

Fifth WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting

9th November 2021

Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams

Report

I. Introduction

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are implementing the GEF funded project on 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities' (WIOSAP). The WIOSAP project implemented by UNEP and executed by the Nairobi Convention is supporting various interventions across the region to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and to sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems. WIOSAP is largely based on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) that was developed by the project 'Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean' (WIO-LaB).

During its implementation, the WIOSAP project has made various achievements ranging from support to on-ground demo projects on various thematic areas (namely: ecosystem restoration, marine spatial planning, MPA management, climate change, ICZM, water quality improvement, river flows assessments and management), development of key regional Guidelines and Toolkits, strengthening science to policy dialogues, capacity building, influencing key policy interventions and enhancing pipeline funding for sustainability. However, the COVID pandemic significantly disrupted especially demo projects implementation due to lock downs and restrictions on travel imposed by governments across the region during 2020 and half of 2021 to contain the spread of the pandemic. Consequently, demo projects lost up to one year of implementation time. With restrictions now eased, implementation of demo projects has picked up.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the 4th PSC was held virtually in November 2020 for 3 hours per a day for 3 days, a departure from the three full days format for previous PSC meetings. This inevitably constrained the scope of the agenda, and a recommendation was given to convene a special PSC meeting dedicated to presentations on progress of demo projects by implementing partners. Pursuant to this recommendation, the 5th PSC meeting for the WIOSAP project was held on the 9th of November 2021 from 09:30 hr to 13:00 hr (EAT) to allow implementing partners opportunity to present on progress they have made in implementation of respective demonstration projects.

II. Roles of the Project Steering Committee

The PSC, whose membership consists of the representatives of the participating countries (National Focal Points), UNEP International Waters Unit (our GEF Implementing Agency) and donors, is responsible for providing guidance and making management decisions for the project. In view of its project executing role, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat serves as a Secretariat of the Steering Committee. The Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C), the Indian Ocean Commission (COI) and other regional economic commissions and communities such as Southern African Development Community (SADC) also get invited as observers.

Chairs of WIOSAP Task Forces and Working Groups are also observers in the Committee meetings. Additionally, the Project Steering Committee 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 Steering Committee is also 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. PSC meetings are normally open to recognized stakeholders on an observer basis, except where personnel or other sensitive matters are under discussion.

The Steering Committee also provides policy-level liaison to national governments, through Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committees or National Implementation Committees (NICs) about the implementation of the projects at country level. The Project Manager serves as the Secretary to the Steering Committee. The decisions of the Project Steering Committee are reached by consensus by the members of the Committee. The PSC receives periodic reports on progress made by the project and makes recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan.

Specifically, the PSC has the following responsibilities:

- Provide guidance, as well as overall strategic policy and management direction to the Project;
- Annually, review and assess the progress of the project, based upon a pre-defined Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, including progress made towards making measurable impacts in terms of improvement of environmental status;
- Discuss and review draft strategies for improving sustainability of environmental benefits and replication drafted by the project unit;
- Monitoring and reviewing of co-financing delivered to the project in line with GEF requirements;
- Annually review and approve the work plan and comment on the budgets of the project, and provide strategic direction on the work plan;
- Advice on appropriate mechanisms for interaction with the private sector;
- Advise additional funding to support the outputs and activities of the WIOSAP project;
- Review the extent and effectiveness of stakeholder involvement at the regional and national level particularly among different sectors of government that have an interest or impact in land based activities, including resolution of potential conflicts;
- Review the quality of outputs produced;
- Review the implementation of the project's outreach and communication strategy.

III. Objectives of the 5th PSC meeting

The overall objective of the PSC meeting was to evaluate the progress of the projects and provide strategic guidance for effective implementation. The specific objectives include:

1. Appraising the meeting on the overall progress made in implementation of the WIOSAP project;
2. Presentation of progress made in the implementation of demo projects by implementing partners;
3. Updates on the Mid-Term Review which is currently underway;
4. Discussions on additional support to ongoing demo projects.

IV. Expected Outcomes of the PSC meeting

The expected outcomes of the PSC included:

1. Appreciation of the overall progress made in project implementation;
2. An understanding of the achievements made and challenges obtaining in the implementation of demo projects, including disruptions due to the COVID pandemic;
3. Clarity on progress made and required participation in the MTR underway;
4. Approval of additional support to ongoing and new demo projects or other priority areas for support.

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE FIFTH WIOSAP PSC MEETING

Session I: Overall project progress and implementation of demonstration activities

Opening Remarks

Nairobi Convention Secretariat

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Mr. Dixon Waruinge, the Head of the Nairobi Convention. He welcomed all the project Focal Points and partners, and thanked them for sparing the time to attend the virtual meeting, which is the 5th WIOSAP PSC meeting. He highlighted that the WIOSAP project was meant to be a pillar to the SAP programme and is led by the Focal points who are also the Project Steering Committee members by design. This approach was meant to ensure that the WIOSAP project activities take into account the broader Nairobi Convention work Programme.
2. He mentioned that Mrs. Sinikinesh Jimma, the current UNEP Portfolio Manager for International Waters Unit, under which the project on 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities' (WIOSAP) falls had worked within the Nairobi Convention and therefore understands the goals and the role the project is meant to play within the broader Nairobi Convention perspective.
3. Mr. Waruinge welcomed Ms Christine Haffner-Sifakis, who is the current Task Manager for Africa in the GEF office, and added that she was involved in the design and the subsequent approval of the WIOSAP project during her earlier appointment as the GEF Manager for Africa on Environment and Integrated Water Management with the implication that WIOSAP has the necessary support within International Waters Unit to steer it's successful implementation.
4. He recognized the Marine Protected Areas Outlook, which is not only a regional WIOSAP output but also contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the first global agreement that covers all aspects of biological diversity. He added that the various demonstration projects at the country level were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and the 5th PSC meeting would demonstrate that despite the challenges, the implementation of the demo projects is back on course and progressing towards successful completion.
5. Mr. Waruinge acknowledged the presence of the WIOSAP Communication Officer and encouraged cooperation in sharing success stories, experiences and lessons learnt from the demonstration projects at country level to ensure dissemination of the projects' accomplishments. This would demonstrate that the Convention has the ability to implement a GEF project and would be a reference in more projects acquisition. He emphasized the need for the implementing partners to highlight the successes in their presentations.
6. He invited Ms Christine Haffner-Sifakis to make opening remarks on behalf of UNEP.

UN Environment Programme

7. Ms Christine Haffner-Sifakis thanked all in attendance and reiterated her contentment in the WIOSAP project in implementing the SAP through the country level demonstration projects. She emphasized the importance of the project for the region and GEF in its pioneering approach in covering the various demonstration projects and the synergies realized through the SAPPHERE project. She reiterated the importance of disseminating the success stories as a basis for future projects.
8. Mr. Waruinge appreciated and welcomed the Chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau, Government of Kenya represented by Mr. Stephen Katua. He indicated that Mr. Katua would take charge of the meeting after the opening remarks.

