrs. Otieno mentioned that the first PSC meeting made recommendations and approved a number of interventions and initiatives that were considered important in accelerating the project outcomes as well as overall project coordination and management. She mentioned that the PCU would highlight the impacts and implications of the decisions approved during the 1st PSC meeting.

29. She expressed hope that the 2nd PSC meeting would engage and provide guidance on possible acceleration mechanism for the project impacts already made and ensure sustainability of the SAPPHIRE project beyond its lifespan.
30. Mrs. Otieno commended the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, the contracting parties and partners for the progress made in the execution of the SAPPHIRE project. She thanked the PSC members for commitment in the execution of the project and the GEF for funding the project.
31. Mrs. Otieno expressed gratitude to Mrs. Jimma on behalf of the focal points for her work, guidance and dedication to ensure that the project kicked off and has achievements to show. She thanked Mrs. Jimma and wished her well in her new role.
32. Mrs. Otieno concluded her remarks by welcoming the participants to the meeting and declared the 2nd PSC meeting officially opened.

Session II: Presentation and Discussion

Update on COVID-19 pandemic and its impact at national level and on the implementation of project activities by each Focal Point

33. The chair invited the focal points to give remarks on the impacts of Covid-19 on the implementation of national activities:

a) Kenya

- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that the Covid-19 infection rates were still increasing, and more deaths were being reported compared to the period of the first wave of the pandemic. She highlighted that the country was still observing the restrictions, guidelines and protocols provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on social distancing, sanitizations as well as a dawn to dusk curfew among other national regulatory measures.
- ❖ She mentioned that some businesses are operating below their capacity resulting in lay-offs while others have shut down due to the increased cost of doing business. She highlighted that the national borders are open although there are regulatory measures before people can enter the country.
- ❖ She mentioned that the restrictions have reduced the activities which can take place in the country because social gatherings are still not allowed.
- ❖ Mrs. Otieno highlighted that most of the project activities are being undertaken virtually with several activities being undertaken by KMFRI in addition to proposal development.
- ❖ She mentioned that the Government offices are working in shifts to enable them to control crowds within the offices.

b) Madagascar

- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that the countries had signed SSFAs to support Updating of the Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA) for Madagascar as well as on consultation on ocean governance priorities for sustainable marine ecosystem management under Component 1 of the SAPPHIRE project. He mentioned that implementation of the project activities had been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions, but they had hosted national consultation meetings to come up with means to accelerate delivery of the activities.
- ❖ He mentioned that they would engage with the communities in the coming months provided that the country would not be affected by a cyclone event.
- ❖ He mentioned that the first draft MEDA would be available for review in December. The Focal Point mentioned that they were working on project proposals related to Component 2 of the SAPPHIRE project which would be submitted to the PCU for review in due course.
- ❖ The Focal Point requested the PCU to consider extending the end date of the SSFA to cover the time lost during the Covid-19 restrictions.
- ❖ The Focal Point finalized by appreciating the supporting given to them by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the PCU. He highlighted that the country was no longer under the risk of Covid-19, but the airspace was still closed.

c) Mauritius

- ❖ The Focal Point highlighted that the country was not on lockdown with only one local Covid-19 case, but they are required to observe social distancing and sanitization among other guidelines. She highlighted that new cases were being reported from inbound flights thus borders are restricted and highly controlled.
- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that they had four meeting related to the MEDA update and she was following up with authors on the draft chapters.
- ❖ She highlighted that the MEDA update process had been delayed for two months due to the Covid-19 lockdown with an addition of two more months due to the MV Wakashio incident. She mentioned that the first draft MEDA report will be submitted in December 2020.
- ❖ She finalized by thanking Mrs. Jimma for all the help she has given to the country during her tenure as the project manager. She welcomed Tim to the PCU and expressed hope that things will move on smoothly.

d) Somalia

- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that the country was on phase two of the lockdown with international flights being allowed though travelling was restricted to the coastal areas. He highlighted that discussions with the Ministry of Health are underway to determine which

activities can be implemented in the country. He mentioned that the country was still following the Covid-19 regulations such as social distancing and wearing masks, among others. He highlighted that the country expects a second wave of the pandemic thus they are on high alert to contain it.

- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that the sector agencies had met and will soon submit proposals to the SAPPHIRE PCU.

d) Tanzania

- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that the country had been impacted by Covid-19 with lockdown until September which has been lifted. She highlighted that activities had resumed though with very high precautions including adhering to the rules and regulations provided by the Ministry of Health such as social distancing and sanitization.
- ❖ The Focal Point mentioned that they are implementing two activities:
 - ✓ Updating the MEDA report for Tanzania under the Institute of Marine Sciences, has been affected by Covid-19 restrictions since authors are unable to meet and writing has been very slow. She mentioned that a meeting will be scheduled with the authors to take stock of the progress made. She highlighted that the activity would request for an extension of the implementation end date.
 - ✓ She highlighted that they have submitted a project proposal under Component 2 of the SAPPHIRE project through the Second Vice President Office in Zanzibar. She mentioned that the proposal seeks to strengthen community-based ecosystem management approach for alternative livelihood activities for improved artisanal fisheries in the Pemba Channel Conservation Area. She mentioned that the project has been reviewed and approved by the National Inter-Ministerial Committee which met in September, after which it was submitted to the PCU for approval.
- ❖ She concluded by thanking Mrs. Jimma for her assistance in the implementation of national activities and welcomed Tim to the PCU.

34. The Chair of the meeting welcomed Mr Allen Cedras to make a presentation on the progress in the implementation of the Joint Management Area (JMA) project between Mauritius and Seychelles.

Presentation on the implementation of the JMA project between Mauritius and Seychelles

35. Mr Cedras mentioned that the JMA project is part of the bigger SAPPHIRE project under Component 4.2. He highlighted that the PCU consists of Dr Rezah Badal, a national project director, Mr Allen Cedras, International project manager and Ms Ridheema Jhowry, the project assistant.

36. In his [presentation](#) Mr Cedras highlighted that the project consists of four components namely: i) building technical and management capacity; ii) development of a data and information system; iii)

- adoption and implementation of a marine spatial planning approach in the JMA; and iv) monitoring, evaluation, adaptive feedback and sustainability.
37. He highlighted the project outcomes include effective management of the JMA, use of a state-of-the-art database system to support MSP framework implementation and use of the MSP framework for effective management of the JMA.
 38. He mentioned that the project had supported seven capacity building workshops on marine spatial planning, geographic information systems and ocean governance. He highlighted that phase I of the MSP framework had been completed and phase II was in progress.
 39. He mentioned that they had recruited an IT specialist to assist in designing the database infrastructure, website development and data management. He highlighted that servers, storage systems, an ArcGIS system and customized workstations had been installed in Seychelles and Mauritius.
 40. Mr Cedras mentioned that the project had established four MSP working groups and was working on virtual infrastructure to keep the working groups functioning during the Covid-19 pandemic. He highlighted that the project had developed terms of reference for a legal expert, marine scientific research and data strategy in addition to capacity development on MSP. He mentioned that the legal expert would work on relevant legal advisory memoranda setting the scope for the joint commission to control, regulate and manage activities in the JMA.
 41. He highlighted that the project had engaged a consultant to facilitate activities related to monitoring, control and surveillance aspects since the project area is far from Mauritius and Seychelles.
 42. He mentioned that the project was working through AVARTS Ltd, a communication firm to manage publicity aspects of the project such as social media and branding, among others.
 43. Mr Cedras mentioned that the project had been audited financially in 2019 and 2020, while the mid-term review was ongoing. He highlighted that the project has spent USD 455,218.28 with 70% of the project activities having been delivered by quarter 3 of 2020.
 44. Mr Cedras mentioned that the project has published reports on MSP, monitoring, control and surveillance, data and data sources as well as an upcoming legal report all which will be shared with the focal points.
 45. He finalized by congratulating Mrs. Jimma for the new position and thanked her for the time they have worked together and welcomed Tim to the SAPPHIRE PCU.

