



Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel

(NOCAMO Project)

Project Steering Committee Meeting

29 January 2025

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Overall Project Progress

Context

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are implementing the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) funded project on "*Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NOCAMO) Project*". The NOCAMO project is supporting various interventions across the region to address scenarios for development to maximize the opportunities for sustainable development in the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC), based on preservation of the health of marine ecosystems as a foundation for future prosperity. In this regard, the project uses the holistic approach for Integrated Ocean Management and is assisting the countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14 on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The project covers the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC), and the beneficiaries of the project are Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Comoros.

The goal of the NOCAMO Project is to maintain and enhance the Northern Mozambique Channel's high biodiversity value coral reef and associated ecosystems through effective spatial management of marine uses, in particular, the oil and gas sector, to secure a sustainable future for coastal communities and economies. The project has four integrated components, each of which is intended to achieve different outcomes:

- ❖ Component 1: By 2026, the institutional and knowledge foundations are laid for the application of multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) across the NMC region,
- ❖ Component 2: By 2026, effective planning is promoted and best practices in the Oil & Gas sector are adopted by Governments and private sector champions, leading to mitigation of impacts of the sector to the biodiversity and ecosystem services in the NMC,
- ❖ Component 3: By 2026, community livelihoods and well-being are incrementally secured through the sharing and replication of best practices in community-based marine resource management,



Structure for Project implementation

The Project has established various structures to support implementation at various levels including:

The Project Management Unit: Based in Nairobi under the Executing Agency for overall project coordination represented as NCS for Component 1 and WWF France based in Paris, France, for Components 2 and 3.

Regional Task Forces and Working Groups: These are established to give necessary technical support to the project in different thematic areas relevant to the project such as the MSP Technical Working Group.

Project Steering Committee: The Project Steering Committee (PSC) plays a critical role in the monitoring and evaluation of the project to make sure that the results of evaluations are used for performance improvement, accountability and learning. The PSC is responsible for approving strategic decisions and annual work plans, setting project direction, reviewing progress of the project, and identifying additional funding for the implementation of the project. The Steering Committee also provides policy-level liaison to national governments, through Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committees about the implementation of the projects at country level.

Summary of Progress

Project Goal: By 2030, ecosystems and marine biodiversity of the NMC region are preserved through effective spatial management of marine activities, including the hydrocarbon sector, ensuring a sustainable future for coastal communities and economies of the region.

Component 1: By 2026, the institutional and knowledge foundations are laid for a multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process for the NMC.

This component is grounded in SDG 14 on Oceans and the ICZM Protocol of the Nairobi Convention. The overall aim is to build capacity within the participating countries, and at a coordination level in the Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS), to enable the implementation of an integrated approach to marine governance that will lead towards comprehensive spatial planning of marine uses in the future.

NCS completed the contractual procedures for the small-scale funding agreement with WWF Madagascar (WWF MDCO) in May 2023. NCS disbursed the first cash instalment to WWF MDCO as per the requirements of the SSFA in July 2023. The interim progress and expense reports as per the requirements of the SSFA were submitted to NCS by WWF MDCO in July 2024.

Outcome 1.1: The institutional bases for MSP are developed, the countries are engaged in the MSP process and share the same vision for the region's future.

Activity 1.1.1: Support the national consultations, as appropriate, in Madagascar, Mozambique, Comoros and Tanzania to build commitment for a regionally and nationally aligned MSP processes, and which is aligned with the regional voluntary commitments to SDG14 (implemented by WWF MDCO)

In response to a request made by the parties to the Nairobi Convention, the Secretariat through the Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) and Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme (WIO-SAP) Projects developed the WIO Regional Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group (WIO MSP TWG) in 2020 and further developed the [Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean](#) in 2021 with input from the MSP Technical Working Group and wider stakeholders in the WIO region.

WWF Madagascar in 2020 and 2021 supported national MSP consultations in Tanzania and Madagascar in their implementation of Activity 1.1.1 and Activity 1.3.1. The consultations assessed the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools (Activity 1.3.1). This work culminated in the development of MSP Scoping reports for [Madagascar](#) in 2021 and [Tanzania](#) in 2022. Following these consultations, stakeholders, in collaboration with WWF Madagascar and supported by the consultancy firm 'BE X2Z', completed a [maritime](#)

[diagnosis and prospective analysis](#) in April 2023 with co-financing from SIDA, as part of the development of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) tool for the Diana Region of the NMC. The main outcomes of the analysis were:

1. **Mapping of stakeholders and their respective interventions across the Diana region** (Diego, Ambilobe, Nosy Be and Ambanja). The mapping enlists the different stakeholders in the framework of the development of MSP in the DIANA Region, the organizations with which they collaborate and a ranking in descending order of the importance of the nature of their collaboration. Approximately 100 stakeholders were identified and consulted including governmental institutions, members of the private sector, NGOs and CSOs. The stakeholders were also assessed based on their leadership capacity and their convening power. The latter demonstrates that local administrations have the most power, followed by development project owners, and CSOs holding the least power.
2. **Development of a Compatibility chart between maritime activities in the region**, with an analysis of the interactions between resources and their uses. The chart presents the compatibility between different activities including ecosystems and natural resources, conservation and management, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, maritime transport, maritime infrastructure, oil and mining as well as environmental risks. The main outcome is the identification of potential conflicts between users.
3. **SWOT analysis of different sectors and themes** including natural resources and environment, maritime infrastructure and maritime equipment, governance as well as social and economic development.
4. **A report of the diagnostic analysis and the regional maritime atlas** as well as updated information for each thematic area of the maritime atlas. In Tanzania, WWF Tanzania (WWF TCO) in collaboration with CSIRO Australia and TNC Tanzania, organized an inaugural meeting for the technical committee on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for Tanzania in March 2022. The technical document (available [here](#)) was approved through a national validation workshop held in March 2023.