Government of Kenya - Chair of Nairobi Convention Bureau

9. Mr. Katua thanked the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for convening the fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the WIOSAP project and welcomed the Focal Points/WIOSAP demo projects implementing partners and all the other partners to the meeting.
10. Mr. Katua mentioned that the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are executing the GEF funded, UNEP Implemented WIOSAP project which is supporting various demonstration projects across the region to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and to sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems.
11. He recognized the progress that the WIOSAP project has made since its inception in spite of the major challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
12. Mr. Katua emphasized the importance of the 5th PSC meeting in appraising the delegates on the progress made in implementing the demo projects that portray significant impact of the WIOSAP project at the community level. He added that the meeting would enable the team to:
 - a. Identify implementation challenges and propose means of addressing the challenges among other items such as the budget and additional support to the demo projects.
 - b. Share lessons and experiences learnt in the course of the implementation of the demonstration projects.
 - c. Provide updated information to the delegates of the COP10 on the progress made in the implementation of the COP9 decisions.
13. Mr. Katua highlighted that the past PSC meetings had been held with the PSC members physically present, however the fourth and fifth PSC meeting were held virtually due to the current and ongoing restrictions of travel and convening of meetings as a result of the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic, which has affected all countries globally. Therefore, the duration of the 5th WIOSAP PSC session shifted from a duration of 3 full days of physical PSC meetings, to only about 3 hours on a virtual platform.
14. Mr. Katua mentioned that the PSC is responsible for providing guidance to the project and making management decisions for the project while the Nairobi Convention Secretariat serves as a Secretariat of the Steering Committee in view of its project executing role. He highlighted that the 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. He mentioned that the Steering Committee is also 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. He emphasized that the PSC meetings would normally be open to recognized stakeholders on an observer basis, except where personnel or other sensitive matters are under discussion.
15. He finalized by sincerely welcoming fellow PSC members to the 5th WIOSAP PSC and officially opened the meeting.
16. The provisional agenda was proposed by Madagascar, seconded by Mauritius and declared adopted by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed Dr Jared Bosire, the WIOSAP Project Manager to make a presentation on the overall progress in implementation of WIOSAP project including implementation challenges such as COVID 19 pandemic.

Presentation of overall progress in implementation of WIOSAP project including implementation challenges such as COVID 19 pandemic

17. Dr Bosire welcomed the PSC members, implementing partners and the implementing Agency-UNEP to the 5th PSC meeting.
18. He mentioned that the presentation would only give key highlights because the implementing partners would have the opportunity to present each demonstration project.
19. The presentation highlighted that:
 - ✓ The goal of the WIOSAP project is to improve and maintain the environmental health of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems through improved management of land-based stresses.
 - ✓ The specific objective is to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities by sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems, through the implementation of agreed WIO SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels
20. Highlights of the overall WIOSAP project per component:

Component A: Sustainable Management of Critical Habitats

- ✓ The PSC has already approved 11 demonstration projects under Component A, which are at various stages of implementation, focusing on ecosystem management, ICZM, MSP, ecosystem restoration, economic valuation, community livelihoods and climate change.
- ✓ Technical support is given through technical task forces with support from the project Focal Points, WIO-C and other partners that has led to the development of various guidelines and frameworks under component A including mangrove and seagrass restoration guidelines which have been disseminated for use across the region, while the economic valuation guidelines and climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit are being tested before they can be launched.
- ✓ The MPA outlook and an MPA dashboard developed in collaboration with the Focal Points and WIOMSA was launched in July 2021 which not only tracks the progress made in implementing the SDG 14.5 target in the western Indian Ocean but also laid the baseline for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework target of 30/30.
- ✓ Implementation of the recommendations from the MPA outlook is ongoing in collaboration with WIOMSA, and SwAM. The key outputs of the Partnerships for the Outlook Actions are:
 - Establishment of a regional framework for MPA capacity development through collaboration between Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA and SwAM. 1st workshop took place on the 24th of June 2021 that brought together MPA managers and Local leaders in LMMAs. More trainings are planned under the Programme.
 - WIO MPA Network: Established on 8th June 2021 (World Ocean Day) in partnership with WIOMSA and brings together MPA Managers from all countries in the region.
 - WIOSAP is also providing support in the development of management plans for 4 MPAs in Comoros

Component B: Improved Water Quality

- ✓ The PSC has approved six demo projects under component B of the project. The demo projects focus on wastewater management through constructed wetlands as low-cost technology for water quality improvement, strengthening regulatory frameworks and marine litter.
- ✓ It is anticipated that some of the innovations from the project such as application of constructed wetlands, community participation in Marine litter management, source to sea approach among

other interventions, will lead to the achievement of one of the top WIOSAP priorities of improving water quality in the region by 2035.

- ✓ Demo projects in this Component were more severely impacted on and thus significantly slowed down due to COVID and will definitely need more time for successful implementation. This is because some are being implemented in high security areas closed out from public access during the pandemic, need engineering designs and huge procurements which were all slowed down during the pandemic.

Component C: Sustainable Management of River Flows

- ✓ During the development of the WIOSAP project, it was noted that the adoption of environmental flow assessment was limited in the region. Therefore, the project under Component C has supported the development of Environmental flows assessment (EFA) guidelines for the WIO region with WIOMSA as a major technical partner. The Guidelines have been launched and ready for use across the region.
- ✓ The PSC has approved three demonstration projects under component C focusing on Betsiboka, Incomati, and Rufiji deltas located in SAP priority areas. The projects are making good progress after picking up momentum after easing of COVID restrictions.

Capacity building

- ✓ The project supported an EFA training workshop targeting senior managers from water resources management authorities in the region in collaboration with CSIR, Southern Waters Consulting, Water Matters, Sokoine University of Agriculture and hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa.
- ✓ Other training areas include:
 - ✓ Marine spatial planning in collaboration with IOC-UNESCO, WIOMSA and SwAM.
 - ✓ Water quality training focusing on constructed wetlands; LBSA Protocol; monitoring framework and Guidelines in collaboration with WIOMSA, KMFRI and CSIR
 - ✓ Regional MPA capacity building programme in collaboration with WIOMSA and SwAM

Component D: Governance and Regional Coordination

- ✓ The project supported the final negotiations for the ICZM protocol which is scheduled for adoption next year through a physical meeting of Plenipotentiaries.
- ✓ 4 countries have already ratified the LBSA protocol. 2 more countries are needed for it to become operational. Three countries have made good progress in their national level processes towards ratification.
- ✓ On Decision CP.9/13 Part 9, the Contracting Parties requested the secretariat, in collaboration with IMO, the PMAESA and other partners, to undertake a baseline study and scenario analysis, and develop a toolkit for green port development and expansion in the Western Indian Ocean region. So far, CSIR and MTCC have already been engaged in conducting baseline assessment in ports development across the region; developing scenarios for ports development for analyzing environmental impacts arising from ports operations and development, and creating a toolkit for ports development.
- ✓ The project has supported the establishment of strategic partnerships including Regional Economic Communities, Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Macquarie University, IRD, CSIR, Southern waters, WIO MN, the Sokoine University of Agriculture, among others
- ✓ The project has attracted funding for sustainability as pipeline funding.
 - Two projects developed and funded by EU and SIDA through WIOSAP support with a budget of US\$10.6M
 - Go-Blue Project funded by the EU and being co-implemented by UN Habitat & UNEP– US\$8.4M

- GCF Proposal is under development for Kenya
- and a GEF 8 PIF for TBCA is underway
- ✓ The Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism is becoming more useful as an information resource with updated information from the outputs of WIOSAP and other works of the Nairobi Convention. Some of the documents that can be accessed through the platform include:
 - Regional documents
 - Guidelines/Strategies/Frameworks
 - Regional and country MPA Dashboards
- ✓ The Science to Policy Platform meetings, the last one having been held in March 2021 with 174 participants and 33 discussion papers with key recommendations on areas of decisions for the 10th COP.
- ✓ WIOSAP is contributing to the development of several regional products in collaboration with other projects of the Convention which include:
 1. *Completed products such as* Regional Ecosystem Monitoring Framework, Regional Water Quality Monitoring Framework/Guidelines *and* Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy
 2. *Products that are in Final Stages of completion comprising of:*
 - Marine Litter status outputs which include On-ground-interventions; Economic impacts; policy and institutional frameworks. A synthesis of the outputs is also being prepared
 - Assessment of COVID impacts on SIDs: Nairobi Convention and Cartagena Convention
 3. *Products that are underway include:*
 - Economic Valuation of the TBCA between Tanzania and Kenya
 - Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration in the Western Indian Ocean Region: Lessons and experiences towards the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration 2012-2030 (Book)
 - Constructed wetland technology as nature-based solution for sustainable municipal wastewater treatment in WIO region (Book)
 - Community adaptation to climate change: Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar and Mozambique