Review and approval of Annual Work Plan 2020 (as discussed at Focal Points meeting on 12 August)

46. Tim mentioned that the workplan previously approved by the PSC committee in 2019 had to be amended due to the disruptions caused by Covid-19.

47. He delivered [a presentation](#) on the progress made in activity implementation as well areas where changes had been made in the approved workplan.
48. He mentioned that the overall objective is to achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean LMEs in line with the SAP as endorsed by the participating countries.
49. The presentation highlighted that the project;
- ✓ Is supporting organization of national level coordination and consultation meetings which are currently ongoing virtually due to the Covid-19 restrictions.
 - ✓ Had planned the current PSC meeting which had been delayed by Covid-19 related restrictions.
 - ✓ Will support the science to policy meeting which will be held in February 2021 .
 - ✓ Has made good progress in supporting countries to revise the national MEDAs even though there have been delays necessitating the extension of agreements.
 - ✓ Is supporting demonstration projects on review of national policy, legislative and institutional reforms and facilitating realignment in support of the SAP implementation.
 - ✓ Is supporting the development of a regional ecosystem monitoring framework and indicators in collaboration with other projects within the Convention, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and Rhodes University.
 - ✓ Is supporting the development of a regional marine spatial planning strategy for the WIO in collaboration with other projects within the Convention. The strategy is scheduled to be completed in December 2020 and be ready for discussion at the science to policy meeting.
 - ✓ Has supported countries to participate in different coordination meetings held in the interest of SAP implementation such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science held in Kenya and an Oil Spill preparedness workshop held in Zanzibar.
 - ✓ Has supported the development of a background document on ocean governance in the WIO region which was discussed in a virtual meeting with Regional Economic Communities and African Union among other partners.
 - ✓ Has initiated technical support to communities and artisanal fisheries through demonstration projects in synergy with other projects within the Convention in order to increase impact and scope. It was highlighted that implementation of most of the activities will start in 2021.
 - ✓ Has supported the development of a private sector engagement strategy which was completed in November. It was highlighted that actual engagement with the private sector has been scheduled for 2021.
 - ✓ Is supporting countries such as Comoros and Mozambique in the realignment of the sectoral ocean management process and coastal ecosystem management approach. It was mentioned that other proposals are currently under review.

- ✓ Will support science to policy discussions aimed at developing an evidence-based decision making process. It was mentioned that the science to policy workshop was postponed to February 2021 although preparation has started.
- ✓ Will support discussions on management and governance of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and Contiguous Adjacent High Seas Areas (CAHSA) which have been postponed to 2021.
- ✓ Is supporting countries in MSP capacity building and development of Blue Economy frameworks among other ocean governance initiatives.
- ✓ Is supporting scientific research and capacity building initiatives for improved ocean governance and adaptive management in Kenya and Tanzania
- ✓ Will support countries to attend the IOI ocean governance training which was postponed to 2021 because it requires face to face meetings over several weeks.
- ✓ Has supported the two leadership renewal trainings for women policy makers and scientists in the region. It was mentioned the last training was held virtually over six weeks.

The project coordinator requested the PSC to consider the amended 2020 annual workplan for approval

50. The Chair mentioned that the PSC meeting had taken cognizance of the presented progress in workplan implementation and amendments despite the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. She requested the project coordinator to make a presentation on the project expenditure for the PSC to consider/approve it with the workplan.

51. Mr Abdullahi Osman (Somalia) expressed concerns that his country seems to have lagged in implementation of project activities such as capacity building.

52. Tim mentioned that there was a capacity building workshop on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) hosted in Seychelles specifically for Somalia experts. He mentioned that the project is working with partners especially the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) to conduct MSP training for Somalia virtually through four modules. It was highlighted that the project is discussing proposals which include elements of capacity building for implementation with the Government of Somalia.

53. Tim mentioned that an MSP technical working group comprising two experts from each country has been established as a key element of the MSP support. It was highlighted that the MSP technical working group held its first session on cumulative impact assessment on 24/11/2020.