Through this process, WWF started to support the MSP stakeholder platforms in these countries to mainstream sustainability principles in their respective MSP process, while raising awareness on the importance of ensuring coherence of national approaches on MSP and contributing and linking to the regional MSP process by the Nairobi Convention (cf. Activity.1.1.2).

In November 2023, WWF Madagascar co-organized a side event with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS), at the [Marine Regions Forum](#) in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania to highlight the value of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) region, the need for a shared vision and role of the project to support governments from NMC countries. WWF also took advantage of the Forum to hold a technical meeting with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and NC Focal Points to present the NoCaMo project, its progress and discuss the way forward. This meeting facilitated a common understanding of the NoCaMo project among WWF, the NCS and the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and to agree on a shared work plan to obtain a regionally and nationally aligned MSP process.



The NoCaMo project was further presented at the Science to Policy Platform of the Nairobi Convention in Maputo, Mozambique in December 2023, where the rationale for the NMC eco-region was presented as well as key recommendations for a way forward. A number of these recommendations were presented and discussed at the NC Partners and Focal point meeting in Durban, South Africa in February 2024 and adopted for presentation at the 11th Committee of Parties of the Nairobi Convention to take place in Madagascar in August 2024.

On 14-15th May 2024, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and WWF co-organized a workshop to develop a regional MSP vision and roadmap for the NMC region so as to ensure coherence with existing frameworks and strategies for the WIO recently endorsed by the Nairobi Convention. The workshop was facilitated by consultants from the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR) - Nelson Mandela University (NMU), contracted to conduct an analysis and study for the design of a regional vision, roadmap and technical guideline aimed to support the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the NMC region. Workshop participants included NCS, NC focal points, MSP national coordinators and representatives from MSP Technical Working Groups from Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The outcomes of this workshop include:

- An agreed draft common vision for the regional MSP of the NMC region: “A sustainable future where healthy ecosystems support, and are supported by thriving local communities and a vibrant economy which optimises the value of ocean resources within the NMC over the long-term without jeopardising the use for future generations”
- Practical recommendations for the development of a roadmap from participating stakeholders, taking into account the different challenges and opportunities to the development of MSP in the region: harmonised governance, harmonised MSP processes, Integrated Ocean Management, poverty reduction through and inclusive SBE and capacity building
- MSP readiness assessment was conducted for each NMC country
- Review of NMC scenarios, which is an update of Activity 1.2.3 (Develop a set of scenarios for the NMC with respect to future developments in key economic sectors, demographics and climate change patterns).

Reports are available [here](#). Previous achievements under this activity can be found [here](#).

This activity is conducted in conjunction with Activities 1.3.2. and 1.3.3 below. Please refer to activities 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 below for further updates.

Activity 1.1.2: Guide and support national multi-sectoral and multi-actor platforms to mainstream sustainability principles in their respective MSP process; and support the future regional MSP platform to ensure coherence of national approaches on MSP (*implemented by WWF MDCO*)

Activities under 1.1.2 are implemented in conjunction with Activities 1.1.1 and 1.3.3 by ensuring sustainability principles are mainstreamed into the respective MSP processes of NMC countries.

The SWIO/ NMCi Coordination Unit of WWF MDCO conducted a workshop in November 2022 to deliver capacity strengthening of national CSO coalitions around MSP, integrated ocean



management and governance. The main outcome of this workshop is that CSOs and WWF have strengthened their knowledge on WWF's social policies, environmental and social safeguards principles, and social cross-cutting issues (gender, HRBA, Conflict). This was mainly achieved through a sharing session during which CSOs expressed their understanding of cross-cutting issues as well as the challenges and needs for their successful implementation. Experience exchanges on best practices from each country also enabled CSOs to learn from each other, in particular in terms of principles, policies and tools for the implementation of cross-cutting issues in regard to the MSP process.

The MSP Technical Working Group is functional with members drawn from the larger WIO regional MSP TWG. The members participate in MSP activities under 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.3.3.

Reports are available [here](#).

Activity 1.1.3: Establish links with relevant regional bodies, including Regional Economic Commissions (IOC, SADC, EAC, COMESA, RFMOs) (implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat)

NCS participated in a meeting with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in December 2023 in Maputo, Mozambique that was held back-to-back with the [WIO Science-to-policy meeting](#). The outcomes of the meeting alignment of work around blue economy development in the WIO, and agreement on policy directions and key issues in the Nairobi Convention Area to inform the Convention's workplan and COP decisions.

In June 2024, NCS participated in the [Regional Ocean Governance Meeting](#) in Swakopmund, Namibia. The meeting was a platform to continue engaging the RECs (Regional Economic Communities) and updating them on ongoing activities in the NMC as key stakeholders in the region.