21. Other updates in the overall WIOSAP project Include:

- It was noted that demonstration projects lost between 6 – 12 months of implementation time due to COVID disruptions
 - There is a need to fast-track demo projects implementation, which is a legacy for the WIOSAP project in the implementation of the SAP
 - PMU has had bilateral meetings with respective FPs/IPs regarding:
 - *Detailed discussions on progress*
 - *Any further support to expedite implementation*
 - *Success stories from the field*
 - MTR is underway, focusing on participation, benefits, sustainability, partnerships, policy support, technical support. The MTR consultant has already been introduced to the FPs, IPs, and WIO-C members. The consultant will reach out to the Demo Projects Implementing Partners and WIO-C members
 - Co-financing: Critical for GEF Reporting and therefore urged the Governments and Focal Points to submit their co-financing reports
22. The Chair invited presentations from demonstration projects implementing partners in the region for the PSC to appreciate the progress made in the implementation of all the demonstration projects. All the presentations can be found [here](#).

1. Enhancing stakeholder capacity on the use of ICZM as a tool for conservation of the coastal and marine environment through a demo ICZM Project in Malindi –Sabaki Estuary Area, Kenya

Presentation highlights:

The project aims to enhance stakeholder capacity on the use of ICZM as a conservation tool in coastal and marine environment management through promotion of sustainable mangrove and fisheries management; promotion of community empowerment and alternative livelihoods; improve governance and solid waste management in Sabaki river estuary. Planned activities include developing the Sabaki river estuary management Plan; establish picnic Banda; Install waste receptors and conduct bimonthly clean-ups in Malindi; and disseminating brochures for marketing ecotourism sites.

Progress:

- Sabaki River Estuary Management Plan is already drafted,
- Training on best fishing practises, mangrove management, tour guiding and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted.
- Road map of ecotourism circuit is developed
- Eight solid waste management receptacles have been installed in Malindi town
- 10 ha of mangroves have been restored where 10,500 mangrove trees have been planted
- Awareness creation was done to 300 people during WWD, 200 T-shirts were printed and sensitization was done in Milele FM Radio.
- Lessons and Best practises were shared from Mida Creek Site Support Group on ecotourism.

Challenges and Recommendations

- Limited capacity on marketing and packaging of ecotourism products by county government. This could be solved by catalyzing implementation of developed ecotourism roadmap and utilizing social media as well as marketing platforms
- Pressure on the estuary resources. This can be improved by promoting alternative livelihoods such as the promotion of ecotourism and enforcement
- COVID-19 pandemic is also a challenge, but work will proceed while observing health regulations

2. Towards integrated spatial planning for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in Kilifi county, Kenya

The main aim of the project is to ensure that the Kilifi County Spatial Plan is effectively implemented for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and enhance socio-economic development. This would be achieved through improving capacity of county government and key stakeholders to deliver and implement the Kilifi county spatial plan; finalization and endorsement for operationalization of the Kilifi County Spatial plan by Kilifi County Government and stakeholders; and setting up of a fully operational GIS Lab in Kilifi County for integrated data management and information sharing. The process would ensure that Critical Ecologically Significant Areas (CESAs) are secured in Kilifi County.

Progress

- Multi-stakeholder engagement workshops to review and enhance the Kilifi CSP have been conducted.
- Development of the draft Kilifi County Spatial Plan incorporating local, national and global conservation priorities has been done.
- Land use zone maps and CESA maps (Marine, Terrestrial) have been developed and incorporated into the current County Spatial Structure.
- Digital data management systems strengthening is underway with GIS Lab layout design, procurement of computers and Software completed.

Challenges and recommendations:

- It was noted that there was disparity between the commencement of the preparation of the spatial plan and completion because of the COVID-19 disruptions. There were delays in provision of GIS Lab space because of the delayed construction of new facility.
- The implementing partner expressed the need for additional funds to support the statutory/approval stages in the delivery of the CSP/MSP.

3. Coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius

The aim of the project is to mitigate the impact of climate change on coastal communities by implementing coral reef restoration initiatives using selected resilient corals by setting up of sea-based demonstration farms for rehabilitation of degraded reef sites; training stakeholders and coastal communities in coral culture and reef rehabilitation techniques hence providing additional skills to the communities; and strengthening environmental awareness of the community, to emphasize the significance and conservation aspects of corals and coral reefs.

Progress highlights:

- Inception workshops has been held at 3 project sites
- Sensitization and awareness raising on the project has been done where 400 Flyers, 80 booklets, 80 polo-shirts and classroom materials have been designed/developed and procured.
- Screening of trainees for the Coral Culture Training Programme (CCTP) is completed, and Registration of trainees is ongoing. Snorkelling equipment have been procured for CCTP-

- trainees. Theoretical training/classroom lectures under the CCTP would start by mid Nov-21 and snorkelling and EFR training would be completed by end of Nov-21
- Survey for site selection, nursery construction have been completed and set-up of the demo sea-based farms with 2 nurseries at each of the 3 sites is ongoing.
 - Demo coral-gardens set up is ongoing where survey for site selection, and materials for coral gardens have been completed
 - Covid-19 protection materials (masks, hand sanitizer, temperature sensor) have been procured.

Challenges and recommendations:

- It was noted that COVID-19 pandemic delayed trainings and the implementing partner would wish to get additional funding to set up infrastructure so that they can undertake the training virtually. Project extension is also requested for to compensate for lost implementation time.
- Grounding of MV Wakashio and the eventual Oil spill in the South East region of Mauritius required the mobilization of the whole team from the IP on site for post spill assessment and monitoring causing delays in project implementation. The implementing partner would like to have an extension of the project period to be able to accomplish all the planned activities.

4. Assessment of Blue Carbon Ecosystem (Seagrass) around the island of Mauritius

The aim of this project is to investigate the current status of seagrasses around the coast of Mauritius and to determine their carbon sink potential to further enable the development of management strategies, to formulate policies gearing towards conservation and rehabilitation of seagrass ecosystems in Mauritius and to contribute in the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process to improve management of the coastal and marine environment.

The proposed activities being undertaken include conducting surveys on the density and distribution of seagrass around Mauritius Island; Establishing permanent seagrass monitoring stations at specific sites around the island; Carrying out sediment coring at specific seagrass sites around the Island to determine carbon storage; Analyzing of carbon sequestration content in sediment; Calculation/generation of blue carbon credit; Development of a management plan for seagrass conservation around Mauritius and to be used for the MSP strategy; Inclusion of seagrass as a protected ecosystem within the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 2007; and Carrying out sensitization of coastal communities and coastal users (tourism based, fisheries) and developing educational materials.

Achievements

- Surveys and mapping of seagrass have been completed at Mon Choisy, Anse la Raie, Merville, Pointe aux Biches (North coast); Bois des Amourettes, Bambous Virieux, Vieux Grand port (South East coast); Le Bouchon (South coast); Le Morne, Case Noyale, Albion, Pointe aux Sables, Flic en Flac (West coast) regions. In addition, surveys and mapping of seagrass around the island is ongoing.