Review of progress in project implementation and expenditure, and discussion

54. [The presentation](#) highlighted the project progress in 2020 according to the specific components:

Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance

55. It was mentioned that Updating of the national marine ecosystem diagnostic analysis (MEDA) is ongoing in all participating countries with some countries like Kenya having produced the first draft. It was highlighted that most countries have requested for extension of the period for the MEDA update which is agreeable with the PCU.
56. It was highlighted that the development of the Western Indian Ocean source to sea transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) has begun with ongoing discussions with WIOMSA on how to develop the document.
57. It was mentioned that the project supported participants to the UN Decade of Ocean Science Regional Consultation Workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States held from 27- 29 January 2020.
58. It was mentioned that the project is supporting demonstration projects on national level policy review, dialogue and realignment in:
- a. **Comoros:** strengthen sectoral policy and co-management of natural resources for better conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Union of the Comoros
 - b. **Madagascar:** strengthening ocean governance and marine ecosystem management to support sustainable development
 - c. **Mozambique:** enhancing national level policy harmonization and institutional reform for improved ocean governance
59. It was mentioned that most of the demo projects will be extended due to Covid-19 restrictions.
60. It was highlighted that the project is supporting the development of a national Blue Economy strategy in Kenya while Tanzania and Somalia have expressed the need for similar support.
61. It was mentioned that a State of ocean governance in the WIO region background document was launched in September after a comprehensive process of getting feedback from countries and other partners.
62. It was highlighted that consultations with the AU, RECs and key partners on development of a WIO regional ocean governance strategy has been postponed due to COVID-19 but initiatives supporting ocean governance are ongoing such as development of an Ocean Governance Strategy for Africa which will be synergistic with the WIO region strategy.
63. It was highlighted that discussions are ongoing with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to support them in developing a blue economy strategy while other regional economic communities such as Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East Africa Community (EAC) have requested for similar support.
64. It was highlighted that the project is in collaboration and cooperation with national and regional partners and stakeholder to enhance sustainable management of resources and improve ocean

governance the WIO region. Some of the collaborating partners include International Maritime Organisation, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), Nelson Mandela University, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), among others.

Component 2: Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management:

65. It was highlighted that the component focuses on supporting demonstration projects in selected sites and countries to promote Integrated Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach into local livelihoods activities in selected communities at a pilot level as well as supporting small scale fishing communities and deliver artisanal fisheries management plans.

66. It was highlighted that there are demonstration projects in:

- a. **Comoros:** Community engagement in conservation and protection of marine resources (fisheries) as well as alternative economic activities.
- b. **Kenya:** Kenya Wildlife Service: Climate-Smart Design for Diani-Chale Marine Ecosystem management and Improved Livelihoods of the Coastal Communities - community engagement in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.
- c. **Madagascar:** Ministry of Fisheries is developing a proposal through a consultant supported by the project.
- d. **Mozambique:** Community Based Project for Mussel Aquaculture on Inhaca Island-Maputo Province to promote ecosystem-based resources management.
- e. **Seychelles:** Capacity building on local fisheries management and ecosystem conservation initiatives.
- f. **Tanzania:** Strengthening community-based EBM approaches in Subsistence and Small-Scale Artisanal Fisheries for Sustainable livelihoods and Management of Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA), Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Component 3: Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices

67. It was mentioned that the project had partnered with SAIIA to develop a strategic framework for private sector engagement in the WIO region. It was highlighted that stakeholder consultation on the WIO private sector engagement strategy was conducted virtually on 30 October 2020.

68. It was highlighted that the project in partnership with IMO had prepared a background report on Oil Spill Preparedness and Regional Cooperation in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean and, organized a regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills and

partnership with IOC, IMO and other partners. It was mentioned that the SAPPHIRE project will support the implementation of agreed action plans by the participating countries. It was mentioned that participating countries have been requested to complete and share the template on contact details of focal points on oil spill at national level.