Later, in October 2024, NCS also participated in the project Steering Committee Meeting of AU-IBAR's Advancing Africa's Blue Economy Project in Mombasa, Kenya. These engagements led to enhanced collaboration between the NOCAMO project and AU-IBAR in supporting MSP activities in the NMC.

Activity 1.1.4: Facilitate experience exchanges with relevant regional conventions (e.g. HELCOM, Barcelona conv.) as well as other ongoing regional IOM processes (Regional Seas, Oceanscapes, etc) (implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat)

NCS is working with the Regional Seas Coordinator at global level (Ecosystems Integration Branch). This activity is undertaken with the guidance of the coordinator of Regional Seas. The Last important meeting during which the Regional Seas Secretariats were convened was during the Marine Region Forum in Dar Es Salam on 5 to 7 of November 2023. A side event for NOCAMO, was an opportunity for NCS and implementing partners to showcase the project to stakeholders and interested parties such as other Regional Seas Conventions that were convened. Another meeting convening all the Regional Seas Secretariats had taken place in Barbados, the Global Annual Meeting for the Regional Seas (20 to 23 November 2023).

In May 2024, representatives from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management participated in the consultative MSP workshop in the NMC to share their experiences and best

practices while developing and implementing the MSP process for the Barcelona Convention. These insights provided an opportunity for shared learning and experience exchanges with the Barcelona Convention.

Communication such as stories and upcoming events are done via the Regional Seas Unit and the Nairobi Convention's weekly newsletters, providing updates for the NOCAMO project to all the Regional Seas Conventions and other regional IOM processes and facilitating experience exchange with other Regional Seas Programs.

In October 2024, NCS and WWF Madagascar commenced discussions on the development of a concept to support the Digital Twinning of the NMC ocean region that will be supported by GEMS Oceans, a unit under the Climate Information and Early Warning Systems unit of UNEP. The initiative is aimed at developing a tool to support the advancement of MSP in the NMC region.

In December, 2024, NCS participated in the WIO MSP International Training Program (ITP) Workshop in Mombasa, Kenya to present the goals, objectives and achievements from the NOCAMO project especially the development of an MSP vision and roadmap for the NMC and the technical guidelines for MSP in the NMC.

Activity 1.1.5 Support additional capacity in the NCS for a regional coordinating role in support of project implementation and guiding the MSP process (*implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat*)

In December 2023, NCS recruited a technical expert based at the Convention to provide technical support to ongoing initiatives within the Northern Mozambique Channel.

The Terms of Reference were established to facilitate the recruitment of a technical consultant to join the NOCAMO project to support additional capacity of the Convention for coordinating and guiding MSP processes in the region. The position has been advertised unsuccessfully twice in 2024. The first round of applications failed to shortlist a candidate who met all requirements of the call, the second round of applications shortlisted a candidate who was not available for the assignment prompting a re-advertisement of the position. The third round of applications concluded with an applicant being shortlisted for the position. Contractual procedures for onboarding the consultant are currently being finalised.

Outcome 1.2: Knowledge elements and decision support tools are available for well-informed decisions.

Activity 1.2.1: Establish a dedicated interactive/online atlas that harmonizes, collects and shares data across natural, social, economic, and governance capitals (*implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat*)

Over the reporting period, NCS had formal engagements with ESRI Inc and their affiliate, ESRI EA to establish the modalities of establish the online atlas. The Description of Service and Project Concept have been developed and agreed upon.



There has been a delay in the procurement of this service due to a pending review of the existing contract between UNEP and ESRI Inc and delays in extension of ESRI Inc's Conservation Grant that would see the Secretariat benefit from discounted rates when procuring the necessary licenses needed to establish the online atlas.

NCS has shortlisted a consultant to develop the dedicated online atlas and is in the process of procuring one additional licence from ESRI Inc is ongoing, following the renewal of the Long-Term Agreement between UNEP and ESRI Inc.

Activity 1.2.2: Map and value coastal and marine goods and services in the NMC region and connect them with the national Natural Capital accounts (*implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat*)

This activity was meant to be implemented by Conservation International (CI), however, CI later withdrew from the project. The Project Steering Committee Meeting in December 2023 determined that the activity should proceed under the Convention with possible contracting of Prime Africa Institute to undertake the work.

WWF Madagascar, through NORAD co-financing have additionally committed funds to support this activity. NCS and WWF Madagascar co-developed Terms of Reference for the assignment and contractual procedures between UNEP and Prime Africa Institute, and between Prime Africa Institute and WWF Madagascar were concluded.

Prime Africa has submitted the Inception report, and a Systems Description and Comparative Ecological Risk Assessment Progress Report as part of its deliverables.

Activity 1.2.3: Develop a set of scenarios for the NMC with respect to future developments in key economic sectors, demographics and climate change patterns

This activity was completed around 2017-2018. At that time, CORDIO, Reos Partners and WWF jointly developed the "Scenarios for the future of the Northern Mozambique Channel" in a participatory way in the region. The Scenarios took a year to be finalized and the discussions amongst regional stakeholders have mainly occurred over three regional workshops (organized by WWF in different WIO countries in May and November 2017, March 2018). The Scenarios form an important tool to support decision-making by governments and aim at facilitating the prioritization and implementation of the SDG 14.