Challenges and recommendations

- There has been delay in implementation but the SSFA has now been signed and the IP hopes to expedite the work although the time is limited. Following the COVID disruptions, a project extension for successful implementation will be very necessary.

5. Habitat restoration and attraction of seabirds to Ile aux Aigrettes (Mauritius)

The aim of the project is to restore coastal forest habitat on Ile aux Aigrettes, specifically 'seabird habitat' to enhance marine ecosystem functioning through the attraction of seabirds. This will be achieved through weeding of 14 ha of invasive alien species; planting of native species for reconstitution of the pristine environment that is suitable for native fauna reintroduction; create at least 1 ha of suitable habitat for seabirds; review and apply bio-security protocols for Ile aux Aigrettes; deploy Seabird decoys to attract seabirds on Ile aux Aigrettes; promote tourism where more than 20,000 visitors (including Mauritian adults, children and tourists) will be sensitized to visit the island and learn about the ecosystem restoration effort; create exposure for partners, staff, students, researchers and government officials to Ecosystem Restoration and prepare communication materials developed for dissemination of the information.

Achievements

- 7.9 ha out of the 14 ha of the alien species has been weeded
- So far, about 1346 native plants have been planted on Ile aux Aigrettes
- Staff has been recruited to lead seabird work. Two types of seabird decoys (32 sooty terns and 30 Red-tailed Tropic birds) have been deployed, seabird call playback is now active and seabird monitoring is being conducted and seabird rehabilitation area has been identified, weeded and planting has started.
- General biosecurity plan for Ile aux Aigrettes is updated through consultative meeting.
- Around 5,000 visitors learned about Ecosystem restoration work
- 20 guides, students and conservation staff have been trained on seabird restoration (20 persons)
- Exchanges with international researchers visiting the island and with MSc students from Macquarie University currently doing a research project on the project
- Video promoting the project showing the various activities was filmed, edited and sent to UNEP communication team

Challenges

- Major oil spill (Wakashio oil spill) around Ile aux Aigrettes led to an ecological disaster in August 2020. 4,000 plants were moved from nursery on the island to the mainland and Islets became a restricted zone.
- Two COVID-19 lockdown/restrictions also led to the islets closure and restrictions such that weeding could not be conducted for a total cumulative period of 8 months from December 2019 to September 2021. Recruitment of volunteer to lead the seabird activity was put on hold for one year.
- Therefore, more time is needed to complete the project's objectives because of the major challenges outlined above. We seek 1 year extension of the project.

6. Developing Collaborative Management Plan and Sustainable Mangrove Restoration Model in Rufiji Delta, Tanzania

The project's main objective is to nurture sustainable co-existence of the people and mangrove ecosystems by designing a model for selective harvesting as a community incentive for participation and responsibility in enforcement of conservation measures; and developing a model for community-based mangrove restoration suitable for Rufiji Delta.

Achievements

- Community surveys and participatory resource use mapping have been completed. It was noted that there has been a shift in the historical pattern of mangrove harvesting from the central zone to the north and south through community knowledge. This is mainly related to population growth, quality of forests, and increased accessibility. The historical pattern of rice farming has also shifted from the south to the north which is mainly associated with a shift of freshwater supply. Other mangrove ecosystem values investigation indicated fisheries activities that are mainly dominant at the northern zone; beekeeping around the central and Southern zones, and spiritual sites that are more in the central and southern zones.
- To update the available baseline information, assessment and validation of restoration and harvesting blocks forest cover have been done. Harvesting and restoration blocks were mapped in terms of forest structure and composition, change in the type of species around the estuary, availability of harvestable stock, and identification of matching site-specific species for restoration purposes.
- Mapping of forest cover and land use is complemented. The forest cover in 1988 was 53,255 ha with a net loss of about 7,074 ha by 2019. The loss during the 30 years period is mainly due to introduction of rice farming.
- Management and harvesting plans are now in place.
- Community harvesting committees have been re-established.
- There is stronger support from District Council and Tanzania Forest Service
- Community sensitization and awareness raising through local schools and facilitation of establishment of school mangrove clubs has been achieved. This has led to improved community perceptions, willingness and interests in mangrove conservation.
- Identified in-country alternative site for expert study tour on carbon credit schemes, albeit of other forest types, but with similar procedures

Challenges

- COVID-19 delayed start of the project activities for large part of 2020 and thus project extension highly desired for successful implementation and completion of this important project.
- Imposed state ban on 29th September 2016 on mangrove wood harvest led to delayed demonstration activities especially in relation to harvesting and restoration. The ban was lifted in September 2021 and the activities will be expedited.

7. Undertake seagrass restoration for Sustainable Shellfish and drafting a management Plan Action guideline for seagrass restoration (Mozambique)

The overall objective is to develop a management action plan for seagrass meadows based on concrete research questions that leads to a demonstrative outcome of sustainability of seagrass invertebrate fisheries, its value to community wellbeing and testing blue carbon restoration of seagrasses in southern Mozambique. This will be realized through documenting seagrass edible invertebrates, stakeholders and agents involved in seagrass fisheries and value chains; documenting gender participation in invertebrate fisheries management in the sites; Undertaking seagrass restoration in Maputo Bay, a pilot program in Inhambane Bay; and development of a site-specific seagrass management plan, harmonized for anthropogenic or climate related impacts.

Progress highlights:

- Sensitization of community members including invertebrate gleaners from 3 districts (Nhaquene, Ribwene, and Inguane) in Inhaca was done to enhance their participation in the restoration activities. A non-profit organisation called A-TANYi (community Conservation Association) was formed to enhance sustainable management of seagrasses. The association had 35 members by September 2021. There is an association's charter which the members have already approved.
- So far, 100,000 *Cymodocea serrulate* seagrass species modules have been planted covering an area above one hectare at Maputo Bay, Inhaca Island, through community participation. Test restoration

was conducted in December 2020, and the seagrass planting started in October 2021 in Nhampossa and Barra sites in Inhambane.

- Alternative livelihoods, institutional arrangements and identification of other gaps are envisaged within the management plan.
- Seagrass edible invertebrates, stakeholders involved in invertebrate fisheries, and value chains have been documented in both sites.
- Impact of experimental passive seagrass restoration on invertebrate abundance in Maputo Bay – Bairro dos Pescadores, has been documented.
- One MSc thesis defended with project outputs. One book chapter (in press). Two other manuscripts are in preparation.

Remarks:

- The implementing partner hopes to continue with the initiative and replicate it elsewhere.
- Project extension needed to compensate for time lost during COVID due to restrictions on travel and gatherings.

8. Mangrove Restoration and Livelihood Support through Community Participation in Limpopo River Estuary, Mozambique

The project overall objective is to improve mangrove management in Mozambique through restoration, community empowerment and generating baseline information to support decision making.