Component 4: Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstration

69. It was highlighted that South Africa through the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries is finalizing a proposal on integrated and coordinated multisectoral coastal and marine resources management and ocean governance
70. It was mentioned that the project is building technical and management capacity in support of marine spatial planning and effective management of the coastal and marine ecosystem. It was highlighted that a MSP technical working group has been established and there was an ongoing training in collaboration with SwaM. It was highlighted that Kenya as the Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention is the chair of the MSP technical working group.
71. It was mentioned that the project is supporting the designing of regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) strategy in partnership with Nelson Mandela University and other projects within the Nairobi Convention.
72. It was highlighted that the project has partnered with IMS (Tanzania) and KMFRI (Kenya) on oceanographic research to develop a data and information system along with a programme of data capture and gap-filling as a foundation for evidence-based decision making and adaptive ocean management.
73. It was highlighted that online data resources and associated metadata for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) have been developed and backed up to support ABNJ management. It was mentioned that the actual discussions on ABNJ management will commence in 2021 when physical meetings will be possible.

Component 5: Capacity development to realize improved ocean governance in the WIO region

74. It was mentioned that there is ongoing capacity building training for national data managers including compiling oceanographic data, country profile and webpages in partnership with the Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) though the actual training was postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19.
75. It was highlighted that the advanced leadership training for WIO leaders and Scientists (women) was conducted from 13th October to 26th November 2020.

76. It was highlighted that there were planned trainings on regional ocean governance for government officials and experts, marine spatial planning, ecosystem health and water quality monitoring for national experts which have been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic related issues.

The project coordinator requested the PSC to consider the presented project progress for 2020 for approval bearing in mind the difficult situation implementation of project activities has had to endure.

77. Mr Hudson mentioned that the source to sea approach in the development of the TDA was welcome since LMEs are greatly influenced by their drainage basins. He requested for clarification on whether there were any specific methodologies being used in the development of national blue economy strategies and any external partners involved in the work. He requested for information whether the blue economy work in Kenya and Tanzania involved any other initiatives in the WIO region apart from the SAPPHIRE project.

78. Tim mentioned that African Union has developed a Blue Economy Strategy for the continent which gives a direction to what the regions need to do. He mentioned that development of the blue economy strategy for Kenya is being undertaken in partnership with the Nairobi University and the procedure will involve analyzing the marine sectors in a bid to prioritize them in terms of ecological, social and economic contribution to the country's economy. He highlighted that the process aims at developing a blue economy policy for Kenya. He mentioned that the project has been requested to support the process from assessment of marine sectors to policy development which forms a good demonstration for other countries in the region.

79. Mr Hudson mentioned that if the project shows good progress in building national capacity for MSP including local level demonstration of MSP, this suggests an opportunity to formally embed commitment to scaling up MSP in the updating of the SAP which will be occurring in due course.

80. He highlighted that there had been several high-level policy requests to scale up MSP to Exclusive Economic Zone level which will be state of the art and wished SAPPHIRE could be a real enabler towards that kind of long term objective in the WIO region.

81. Tim mentioned that the project has made good progress on regional MSP including initiative on cumulative impact assessment which is being undertaken in partnership with SwAM which have undertaken a similar exercise in the Baltic sea.

82. He acknowledged that Covid-19 has slowed down implementation of project activities thus affecting delivery as well as expenditure.

83. Mr Abdullahi (Somalia) requested for information on the MSP technical working group and its terms of reference.

84. Tim mentioned that Nairobi Convention focal points were asked to nominate two members to sit on the MSP technical working group which will be hosted by the Nairobi Convention for sustainability with the SAPPHIRE project supporting the initiative. He mentioned the technical working group will provide guidance to the Convention in all matters to do with MSP that impact at a regional level as well as link the Convention Secretariat to national level MSP activities in addition to providing access to data and information that will be necessary for the MSP process.

Presentation of SAPPHIRE project Expenditure between September 2018 and June 2020

85. [The presentation](#) highlighted that;

- ❖ The project has disbursed (reported to UNDP) US\$ 1,482,606 between 2018 and June 2020, while US\$ 1,934,403 has been committed for goods and services under the project for the same period.
- ❖ The project has spent US\$860,544 under personnel costs, US\$568,789 under sub-contract (including small scale funding agreements) US\$432,832 under meetings and training, and US\$72,238 under operating cost (including equipment's and supplies), raising the total project expenditure to US\$ 1,934,403.
- ❖ The project has hired consultants on data and content creation for the Nairobi Convention website and clearing house mechanism (component 1 and 4), environment and policy affairs (component 4) and development of full demonstration project proposal for the Ministry of Fisheries in Madagascar (component 5).
- ❖ The expenditure reports for the respective periods have been submitted to the Implementing Agency (UNDP) and upon approval by the Project Steering Committee will be uploaded to the Nairobi Convention secretariat website.