The related process and outputs (booklet, videos, etc.) can be found at: <https://cordioea.net/nmc/scenarios/> and <https://www.wiofutures.net/>

In order to share and promote the Scenarios approach and outcomes to support regional cross-sectoral dialogues around sustainable ocean governance in the WIO, CORDIO and WWF have developed a policy paper recommending the use of the Scenarios with regards to efforts for achieving SDG 14 goals and related country and regional Voluntary Commitments. This paper has been presented at the Nairobi Convention Science to Policy Forum (as a preparatory meeting to the COP9) in South Africa in July 2018. During that forum, the WWF also presented a white paper on the future multi-partner FFEM project that aims at promoting MSP and sustainable community management in the NMC area (the NoCaMo project).

As the activity was completed in 2018, no more action was made under this activity, which was co-funded by WWF. The follow-up continued under act. 1.2.4 described hereafter.

The scenarios are continuously presented to and updated by MSP stakeholders in the NMC to keep them relevant. As part the consultancy work conducted by the NMU team, the future scenarios have been updated following the stakeholder engagement workshop in May 2024 in Maputo. The updated report is accessible [here](#).

Activity 1.2.4: Assess the specific implications for each scenario in terms of blue economy potential and the SDG 14 targets

In synergy with the Conservation International (CI), who led the completion of activity 1.2.2, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) contributed to achieve the Objective 1 of the NoCaMo project in leading this activity 1.2.4.

TNC aimed at assessing the effects of 4 conceptual future Scenarios (from the “Scenarios for the future of the Northern Mozambique Channel”) on ecosystem services and at evaluating broader implications for blue economy and sustainable development targets. To accomplish this, TNC used existing data sets, adapted global models of ecosystem services as well as information gathered from stakeholder meetings with scientists and others in the wider NMC area. Regional discussions were held for TNC to understand the specific linkages between the Scenarios, drivers of change to coastal ecosystems and resulting value of ecosystem goods and services. Following this, they developed a series of scenario-adjusted models to illustrate a range of ecological and social conditions represented in the scenarios¹.

The above cited final findings and outputs were presented by TNC to the regional stakeholders in December 2021. CORDIO and WWF have supported TNC in this endeavour, which was made possible through WWF’s co-funding.

TNC is no longer in capacity to provide an expert to work on the extension of the activity. The budget provided by FFEM is therefore unspent.

The PSC meeting in 2023 resolved to re-allocate these funds to support the mapping and valuation of ecosystem goods and services in the NMC (Activity 1.2.2).

Outcome 1.3: A regional framework for MSP in the NMC region has been developed and validated through a multi-stakeholder process.

Activity 1.3.1: Assess the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools and institutional arrangements, their gaps and potential points of conflict (*implemented by WWF MDCO*)

¹ Albert, D. (2021). *Assessing the implications of future scenarios on ecosystem services in the Northern Mozambique Channel, and contribution to blue economy and sustainable development targets: Draft Scenario Adjustment Tables*. Juneau Alaska, USA: The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The scoping study was completed in December 2021 for Madagascar², and in February 2022 for Tanzania³.

For this work, WWF Madagascar commissioned a consultancy firm called One Ocean Hub (or OOH) from August 2021. The consultancy team is composed of experts from the University of Nelson Mandela (South Africa) and University of Strathclyde (UK) and is the same one which has developed the regional MSP strategy for the Nairobi Convention (under final comments by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat).

In Madagascar, WWF agreed with the government departments (leading the MSP process) and consultants to first conduct a scoping phase for the above work (i.e. assessing the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools (or STMTs)). It consisted of a study to assess the feasibility of developing a methodological tool that will enhance the contribution of existing STMTs in the future national MSP process of two selected NMC countries. Based on the available project resource, the NoCaMo partners agreed to focus this work on two countries only. Some criteria were developed to select the countries, and the selection result was: Madagascar and Mozambique. However, due to the complex nature of the institutional setup in Mozambique at the time of selection, the NoCaMo partners decided to conduct the work in Tanzania instead.

For Madagascar and Tanzania, the key results of the scoping study respectively include:

1. A snapshot of the relevant governance context in the country:
 - a) Ecological, socio-economic and political contexts
 - b) Presentation of current STMTs and related legal framework
 - c) Identification of constraints and enablers to STMTs.

2. The identification of how STMTs can contribute to the development of MSP:
 - a) Emphasize the connectivity and linkages between different STMTs
 - b) Contribution to socio-economic objectives
 - c) Mitigation of the effects of climate change
 - d) Coordinated MSP legislation
 - e) Cross-sectoral and cross-ministerial MSP collaboration
 - f) Guidelines for blue economy activities and investment portfolios

For Tanzania, the members of the first working group of stakeholders (approx. 50 participants) have been identified. Similar to the Madagascar case, this small working group was gathered during a workshop in Dodoma, Tanzania on 14th – 16th December 2021. The different stakeholders convened to review and validate the situational report prepared by the OOH consultants, but also to discuss modalities to kick start the national MSP process in Tanzania.