Progress highlights:

- Mangrove mapping and change detection between 2003 and 2018/9 has been completed. Total mangrove area was found to be 928 ha in 2019. Degraded and dispersed mangrove covered 365 ha, dense/intact mangrove area increased from 264 ha in 2003 and 382 ha in 2019 due to restoration efforts, reforested area was about 135 ha in 2019, while salt marshes covered 46 ha in 2019.
- Conducting carbon inventories in above ground, below ground and soil pools in healthy, degraded and restored mangrove forests is underway. All data is collected, soil samples have been processed in the lab, the first draft report is completed, and the comments are being addressed.
- Mangrove fauna assessment samples in healthy, degraded and restored areas data already collected and samples are being processed in the lab.
- Planting and hydrological restoration of mangroves in degraded areas is already done. Topographic survey was carried out in an area of 15 ha. 7 hydrological profiles were established, hydrological channels with a total length of 1,855m have been constructed.
- 60,000 mangrove seedlings from 6 species (*Avicennia marina*, *Ceriops tagal*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Thespesia sp.*) of true mangrove and associated plants have been propagated in the established community mangrove nursery. More than 1000 members of the local community were involved in the restoration exercise, of which more than 80% were women. 18 ha of mangrove were planted through local community engagement.
- Environmental education campaigns on the importance of mangroves and best management practices conducted. The project was launched on 6/11/2020, with 235 participants, chaired by the district administrator in the Limpopo district. AQUA participated in 1 Radio Mozambique interview where 2 students from Eduardo Mondlane University and the AQUA Delegate participated. In addition, two articles have been published in WIOMSA and Canadian Hakai Magazines respectively. The project also contributed to the publication of the Guidelines on Mangrove Restoration for the Western Indian Ocean.
- The task force to produce mangrove local management plan was revitalized in August 2021. The 1st workshop for the elaboration of the Mangrove Community Management Plan was held in September 2021. The draft Community Plan for Mangrove Management is complete and was to be presented for validation on 11th and 12th November 2021.

- The Women Cooperative for fish trade and support on the acquisition of some equipment (e.g.: one freezer) was created. The statutes for the Cooperative were also drafted and approved by members of the cooperative. Procurement of equipment is also completed and headquarters office block of the NRMC and for fish processing unit for women fish sellers is under construction.
- In exploration of business opportunities for mangrove products, 10 smart hives were acquired and placed in the mangrove forest and 6 of them have already been colonized with bees; 5 members of the natural resource management committee have been trained in mangrove beekeeping techniques; and 10 pigs have been purchased and handed over to the community through the local natural resource management committee.

9. **Developing Collaborative Strategies for Sustainable Management of Mangroves in the Boeny Region Littorale, Madagascar**

The project's main aim is to promote the sustainable management of mangroves in Boeny with an integrated management approach to maintain good health and ecological integrity in the long term. Specific interventions would be to Improve and strengthen the governance of mangroves as a renewable natural resource; improve the economic and social environment of local communities bordering mangrove areas, and ensure the protection and conservation of Boeny mangroves.

Achievements

- Reforestation 25 ha of mangrove has been done.
- So far there are 200 partners from the local community involved in monitoring.
- Partnership with women's associations in the field of income-generating activities is underway
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for all mangrove events (e.g. World Mangrove Day) is ongoing.

Challenges

The IP would need:

- Organizational and constitutional support from the grassroots community
- Materials support to the grassroots community
- Visit another mangrove area in the western part of Madagascar
- Promotion of tourism activities in rural commune of Boanamaray
- Project extension because of COVID disruption

Component B

12. Improving Mtwapa Creek water quality by use of Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment Technology in Shimo la Tewa

The project objective is to improve water quality in Mtwapa Creek by addressing the issue of wastewater management in Shimo la Tewa Prison, one of the major sources of pollution into creek.

The proposed activities to be undertaken include; evaluation of the design and performance of the existing wastewater treatment facility in Shimo la Tewa; redesigning, constructing and operationalizing an efficient and easy to maintain constructed wetland system for the treatment of sewage and wastewater at the prison facility; evaluating the design and performance of the improved wastewater treatment facility in Shimo la Tewa following the commissioning of the infrastructure and monitoring water quality in the receiving water of Mtwapa Creek; rehabilitation of sewer system feeding into the anaerobic baffled reactor (ABR); Improving bathrooms at the prison; operationalizing irrigation of the prison farms; construct, stock and manage a pilot fish pond; publicizing/dissemination of information through visits, print and electronic media, briefs, brochures and scientific publications.

Achievements

- Activities such as evaluation of the performance of existing wastewater facility, redesigning of constructed wetland system, conversion of septic tank into an Anaerobic Baffled Reactor (ABR) for primary treatment of wastewater are completed.
- Contractor for Vertical and Horizontal Flow Reed Beds for secondary and tertiary treatment of wastewater on site and improvement of bathrooms in men and women prisons is 60% complete.

Challenges

- Delayed access to project site due to COVID 19 restrictions and slow procurement processes. Extended implementation time will be very necessary to recover lost time for successful completion of this important intervention.

13. Strengthening regulatory framework and national capacity for monitoring effluent discharges, water, and sediment quality in coastal and marine areas of Madagascar

The aim of this project is to improve the water quality, and therefore, the health status of land-based activities that affect marine and coastal ecosystems around the Betsiboka River estuary (including the Bombetoka Bay).

The proposed activities included strengthening and improvement of capacity for MEDD regional direction in Boina for marine and coastal environment management through the use of a decision support tool; effective implementation and enforcement of national regulatory framework for effluent discharges and standards for receiving water and sediment quality within the Betsiboka estuary catchment; regional harmonization, and full implementation of national monitoring framework at the estuary's catchment level.

Achievements

- Decision support tool combining map and indexes (Geo-accumulation, pollution load, contamination factor) is accomplished and presented to the Ministry of Environment.
- Introducing the decision support tool to MEED' and control officers underway.
- First post covid-19 field activity was carried out: Water and sediment samples have collected and the IP has started training control officers on the methods used to collect water and sediment samples and other field measurements.
- Preparation of the training manual for MEED's control officers and validation of the decision support tool is underway,
- Preparation of the workshop for the adoption of the WIO water and sediment EQO and EQT for the receiving environment is also ongoing.

Challenges

- There was no national regulatory frameworks on marine pollution and coastal receiving waters. Therefore, the Implementing Partner had to start from scratch to develop a national regulatory framework on marine pollution and receiving environments using EQO and EQT. Monitoring framework, to be updated and harmonized regionally, and procure laboratory equipment to strengthen technical capacities and effectively implement the monitoring framework.
- Project extension necessary to compensate for lost time due to delayed implementation as a result of COVID.

14. Improving Water Quality by use of Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment at a Farm in the South of Mahé Island

This project aims to find optimal ways of effectively managing wastewater from a piggery by treating it to an appropriate level and recycling the treated effluent in agriculture (crop irrigation)

The proposed activities include site visits to the farming community to determine the sites to build the constructed wetland in the south of Mahe. Four farms were visited, and two potential farms have been identified: Mr. Francois Vital farm and Mrs. Betty Lawen farm. Two surveyors have visited the sites and

provided their quotations to the Department of Environment. The procurement of the surveyors is underway.

Challenges

- It took time to identify the farms where the constructed wetland will be established
- Additional implementation time will be critical for successful project completion. Activities delayed to due to COVID.

15. Improvement of ecosystem health & water quality by implementing a Source to Sea-based approach to tackle marine litter in five priority river systems in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

This project aims to reduce the impacts of litter on freshwater, marine and coastal environments by implementing basin-wide interventions to recover land and riverine-based litter, thereby reducing marine litter flow and generation at source. The project activities include:

- Identifying and mapping litter hotspot areas along each of the 5 priority rivers, which include: Umgeni River into Blue Lagoon/ Durban North Beach; Umlazi River into Cuttings Beach; uMbilu River (into the Durban Bay); uMhlatuzana River (into the Durban Bay); and aManzimnyama River (into the Durban Bay).
- Development and implementation of a management plan for 5 litter booms including arrangements for litter removal and recovery,
- Compilation of monthly microplastics prevalence, litter collection and characterization reports for the priority rivers,
- Deployment of one low-cost waste management intervention per hotspot community near each selected river,
- Development of a communication strategy to assist with awareness-raising campaigns in schools' outreach programmes and communication with civil society & other stakeholders,
- Conducting at least one community awareness-raising event, at least one school's outreach activity and one electronic media coverage of marine litter and waste management per year and,
- Undertaking training of government, community, civil society and private sector stakeholders in various critical skills.