The Project Coordination Unit requested the PSC to consider the expenditure report for approval

86. The chair sort to be informed whether the project is on track in terms of expenditure. The PCU mentioned that based on the presented workplan, some activities had been postponed to 2021 hence no spending on those activities has occurred and less expenditure has taken place than planned. It was highlighted that the approved budget for 2020 was approximately US\$ 1.75 million while the project has spent US\$1.2 million, translating to about 75% of the approved budget, and the remaining 25% will be rolled over to 2021.

87. Somalia requested the PCU to mention which activities would be implemented in the country noting that 75% of the budget has been spent but no activity has been undertaken in Somalia.

88. It was highlighted that the PCU is still receiving proposals which will be funded by the remaining 25% in addition to proposed budget for 2021, thus Somalia was assured of funds availability to support their activities.

All the three requests for approval made to the PSC by the PCU were proposed by Mauritius and seconded by Madagascar

Presentation by Partners on ongoing initiatives:

89. It was mentioned that the SAPPHIRE project and the Nairobi Convention at large works through partnerships in the implementation of activities. The chair invited representatives from some of the key partners to make remarks on the activities they are implementing with the SAPPHIRE project:

Institute of Marine Sciences

- ❖ Prof Nyandwi mentioned that they are implementing two project namely oceanographic surveys in Northern Tanzania Marine waters (Pemba Channel) and updating the marine ecosystem diagnostic analysis report for Tanzania.
- ❖ He highlighted that six activities have been implemented under the oceanographic research project to determine the effect of oceanographic factors on the timing and location of spawning grounds for Tuna and tuna-like species in the Tanzania waters. He mentioned that the aim of the work is to determine how seasonal changes in ocean parameters such as sea surface temperature, chlorophyll a, nutrients and surface currents are linked to the spawning of tuna and tuna-like species.
- ❖ Prof Nyandwi mentioned that the project has an outcome to create an oceanographic database for policy harmonization and management reforms for sustainable management of LMEs and improved ocean governance.
- ❖ He highlighted that they will analyse and synthese oceanographic data from previous cruises from within the area as well as undertake actual cruises for a week during the North East and another week during the South East monsoon winds.
- ❖ He highlighted that they will produce six publications and policy briefs on mainstreaming of oceanographic data in management of coastal and marine systems.
- ❖ He mentioned that the project will support awareness and community capacity to manage economic resources though local institutions such as beach management units, fisheries committees among others. He highlighted that they have planned activities to engage with the communities when restrictions are lifted.
- ❖ He mentioned that the oceanographic survey will support the development of management options for the Pemba Channel.

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

- ❖ Prof Njiru mentioned that KMFRI is implementing two activities under the SAPPHIRE project namely; updating the marine ecosystem diagnostic analysis for Kenya and conducting oceanographic survey on the North Kenya Bank.
- ❖ He highlighted that the activity on MEDA is progressing well and the first draft MEDA was reviewed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and submitted to KMFRI for updating. He mentioned that the KMFRI will convene a national validation workshop and a meeting to finalize the drafting process.
- ❖ Prof Njiru mentioned that they have generated biotic and abiotic datasets of climate change variables that are likely to impact on the North Kenya Bank fisheries and their ecosystems after a 15 days cruise on board RV Mtafiti.
- ❖ He highlighted that they have mapped and will characterize the North Kenya Bank benthic habitat and determine larval dispersal and connectivity on the Bank.
- ❖ Prof Njiru mentioned that they are working to determine the geo-chronological accretion of the North Kenya Bank sediments through sediment core sampling and analysis in addition to determining Tana River plume dynamics.
- ❖ He mentioned that they will underscore socio-economic and governance issues related to the changes in the upwelling regimes of the North Kenya Bank.