Activity 1.3.2: Based on the preferred scenario, develop an initial MSP roadmap for the region, providing recommendations for temporal and spatial management measures, incentive schemes and institutional arrangements, as a framework for national-level MSP/ICZM processes (implemented by WWF MDCO)

²Madagascar deliverables available [here](#)

³ Tanzania deliverables available [here](#)

In March 2024, WWF contracted the consultants from Nelson Mandela University (NMU) to conduct an analysis and the design of a regional vision, roadmap and technical guidelines to support the implementation of the MSP for the NMC region.

This activity is implemented in conjunction with Activities 1.3.2 and 1.3.3. As such, the outcomes are described under Activity 1.3.3. The next steps require more consultative processes to finalise the regional vision and roadmap as well as to develop technical guidelines to support the implementation of a Marine Spatial Planning.

Activity 1.3.3: Support national and regional level consultative processes to validate the regional MSP technical guideline, with a particular focus on integration with national level (MSP/ICZM) decision processes (*implemented by WWF MDCO*)

This activity is implemented in conjunction with Activities 1.1.1 and 1.3.2.

On 13th and 14th August, WWF MDCO co-organised workshop with AU-IBAR and NCS in Dar es Salaam to validate the MSP vision and roadmap as well as kick-start the development of MSP technical guidelines. The participation of representatives from entities involved with MSP in the NMC region was observed including the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Nairobi Convention Focal Points (Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Madagascar and Comoros), members of the MSP technical working group in the NMC region, members of the MSP national coordinators in the NMC region as well as other NGOs (Wildtrust, CORDIO and TNC).

The outcomes of the workshop are:

- Validated vision, goal and roadmap for the implementation of MSP in the NMC region
- Agreed geographical scope of the NMC region (Madagascar, Comoros, United Republic of Tanzania, Mozambique and the Southern part of the Seychelles)
- Agreement on the members of the MSP Technical Working Group for the NMC region – which are the same members of the MSP TWG for the WIO region
- Co-developed a draft of the technical guidelines for the implementation of MSP in the NMC region

The MSP technical guidelines are currently undergoing distribution at the national level, where the National Coordinating Focal Points are gathering feedback and suggestions for enhancement from relevant stakeholders and governmental departments. The subsequent step involves a validation workshop of the MSP technical guidelines in early 2025.

The progress with the NMC MSP process (vision and roadmap) was presented by WWF, and got feedback from participants, at the 7th International Marine Conservation Congress (Cape Town, 13-18th October).

Component 2: By 2026, effective planning is promoted and best practices in the Oil & Gas sector are adopted by Governments and private sector champions, leading to mitigation of impacts of the sector to the biodiversity and ecosystem services in the NMC

Outcome 2.1: Policy and application of law are strengthened to implement regulation of the oil and gas sector in countries in the NMC region (implemented by WCS)

Activity 2.1.1: Development of an online Marine Biodiversity Atlas that can support decision-makers (relevant Ministries) to adequately implement the environmental and Oil & Gas regulations (implemented by WCS Mozambique)

This activity is completed. The Marine Biodiversity Atlas for Mozambique has been populated with relevant data and is available online, see here: <https://wcs-global.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b8aa324c46294cd8a685c50771b05828>. See below for a screengrab of the Marine Biodiversity Atlas. The Marine Biodiversity Atlas was officially launched and is now available on the National Biodiversity Information System SIBMOZ (www.sibmoz.gov.mz, see the video [here](#)) for use by government, private sector, and CSOs for marine spatial planning and other purposes. Work is currently underway to update SIBMOZ, which includes the introduction of an English version of the website and the creation of a dedicated webpage on marine biodiversity, where the marine biodiversity atlas will play a prominent role.

Activity 2.1.2: Undertake a national policy gap analysis related to development of marine infrastructure and industry (implemented by WCS Madagascar)

This activity is completed. The report, entitled “Analyse des lacunes des politiques nationales en matière de sauvegarde environnementale et sociale pour les projets de développement des infrastructures bâties et de l’industrie affectant les écosystèmes marins et côtiers à Madagascar” was written by the company RESOLVE. The report contains the following recommendations:

- Reinforce the role of ONE in the administration of the environmental evaluation and permitting system.
- Legislate for MSP and support its application within critical seascapes according to ICZM principles, supported by spatial management plans.
- Adjustment of policies and texts for the improvement of environmental and social protections and safeguards with a view to the mitigation hierarchy.
- A road map should be developed to deliver the necessary legal, policy and other measures to enhance environmental and social protection and safeguards for infrastructure projects and industrial activities affecting marine and coastal areas.
- We recommend that advantage should be taken of the ongoing ‘blue economy’ process to ensure that necessary measures are taken to improve safeguards for built infrastructure and industries in coastal areas.

A specific initiative should be taken to integrate improved practices within the master plan for the upgrading of the ports of Madagascar, for which EIAs are currently being planned.

Activity 2.1.3: Undertake a national policy gap analysis related to development of marine infrastructure and industry (implemented by WCS Tanzania and FFI)

This activity is completed. A report, entitled “A report on the policy and legislation gap analysis of oil and gas industry to marine biodiversity in Tanzania” was written by the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy.