Achievements

A screening study has been conducted on plastic pollution flows within the Umgeni River catchment in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine & Water Management,

Consultation are ongoing with the:

- DFFE Branch Environmental Programmes to identify modalities for recruiting workers to conduct the litter recovery operations are ongoing,
- eThekweni Municipality and DFFE GIS specialist to identify & map litter hotspots along the remaining 4 rivers is also ongoing,
- Durban Solid Waste (DSW) Department to identify existing outreach & awareness interventions with schools and communities in the area,
- DFFE's Research Directorate to conduct the microplastics assessment. A dedicated micro-plastics laboratory has now been established within the DFFE as the implementing partner (sponsored under the Commonwealth Marine Litter Project).
- Project partners to discuss areas of collaboration & support (Sustainable Seas Trust, The LitterBoom Project).

Dedicated Project Coordinator has been appointed on a 2-year contract and will commence duty on 1st December 2021 (South Africa government will co-fund salary by 42% of the overall cost).

Challenges

- COVID 19 pandemic and national lockdown in 2020 and part of 2021: restricted certain types of public activities & caused temporary suspension of the working for the Coast Programme. the

appointment of the Project Coordinator was a protracted process (more than 90 applications received), and the Project Coordinator appointment required special approval according to internal prescripts. The successful candidate will start on 1st December 2021.

- Since most activities in the SSFA are yet to be achieved, as they depend on the Project Coordinator commencing duty, South Africa requests the Implementing Agency to extend the demonstration project to Dec 2023.

16. Improvement in marine water quality through enhanced Estuarine Management in Swartkops and Buffalo Estuary, South Africa

The aim of this project is to mitigate or remove adverse effects that impact water quality through concrete resource stress reduction activities. The proposed activities to be undertaken include; situation analysis to identify and analyze the impacts of poor water quality, develop a common water quality programme, recommendation of scenarios for adaptive management plans, the establishment of PSC and Terms of Reference, training of government, community, civil society and private sector stakeholders in various critical skills on water quality management, development of communication strategy, improvement of compliance and enforcement of relevant legislations, real-time in-situ monitoring

Achievements

- Situation Analysis Report completed capturing identification and analysis of the impacts of poor water quality, developed a common water quality programme, established a PSC and Terms of Reference, launched floating wetlands in Swartkops Catchment, and captured activities on a video, video link <https://youtu.be/hRtienclqDk>

Challenges

- Delays in accessing the funds has been resolved, and implementation could start on other activities in collaboration with the project partners.
- Project extension will be very helpful to catch up due to delayed implementation related to COVID disruptions.

17. Upscaling and amplification of the Msingini wastewater treatment facility Model in Chake chake Town, Pemba.

This project aims to reduce land-based sources of pollution to the Pemaba Channel Conservaton Area (PECCA), and associated marine and coastal ecosystems emanating from Chake chake municipality through upscaling of an existing constructed wetland system managing wastewater and storm water. The proposed activities to be undertaken include: amplifying the number of sewer connections and storm water drainage; collecting water flow, water quality, user numbers, and system operation data and documenting the status and efficacy of the system and enhancing local capacity for the management of the CWS. Other activities include redesigning and constructing the Constructed Wetland System and creating wastewater regulations and payment for ecosystem services system for sustainability. Training of relevant government officers and community members will be conducted prior to the actual work and after commissioning the new system.

Achievements

- The kick-off meeting was held in Pemba in October 2021.
- Topographical survey and levelling measurements were carried out by Green Water Consultancy firm.
- A household survey in the catchment area was conducted within the 3 shehias.
- Clearance of waste water and sludge is in progress.
- Preparation of storage area for the disposal of sludge for other utilization purposes and awareness meeting to the local community around the project area conducted.

Challenges

- The project implementation is very much behind schedule due to COVID 19 and a year's extension of the project is requested.
- The system had been left for a long time without any maintenance from the Chake Chake town Council. The community around the project area had used the edge of the pond to grow crops, and the lack of permanent access road to the ponds made it challenging to move sludge out of the pond.
- The lack of transport to the storage and drying area and lack of actual budget made daily follow-up challenging.

Component C

18. Sustainable Catchment Management through Enhanced Environmental Flow Assessment and Implementation for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities in Tanzania

The aim of the project was to reduce impacts/stress from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal riverine ecosystems through Environmental Flow Assessment and implementation with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels. Specific Objectives were to enhance capacity for environmental flow assessment and restoration for sustainable water flows; to conduct environmental flow assessments in pilot river catchments to guide sustainable management of water flows; and implementation of recommended flows for sustainable water resources management

Project Progress

- Project team held the 1st project planning meeting from 17th to 20th March 2021, created a roadmap for initial activities, and identified research topics for the Master by Research students that are working under the project.
- Initial scoping and building of a rapport with Rufiji Basin Water Board office in Iringa and Mabarali, Regional Offices (Mbeya and Njombe), District Commissioners' Offices (Mbarali, Makete, Njombe and Wanging'ombe) and District Councils (Wangingombe, Mbarali, Makete and Njombe) has been conducted, and permits for conducting research in the study areas have been obtained.
- Initial stakeholder identification and mapping has been conducted.
- Spatial layers covering the study area (land use and land cover, hydrological maps, infrastructure network has been developed.
- Preparation of stakeholder awareness materials on EFLOWS has started.
- Project Inception Workshop was held on 29th July 2021 at the Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB) office, Rujewa Mbarali in Mbeya Region and Produced a Workshop Proceeding.
- Development and setup of an EFLOWS project blog (<https://eflows-tz.blogspot.com/>) has been completed.

Planned and ongoing activities

- finalize stakeholders' identification, mapping and engagement
- finalize engagement of discipline-based experts.
- carry out the inventory of all activities within the catchment and land use land cover change.
- conduct low flow/dry season sampling - site selection and collection of river information such as river health, water quantity, water quality, geomorphology, ecology and spatial planning.
- conduct socio-economic surveys in the study area.
- conduct hot-spot mapping, prioritize actions and interventions.
- conduct the capacity building on E-FLOWS.

Challenges

- With project inception having been delayed till July 2021 due to COVID disruptions, an extension of at least 7 months is requested for to enable successful implementation of the project.

19. Sustainable management of E-Flows for west coast rivers of Madagascar: a case of Betsiboka River

The aim of the project is to promote sustainable management of the river basins in the west coast of Madagascar to maintain a healthy flow and reduce sediment load to minimize detrimental impacts on coastal ecosystems. Specific objectives are to increase awareness on EFA and sustainable practices for reduced sediment pollution and downstream impacts; to conduct the EFA in the pilot rivers catchment of Betsiboka river to inform sustainable management of river flows; and to implement the recommendations of the EFA for sustainable river management.

Project highlights

- Collection of available data from different stakeholders and organizations, and literature review on the National and Regional Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, fishing, Forest, Mines, Water Sanitation and Hygiene and National Authority of Water and Sanitation and Meteorology is ongoing.
- National launch and communication workshop with the National Technical Committees (NTCs), the validation of the ToR of the contributions of NTCs and RTCs, and identification of the intervention sites in Antananarivo has been undertaken.
- Regional launching and communication workshop with the Regional Technical committees (RTCs) established and validation of the ToRs of the attributions NTCs and RTCs and identification of the intervention sites in Mahajanga has been undertaken.
- Courtesy visit to administrative authorities, local and traditional authorities in Analamanga, Betsiboka and Boeny have been undertaken.
- ToR for the consultant to conduct the study of EFA is validated by NTCs and RTCs in Antananarivo and Mahajanga.
- Some useful information from the baseline assessment that justifies better management in Betsiboka watershed include:
 - Extensive livestock pasture covers 23,292 Km². There are 2 water supply stations in Betsiboka region.
 - There are 3,311 ha of irrigated agricultural area with 38 Water Users Associations.
 - Loss of forest cover is about 1,700 ha/year around Analamanga region.
 - There are about 1210 fishermen, 24 fishermen associations, 151 fishmongers, 32 collectors and 25 fish farmers in Betsiboka Region in 2021.
 - There are 50 mining permits issued (PE, PR and PRE), and 3,800 gold miners in Betsiboka and Boeny regions
 - The water capacity in the river is about 13,169 m³/year. The river experiences a total water withdrawal of 21 billion m³/year for irrigation, potable water, hydroelectric and other uses.
 - 16 Hydrological observation stations are installed in Betsiboka Watershed.