South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

- ❖ Mr Alex Benkenstein expressed his gratitude to the PCU for the support during development of the framework for private sector engagement for the WIO region.
- ❖ He highlighted that the framework aims to reduce stress on the LME of the WIO region particularly in relation to water quality degradation, habitat modification and decline in marine resources.
- ❖ He mentioned that the framework is developed under the SAPPHIRE project with a primary focus on the Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties and other partners in the region who also engage with the private sector.
- ❖ Mr Benkenstein mentioned that they have delivered two outputs: i) an assessment report which looked at the status and activities of private sector partnerships in the key maritime sectors, environmental issues and private sector initiatives in the marine space; ii) the strategic framework. He highlighted they are in the final stages in developing the strategic framework which will be disseminated through different fora such as websites and the science to policy platform.
- ❖ He mentioned that the framework suggests the need for a platform (WIO Blue Economy Platform) that can serve as a mechanism for engagements around private sector partnerships, peer

learning, and reporting. He highlighted that the platform can be linked to a funding mechanism to support its activities and functions.

- ❖ Mr Benkenstein finalized by mentioning that there are brief concept notes on potential private sector partnerships that could be further developed either within SAPPHIRE or by the proposed blue economy platform.

Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

- ❖ On behalf of Dr Arthur Tuda, the executive secretary of WIOMSA, Tim highlighted that WIOMSA has been a key partner the Nairobi Convention and the SAPPHIRE project. He mentioned that WIOMSA has worked with the project to develop a background document on the status of ocean governance in the region as well as a monitoring framework for the region which is due in December 2020. He mentioned that the monitoring framework will seek to align national ecosystem monitoring to regional and global framework such as sustainable development goals and the Aichi targets.
- ❖ Tim highlighted that WIOMSA is working with the Secretariat in the preparation of the Science to Policy workshop scheduled for early 2021.
- ❖ He highlighted that discussions are underway with WIOMSA to assist with updating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis based on the MEDA reports leading to a combined Strategic Action Programme for the WIO region as requested by the Convention contacting parties.

Workplan and Budget for 2021

90. Tim mentioned that the Covid-19 pandemic has had unprecedented impacts on the contacting parties, and the work of UNEP and the Convention Secretariat during this year necessitating development of mitigation actions related to the projects that was circulated earlier this year.
91. He highlighted that progress has been made in the implementation of project activities, but some have been slowed down. He highlighted that in the light of these challenges 25% of the budget for 2020 has not been spent hence the need to roll it over to 2021.
92. He mentioned that there remain uncertainties in the next six months in terms of which activities can feasibly proceed on the ground.
93. Mr Hudson mentioned that the workplan and budget for 2021 should be presented as early as possible.

Tim mentioned that the PCU requests the PSC to consider allowing them to prepare a workplan and budget for 2021 and present it for approval at a PSC meeting in February of 2021

The request was proposed by Tanzania and seconded by Madagascar and Mauritius

Noting of demonstration projects submitted by the participating countries

94. Tim mentioned that the PSC should note that there are five proposals that have been submitted to the PCU by different countries which will be circulated to the focal points for final approval over the next month or two.

Co-financing reporting (participating countries commitment)

95. Tim emphasized that contracting parties committed to co-financing the project at approximately US\$311 million in addition to the overall GEF funding of US\$8.7 million.

96. He highlighted that the project has to track how the co-financing is being made. He highlighted that the PCU will prepare and share a template with the focal points to provide an update on the co-financing realizing that times have changed considerably, and different types of co-financing might have come up.

AOB

97. Mrs Nashreen Soogun (Mauritius) mentioned that due to some of the technical issues associated with virtual meetings, meeting documents including presentations should be shared with the participants before hand making it easy to follow even when technology fails.

98. Mr Nicolas Andriamboavonjy (Madagascar) suggested that the PSC meeting report be shared with all focal points since some joined the meeting late.