Outcome 2.2. Tailored guidance of best practices leading to the protection of priority biodiversity and ecosystem services of the NMC area, are proposed for the development and evaluation of environmental case law for oil and gas exploration and exploitation (baseline, EIA, SEA...), and for the development of MSP related to oil and gas initiatives

Activity 2.2.1: Selection of the biodiversity components for which the guidelines should be developed and support on its development (implemented by FFI)

This activity is completed. Consultation workshops were conducted in Madagascar, Mozambique, and Tanzania and then a process of additional expert consultation means that the final selection of biodiversity components could be completed with “coral reef”, “marine mammals”, and “sea turtles” the final selection for which guidelines will be developed. High-level categories were used rather than individual species to allow for flexibility when implementing guidance at the national level. This would allow species to be selected that are relevant to the country and/or national priority when implementing the guidance that is to be developed for the channel and applied by Mozambique, Madagascar and Tanzania.

Table 1: Results of selection of biodiversity components. Those highlighted in green were the final selected biodiversity components.

Biodiversity Features	Impacts O&G		Composite indicator						Mean
			Mozambique		Madagascar		Tanzania		
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	
Coral reef	102	5	1060	4	1188	1	1296	1	1,181
Marine mammals	105	1	1177	2	888	3	981	5	1,015
Sea turtles	103	3	1166	3	763	5	1070	3	1,000
Seagrasses	97	6	981	7	918	2	1030	4	976
Artisanal fishery/mariculture	103	3	954	6	864	4	1090	2	969
Sharks/Rays	78	9	972	5	664	6	924	6	853
Dugong	105	1	1308	1	540	9	642	9	830
High-seas fisheries	80	8	830	8	581	7	840	7	750
Seabirds	88	7	828	9	460	11	744	8	677
Mangrove	52	11	522	10	522	10	522	11	522
Coastal wetland	53	10	290	11	570	8	590	10	483

Activity 2.2.2: Review of international best practices (implemented by FFI)

This activity was incorporated into the report detailing best practice guidelines (Activity 2.2.3).

Activity 2.2.3: Develop best practice guidance adapted to the context of the NCM for EIAs, SEAs, MSPs and Biodiversity Action Plans for technicians from regulatory bodies, taking into account priorities for the protection of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services (implemented by FFI)

This activity is completed. A report detailing best practice was completed by FAUNA & FLORA. The report benefitted from feedback obtained during joint FAUNA & FLORA-WCS trainings held in Madagascar and Mozambique. The report presents a compilation of existing resources on best practices to mitigate impacts in the oil and gas sector followed by a conceptualization of



the Mitigation Hierarchy as a strategic tool designed to reduce impacts on biodiversity and to balance conservation with developmental needs. It contains a detailed description of the selected biodiversity features that it targets, and specific guidelines for those priority biodiversity features, and concrete measures that oil and gas projects must address in response to an adequate application of the mitigation hierarchy. Three versions of the report have been produced, in English, French, and Portuguese.

Outcome 2.3: Governments, regional organizations and CSOs/NGOs have increased capacity to implement best-practice policy and guidelines for oil and gas developments in the NMC region

Activity 2.3.1: National training of regulatory agencies, project developers, Oil & Gas companies and other sectors on how to apply the mitigation hierarchy to avoid significant impacts of development projects on priority marine and coastal biodiversity, with focus on the guidelines developed under activity 2.2.1. (implemented by WCS Mozambique)

This activity is completed. In August 2022, WCS Mozambique provided training to stakeholders in the private sector (especially project developers in the oil and gas sector) on the implementation of a new ministerial diploma on biodiversity offsets. The training focused on the application of impacts mitigation and offsets. The training also included a specific session on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) mainstreaming, focusing on how the private sector can make a contribution to conserve biodiversity for which KBAs are important, and on how to manage risk on biodiversity in case of implementing projects in or around a KBA according to international guidelines. On 17 and 18 April 2024, a training course was held with the aim of providing environmental consultants, project developers (including from the Oil & Gas sector) and members of the recently created 'Technical-Scientific Unit to Support Biodiversity Offsets' (UTC) with the tools and information needed to apply the Ministerial Diploma on biodiversity offsets in the context of the mitigation hierarchy in Mozambique. In addition, this training fostered dialogue and the exchange of experiences between the different players involved in the EIA process and biodiversity management in Mozambique and was attended by 47 in person participants and 62 online participants covering the Oil & Gas sector and many other sectors (see more [here](#)). On May 16 and 17, 2024 WCS, in coordination with FAUNA & FLORA, organized a training course with the aim of developing capacities in the application of the regional guideline with best practices for mitigating potential negative impacts in the oil and gas sector, for three sensitive biodiversity features, namely: coral reefs, sea turtles and marine mammals (Activity 2.2.3). This training was attended by 50 participants representing different sectors, including regulatory agencies (the central government and representatives of the environment sector from all the coastal provinces), academia, SCOs and the private sector (developers and environmental consultants, with main focus on the Oil & gas sector) (see more [here](#)). From 18 to 20 June 2024, a complementary training course was organised in the city of Beira to train around 25 government technicians from the environment sector in the central region of the country regarding the role of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in spatial planning, land use planning and environmental impact assessment, as well as the functionalities and management of the Environmental Licensing Management Platform (SGLA), with application to the Oil & Gas sector and several other sectors (see more [here](#)).