Challenges

Delayed project commencement due to COVID pandemic. Seeking for project extension beyond the current time allowed.

20 Environmental Flows for enhanced Biodiversity and Poverty alleviation in the Incomati delta, Mozambique (EFlows-Moz)

The project objective is to design environmental flows that would maintain and enhance biodiversity values and the functioning of the estuarine and deltaic ecosystems of the Lower Incomati in order to optimize the delivery of a number of key ecosystem services to a range of stakeholders and with the well-being of vulnerable user groups a priority

Project Progress

- Salinity and piscivorous waterbirds data collection is ongoing. The already collected data in April and October 2021 show migration of the piscivorous waterbirds Northwards with increase in salinity due to availability of fish. In principle, with already 40 bird counts/salinity measurements since January 2021 and ongoing, we will be able to establish correlations between salinity and bird trophic group presence and then extrapolate the impact of environmental flows, especially in the dry season.
- Agriculture, Fishing, livestock and reed cutting are also impacted by salinity dynamics.
- In depth interviews and biographies have been undertaken to understand the evolution of the landscape and impacts on uses.
- Monitoring of change and functioning of the wetland is ongoing.
- Local observatory salinity dataloggers have been deployed, and monitoring of the impacts on water uses is being done by local observers.

Plenary discussions including additional support to ongoing projects

23. Christine appreciated the progress made in catching up with the time lost during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and urged the implementing partners to make use of the extension granted by the GEF before thinking about further extension because they need to show what they have done within the already extended period. She urged the implementing partners to keep the momentum and portray progress in the implementation of the demonstration projects until December 2022 to enable them present best possibility in showing GEF that additional time would yield much more, and they would like to continue with the implementation of the strategic action plan in the Western Indian Ocean.
24. She mentioned that the fact that the WIOSAP project is embedded in the Nairobi Convention and Component 4 of the project calls for the development of a pipeline of investment projects, it presents an opportunity to think strategically about resource mobilization and leveraging resources noting already the progress made. Development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy may be necessary.
25. Christine added that sharing the best stories from the ongoing demonstration projects or additional initiatives would be important as they strive to go beyond the current WIOSAP project's expectations before requesting further extensions.
26. Dr. Jared Bosire acknowledged the progress made and noted that components B and C (on water quality and River flows) seemed to have been significantly affected by the delays, but the implementation is well underway and in earnest. He urged the implementing partners to seek support from the Secretariat, where necessary, to expedite the implementation because the COVID-19 restrictions have eased. He emphasized the need for the success stories from the demo projects.
27. Mr Waruinge acknowledged the way forward provided by the GEF in keeping the demonstration projects momentum in expediting their implementation within the current extension both on target and on budget. He added on the need to target national, regional as well as global significance in the delivery of the outputs to enable sustainability beyond the project implementation period as they demonstrate to the communities and governments that there are better ways of managing resources to create a legacy for the WIOSAP project that would act as scoring cards for subsequent funding.

Session III

Financial report

28. Dr. Bosire presented the status of the WIOSAP project budget. He mentioned that there has been substantial amount of money committed to the demonstration projects but not much is accounted for by the implementing partners. A total of 3,328,023.60 USD has been committed to different projects. Out of the committed amount, 2,456,071.08 is already dispatched to the implementing partners, but only 124,572.74 USD is accounted for. IPs are strongly encouraged to submit expenditure reports for

- funds disbursed for accountability and to determine whether 2nd disbursements are due depending on materiality on expenditure for respective projects.
29. Component A had a total reported expenditure of about 27,760.52 USD reported by Tanzania and Mozambique. All the other countries, including Kenya, South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Comoros, had money dispatched, but no expenditure reports submitted as yet.
 30. Component B had 1,428,810 USD committed but only 37,500 USD had been accounted for by Kenya and South Africa. Seychelles, Madagascar and Tanzania had no expenditure reported despite having substantial advance payment.
 31. Component C had a total committed budget of about 591,692.00 USD. 73.47 percent of the committed amount had already been dispatched to the implementing partners but there was no expenditure reported submitted and approved.
 32. In Component D, 208,880 USD was committed to some countries that requested for national-level implementation committee's support. 177,795.40 USD was dispatched but only 59,312.22 USD has been accounted for.
 33. Recommendations
 - IPs who have not submitted their co-financing reports to do so as this is mandatory financial management requirement as indicated in the legal agreements and also to inform the ongoing MTR.
 - IPs to urgently submit updated financial reports to determine materiality to enable second disbursements.
 - PSC to recommend additional support to demo projects performing well in terms of funds absorption and technical implementation to support COVID recovery. The PSC asked the PMU to develop a criteria for evaluating such additional support requests (Annex 3 below) and the same presented to the PSC for approval online before the call for such requests is sent out to FPs/IPs.
 34. Dr. Jared Bosire noted that none of the demonstration projects expressed impediments that would hamper the completion within the project period and emphasized the need to expedite the projects implementation and the submission of the updated technical financial reports.
 35. He added that co-financing commitments for WIOSAP project amounted to 77 million dollars and almost 50 percent is submitted and urged the ones who have not submitted to do so including governments, IPs and WIO-C members.
 36. Dr. Bosire mentioned that apart from additional support to the projects that have performed well in terms of funds absorption and technical progress, there can be provision for projects that express technical challenges that can be solved by additional funds.

Closing Remarks

37. Mr. Dixon Waruinge reiterated on the provision of additional funding to the projects that have demonstrated success and urged all implementing partners to submit their updated technical and financial reports. He emphasized the need to show funds absorption within the project time frame to justify the need for additional funding. He added that the elements in the projects that merit upscaling/replication to national or regional level could be used as a basis for additional support.
38. Mr. Waruinge mentioned that all the demonstration activities at the local level must contribute to the regional strategic action plan as projected through the overall WIOSAP project to open up follow-ups in future GEF funding opportunities. He added that demonstrated success and lessons learnt at regional levels would justify more funding into the strategic action plan.
39. Christine emphasized the importance of the aggregate impact of the WIOSAP project in terms of all the lessons learnt and the best stories generated to pave way for subsequent GEF funding through well-developed sustainable financial resource mobilization strategy. She mentioned the selection of successful projects that would be used as a basis for the pipeline developments and offered to help in its development as stipulated in component 4 of the WIOSAP project. She thanked everyone who

participated in making the PSC meeting a success and thanked the Focal Points, implementing partners and WIO-C members for attending the meeting.

40. The Chair urged the PSC members to stay safe from the COVID Pandemic, wished them a good afternoon and declared the meeting closed at 13:23 PM EAT.