Closing Remarks

99. The chair thanked the participants for contributing during the meeting which was held during unusual times. She highlighted that online meetings cannot replace physical meetings, but it is an important to enable us to continue with work.

100. She thanked the participants on behalf of the Government of Kenya for the opportunity to chair the PSC meeting. She expressed hope that every focal point and partner was satisfied that the meeting had represented their views and interests in the project had been considered.

101. She welcomed Tim to the PCU and hoped that the momentum created by Mrs. Jimma will continue to realize the objectives and outcomes of the SAPPHIRE project within the project period and beyond.

102. The chair closed the meeting at 17h40 on behalf of the Government of Kenya.

Annex

1. Meeting Documents

The meeting documents presented/discussed during the second PSC meeting of the SAPPHIRE project can be accessed online by [clicking here](#).

2. Provisional Agenda

26 November 2020		
Time	Programme	Presenter/Facilitator
I. Opening Session		
15min	Opening Remark(s)	Nairobi Convention Secretariat, UNDP and Government of Kenya
II. Presentation and Discussion Session		
45min	Update on COVID-19 pandemic and its impact at national level and on the implementation of project activities by each Focal point	National Focal Points
15min	Review and approval of Annual Work Plan 2020 (as discussed at Focal Points meeting on 12 August)	Nairobi Convention Secretariat and National Focal Points
15min	Review of progress in project implementation and expenditure, and discussion	Nairobi Convention Secretariat and National Focal Points
10min	Presentation on the implementation of the JMA project between Mauritius and Seychelles	UNDP
05min	Break	All
25min	Presentation by Partners on ongoing initiatives: IMS, KMFRI, SAIIA and WIOMSA and discussion	Partners and National Focal Points
20min	Workplan and Budget for 2021	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
15min	Noting of demonstration projects submitted by the participating countries	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
05min	Co-financing reporting (participating countries commitment)	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
05min	AOB	All
III. Closing Session		
05min	Closing Remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat and UNDP

3. Meeting Participants

Focal points		
	Name	Email
Comoros	Mr. Ismael Bachirou	ismael_269@yahoo.com
	Mr. Ambadi Issouf Miradji	ambadi_issouf@yahoo.fr
Kenya	Mrs. Susan Otieno	saotieno@yahoo.com
Madagascar	Mr. Nicolas Andriamboavonjy	andriamboavonjynicolas1981@gmail.com
Mauritius	Mrs. Nashreen Soogun	nsoogun@govmu.org/nsoogun@gmail.com
Mozambique	Mr. Moniz Munguambe	munguambemoniz@gmail.com
Somalia	Mr. Abdirahman M. Osman	aosman.mfmr@gmail.com
	Mr Mohamud Abdullahi Abdirahman	dg@mfmr.gov.so
Tanzania	Ms. Ritha R. Said	ritha.said@nemc.or.tz/rithaminja@yahoo.com
Implementing Partners		
IMS	Prof Ntahondi Nyandwi	ntahondinyandwi@gmail.com
KMFRI	Prof James Njiru	jamnji@gmail.com / director@kmfri.co.ke
	Mr Harrison Ong'anda	hochieng2003@yahoo.com
	Dr. Joseph Kamau	josephkamau@yahoo.com
SAIIA	Mr. Alex Benkenstein	alex.benkenstein@saiia.org.za
UN Agencies		
UNDP	Mr Andrew Hudson	andrew.hudson@undp.org
	Mr Allen Vosrie Cedras	allen.cedras@undp.org
UNEP	Mrs. Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma	sinikinesh.jimma@un.org
Nairobi Convention Secretariat		
NCS	Mr Dixon Waruinge	dixon.waruinge@un.org
NCS	Dr Timothy Andrew	timothy.andrew@un.org
NCS	Dr Jared Bosire	jared.bosire@un.org
NCS	Mr Theuri Mwangi	theuri.mwangi@un.org
NCS	Ms Caroline Bii	caroline.cherotich@un.org
NCS	Mr Benard Inzilia	benard.inzilia@un.org
NCS	Mr. David Ouma	david.ouma@un.org
NCS	Mr Bonface Mutisya	bonface.mutisya@un.org