Activity 2.3.2: Training to the national civil society platform for the extractive industry to increase its capacity on impact mitigation on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Implemented by WCS Mozambique)

This activity is completed. In February 2023, WCS Mozambique provided training to CSOs on the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy and the new Ministerial Diploma on Biodiversity offsets. The event was attended by 45 participants belonging to civil society platforms, including: Platform on Natural Resources and Extractive Industry (PIE), Forum of Civil Society Organizations for the Marine and Coastal Area (FOSCAMC), Mozambican Civil Society Organizations Forum for Wildlife (FOFABRAVIA), National Forest Forum (FNF), and Association of Journalists for Biodiversity Conservation (AJOCOM). In addition, relevant CSO platforms, most notably the Platform on Natural Resources and Extractive Industry (PIE), Forum of Civil Society Organizations for the Marine and Coastal Area (FOSCAMC,) also benefited from the training carried out in collaboration with the F&F on tailored guidance of best practices for mitigating the impacts of the O&G sector on coral reefs, mammals and marine turtles described in Activity 2.3.1.

Activity 2.3.3: Build capacity of government, private sector and civil society personnel on use and implementation of good practice guidance (implemented by WCS Madagascar)

This activity is completed. During the week of 6th May 2024 in Nosy Be (Northwest of Madagascar), FAUNA & FLORA and WCS jointly organized and delivered a multi-day training on the application of the good practice guidelines developed by FAUNA & FLORA to build the capacity of government, private sector, and civil society. The training was attended by 30 participants including representatives from National Government (Ministry of Mining, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of fisheries), MPA managers, regional authorities, civil societies, NGO and university representatives (Tafomihaavo, Blue Ventures, Cétamada, Madagascar National Parks, Antananarivo University, Transparency International, APMF, ONE, CNRO).

Activity 2.3.4: Build national capacities to adopt best practice guidelines and improved policy (implemented by WCS Tanzania)

This Activity is completed. During June 2024, WCS organized a consultation and training on the policy gap analysis and best practice guidelines in Tanzania.

Activity 2.3.5: Development of a national roadmap on policy recommendations and adoption of good practice guidance (implemented by WCS Madagascar)

This activity is completed. In Madagascar, WCS contracted "RESOLVE consulting" to undertake this work and received the final report in June 2024. The national roadmap for Madagascar aims to establish a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) or No Net Loss (NNL) system over a ten-year period, based on prior studies and consultations. This initiative focuses on built infrastructure and marine and coastal industries and seeks to harmonize the existing regulatory framework with international practices and environmental performance standards to achieve BNG/NNL in the marine and coastal environment. It is closely aligned with and builds upon the government's existing plans and strategies focused on the terrestrial domain. The roadmap outlines six phases, as follows:



- Phase 1: Engagement and Outreach (Year 1-2)
- Phase 2: Training of National Cluster Members and Information Sharing (Year 2-3)
- Phase 3: Technical and Legislative Revisions (Year 3-4)
- Phase 4-5: Application of measures integrating the Mitigation Hierarchy (MH) (Year 4-8)
- Phase 6: Evaluation and Expansion (Year 5 and Year 9-10)

Activity 2.3.6: Improve regional and global uptake of good practice related to marine infrastructure and industry through public outreach (implemented by WCS East Africa, Madagascar, and Western Indian Ocean Regional Office)

This activity is completed. Public outreach was conducted using social media to raise awareness of trainings conducted in Mozambique and Madagascar (reported above). In addition, with feedback received on the best practice guidelines developed by FAUNA & FLORA, versions of the best practice guidelines with high production value have been created in French (Madagascar), Portuguese (Mozambique), and English (Tanzania), which will be distributed to relevant stakeholders.

Component 3: By 2026, community livelihoods and well-being are incrementally secured through the sharing and replication of best practices in community-based marine resource management

Outcome 3.1: Establish a CBNRM learning network across the SWIO region

Activity 3.1.1: Map learning and training institutions and compile identified effective practice models.

This activity is completed. The mapping of learning and training institutions across the Northern Mozambique Channel was done by consultant Harifidy Ralison through the desktop work entitled Review of CBNRM to Support the Development of a Learning Network for Local Communities in the SWIO Region. This review, co-financed by the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP), combined interviews and consultations of relevant partners and training institutions in the region to lay the ground for the design of such a regional marine Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) learning network, which will strengthen coastal communities' capacities in the long-term sustainable management of marine resources. A total of 35 key actors including 10 NGOs, 10 CSOs, and 15 institutions across Academia and Training organisations were consulted. This study provides the perception of these key actors and combines it with findings from a literature search. Regarding effective practices, the report provides lists of identified effective practices and models for community-based natural resources management, along with recommendations on policy, community-led governance, small-scale fisheries, effective ecosystem management, socio-economic resilience, cross-cutting field, data, and the institutional setup of the regional learning network.

Activity 3.1.2: Assess capacity building needs of the coastal communities

This activity is completed. The desktop review entitled Review of CBNRM to Support the Development of a Learning Network for Local Communities in the SWIO Region reported under Activity 3.1.1, completed by consultant Harifidy Ralison with co-funding from MACP, was also assessing capacity building needs of the coastal communities across the Northern Mozambique Channel. The second part of this review provides an outline of communities' capacity needs, the overarching findings of which shed light on the insufficient understanding of communities' capacity needs by the organisations supporting local communities. This is mainly because 1) these organisations do not do enough deep listening and observations, and 2) the project-based approach and lack of coordination amongst partners end up in ineffective capacity-building support. The report lists identified capacity needs, paired with suggested solutions to support the improvement of policy influence, community-led governance, small-scale fisheries, ecosystem management and conservation, and socioeconomic resilience.

Activity 3.1.3: Convene a regional workshop to establish a learning network and share effective practice

This activity is completed. A regional workshop was held in Diani, Kenya on July 16-19, 2024 co-organised by CORDIO, WWF, WIOMSA, IUCN, and WRTI, with additional funds from MACP through WWF and WIOMSA. Convening 32 participants from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, and Comoros, this workshop aimed to initiate the establishment of a regional learning network for community-led natural resources management in the WIO. Findings from the report Review of CBNRM to Support the Development of a Learning Network for Local Communities in the SWIO Region mentioned in Activity 3.1.1 were designed to support the process of this workshop. Throughout the workshop, key partners have been identified and a roadmap to the establishment of such a learning network has been drawn. Outcomes from this regional workshop, like the proposed setup of this regional CBNRM learning network were included in the third part of the desktop review. During this workshop, the findings of the desktop review reported under Activity 3.1.1. and 3.1.2 were presented therefore providing an opportunity for validation of the review findings with the participants and actors involved.

On October 13, 2024, WWF and CORDIO convened a workshop at the 7th International Marine Conservation Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss and align the efforts of NGOs and academics supporting the strengthening of LMMAs in the WIO. Bringing together 37 participants, this workshop leveraged two ongoing applied research initiatives coordinated by WWF and CORDIO to set the baseline for the current governance status of LMMAs, and their potential to be recognised as Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs). Opportunities to strengthen these two pieces of research were discussed, as well as ongoing initiatives to address the needs the two reports highlighted. It concluded with tangible ideas on how NGOs and academics could strengthen collaborations and collectively support strengthening LMMA governance, linking directly with the above-mentioned regional learning network being set up. A workshop report is being finalised, summarising key discussions during the day and presenting concrete ideas on how the NGO and academic coalition can help move collaborative efforts forward.

Activity 3.1.4: Establish an online portal and platform to enable access to learning material, tool kits, guides, etc. and access to a community of practice

Implementing partners have already been running their local online platforms, enhancing national accessibility to CBNRM resources in Comoros, Madagascar and Tanzania.

This collaborative approach will contribute to the broader goal of creating a shared, easily accessible knowledge base. As part of Activity 3.1.3, during the regional learning network workshop in Diani, an inventory of existing learning and training materials across the region was initiated. This effort is laying the groundwork for the of an online portal and platform to facilitate access to learning materials, toolkits, guides, and a community of practice.

Outcome 3.2: Undertake learning activities to accelerate impact beyond project timeframe

Activity 3.2.1: Establish a shared vision of CBNRM through a shared Theory of Change

A shared vision for CBNRM in the region was co-developed by WWF and CORDIO in 2022 during the WIOMSA Symposium. A Theory of Change is being finalized and was to be adopted



at the regional learning network workshop in 2024. Sea Sense, AIDE, AMA, and MIHARI are actively involved in establishing and strengthening learning networks in their respective regions.

Activity 3.2.2: Summarise evidence to support the ToC, identify key assumptions and summarise evidence to support these

This activity will consolidate evidence supporting the Theory of Change, identify key assumptions, and implement a participatory Component monitoring system. Regional exchanges, workshops, and dissemination of good practices among communities are ongoing to foster understanding and documentation of successful approaches to sustainable practices.

Activity 3.2.3: Identify most promising CBNRM models and facilitate learning exchanges to learn together

Identification of the most promising CBNRM models was done at local levels by the implementing partners in Comoros, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Tanzania. Identified practices were compiled and evaluated through the consultancy reported under Activity 3.1.1. Learning exchanges and training sessions on sustainable fisheries management, illegal fishing practices, and other key areas were conducted throughout the project period to support knowledge transfer among community members.

Table 2: Estimated number of beneficiaries through learning activities, knowledge sharing, and peer-to-peer exchanges supported by NOCAMO.

Activity	Category	Men	Women	Total
Annual Learning network-Kenya-December 2021	Community	363	195	558
Peer-to-peer exchange-Kenya-March-April 2022	Community	128	87	215
Regional learning exchange (Kenya (25), Tanzania (26), Mozambique (1))-May 2023		27	26	53
Regional Learning Network-July 2024	CSOs, Government	16	15	31
WIO LMMA Forum-September 2024	CSO/Communities	3	3	6
Totals		537	326	863
Seasense-Tanzania	Community groups			20
AIDE-Comoros	Community groups			19
AMA	Community groups			2

Activity 3.2.4: Write case studies



The documentation of case studies on successful CBNRM models and practices will be undertaken in the first half of 2025. This activity aims to provide comprehensive insights into the impact of project activities, participatory monitoring Components, and the evolution of tools and practices in the region.

Expected PSC Decisions

1. Approval of overall progress in implementation of the NOCAMO project for 2024