Annexes

Annex 1. Meeting Documents

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

Annex 2. PSC Approved Concept/Criteria for Additional support

1.0 WIOSAP Demonstration Projects Extra-Support Concept

Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) project has been running for the last 4 years to: (i) support governments and their conservation partners to address the priorities identified in the WIO Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and (ii) implement strategies for the protection of marine and coastal environment of the WIO region from land based sources and activities to provide goods and services on a sustainable basis. These activities are supported by various Decisions of Contracting Parties:

- **Decision CP7/1: Work Programme for 2013-2017 (Part 3: To endorse** the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) concerning Land-Based Sources and Activities for the Western Indian Ocean Region, and
- **Decision CP8/6: Support to Implementation of Projects, Part 1(d)** Partnerships for Implementing the Western Indian Ocean-Strategic Action Programme financed by the Global Environmental Facility COP decisions.

The goal of the project is to improve and maintain the environmental health of the region's coastal and marine ecosystems through improved management of land-based stresses; while the specific objective is to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities by sustainably managing critical coastal and marine ecosystems, through the implementation of agreed WIO SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels

Towards achieving this goal, the project has funded 20 demonstration projects across the region focusing on MPA management, climate change, pollution mitigation, marine spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, ecosystem management, community livelihoods and river flows management delivered through various strategic partnerships. The project in collaboration with various partners has also supported the development of key regional guidelines including Guidelines on Mangroves Restoration, Guidelines on Seagrass Restoration, Guidelines on EFlows Assessment, Economic Valuation Guidelines and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Toolkit among others. The project has also supported various regional collaboration initiatives with diverse partners including (but not limited to), science to policy dialogues, finalization of negotiations for the ICZM Protocol, capacity building in pollution management, marine spatial planning and EFlows Assessment.

In March 2020, World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic due to the rapid increase in cases across a growing number of countries. WHO urged governments to take measures to contain the

spread of the virus. Many countries introduced controls to restrict peoples' internal movement, keep social distance, and some countries closed their borders entirely. These measures affected normal operations for organizations, businesses, learning institutions, healthcare institutions, among others. The Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties, like the rest of the world adopted various restrictions ranging from partial to complete lockdowns in the past one and a half years, to address the crisis and minimize its public health impact in the countries. This in turn resulted to delays in implementation of project activities and difficulty in planning activities and events due to the uncertainties associated with the pandemic.

The slowing down and in some cases complete interruption of implementation of activities due to lockdown restrictions instituted by the governments in seeking to contain the spread of the virus has had significant impact on implementation of project activities on the ground including (i) cancellation and postponement of project meetings that were to be convened, due to social distancing restrictions, (ii) difficulty in accessing project sites due to travel restrictions and (iii) challenges in obtaining various approvals for implementation of activities due to alternative work arrangements such as tele-commuting. These factors have contributed to slow progress in the implementation of most of the demonstration projects. A limited number of activities that could be carried out remotely, such as virtual consultations with project stakeholders, nomination of experts to various task forces and working groups, and development and review of documents, project focal meetings and convening of the 4th and 5th PSC meetings have been progressing despite the challenges. On ground projects lost about 6 months to 1 year of implementation time.

The countries' lockdown restrictions have slowly eased, and project activities have resumed with caution being exercised. The most significant focus of the WIOSAP project is support to on-ground demonstration projects. Consequently, due to the slowed down implementation of projects following the COVID restrictions, there has been low funds absorption and additional resources saved because of physical meetings, workshops and trainings which could not take place. The 5th PSC approved that additional support can be given to ongoing demo projects to enhance the impact of the WIOSAP project where needed also as a way to support COVID recovery efforts to build back better within the scope of the WIOSAP project. The PSC asked the Secretariat to prepare criteria for this additional support for consideration to facilitate this process in an expedited manner.

2.0 CRITERIA FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

1. **Sound business case:** The rationale and need for additional support must be qualified and its value proposition to the success of the whole project quantified. This will be determined by the nature and scope of proposed activities needing additional support, their value addition to the already proposed activities and expected contribution to the success of the project.
2. **Cost effectiveness and leveraged co-funding:** The demo projects seeking additional funding support must demonstrate cost-effectiveness in the utilization of the funds already disbursed and spent. At least 50% leveraged co-financing must be submitted as part of the request for additional support.
3. **Sustainability of the action:** The requested support must show how sustainability will be enhanced and secured after completion of the action. This can include aspects of necessary follow-up activities and demonstrated potential for replication (where and by who), built-in strategies (how many), ownership (by who) and strategic partnerships built (which ones and how many) etc.
4. **Progress in project implementation:** Any demo project seeking additional funding must demonstrate that it has already achieved at least 50% success in implementing planned activities and associated outputs with the funds already disbursed by the Secretariat.

- 5. Materiality in financial expenditure:** Implementing Partners seeking additional support must demonstrate that they have already spent at least 50% of disbursed funds aligned to activities implementation in 4 above. Their supporting expenditure reports must be submitted alongside such requests, be approved internally at UNEP before consideration of the requests.

3.0 THE PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS

1. The criteria will be shared with PSC members for any comment and advice
2. A template for requisitioning of additional support will be circulated to all implementing partners and submissions given 2 weeks' deadline. The template for submission of request shall include a matrix for use at the national level, mainly for analysis of all national demos, and for selection of the most suitable demo project deserving extra support based on the attached criteria.
3. Submissions will be evaluated based on the criteria above by the Secretariat and feedback given to relevant implementing partners. Projects meeting the criteria will be forwarded to the PSC for virtual consideration and approval of the respective additional funding requests.
4. Qualifying submissions will be supported through amendment of existing SSFAs

Implementing partners whose projects will be under consideration for additional support will be appraised of the outcome throughout the process.

Annex 3. Fifth WIOSAP PSC Meeting Agenda

Projects 5 and 10 below were not presented as the IPs were not available.

Time	Programme	Responsible Person
Session I: Overall project progress and implementation of demonstration activities		
9:30 - 9:40	Welcoming Remarks	Nairobi Convention UN Environment Programme
9:40 -10:05	Presentation of overall progress in implementation of WIOSAP project including implementation challenges such as COVID 19 pandemic	WIOSAP Project Manager
Session II: Presentation of progress made in the implementation of demo projects by implementing partners		
	<i>Component A</i>	
10: 05-11:00	1. Enhancing stakeholder capacity on the use of ICZM as a tool for conservation of the coastal and marine environment through a demo ICZM Project in Malindi –Sabaki Estuary Area, Kenya IP: Nature Kenya	Gibson Mwatete
	2. Towards integrated spatial planning for sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in Kilifi county, Kenya IP: WWF	Zachary Maritim
	3. Coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius IP: Mauritius Oceanographic Institute	Suraj Bacha Gian
	4. Assessment of Blue Carbon Ecosystem (Seagrass) around the island of Mauritius IP: Albion Fisheries Research Centre	Subashini Amnee Cootapen
	5. Community-based ecological coastal rehabilitation using an ecosystem approach, Seychelles IP: Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles	Elvina Henriette
	6. Habitat restoration and attraction of seabirds to Ile aux Aigrettes (Mauritius) IP: Mauritius Wildlife Foundation	Vikash Tatayah
	7. Developing Collaborative Management Plan and Sustainable Mangrove Restoration Model in Rufiji Delta, Tanzania IP: Institute of Marine Sciences, Zanzibar	Mwita Marwa Mangora
	8. Undertake seagrass restoration for Sustainable Shellfish and drafting a management Plan Action guideline for seagrass restoration (Mozambique) IP: University of Eduardo Mondlane	Salomão Bandeira
	9. Mangrove Restoration and Livelihood Support through Community Participation in Limpopo River Estuary, Mozambique IP: Aqua	Celia Macamo

	10. Sustainable management of shallow marine habitats in Comoros through improved management planning and rehabilitation of degraded sites IP: General Directorate of Environment and Forests	Houssoyni Housseni
	11. Developing Collaborative Strategies for Sustainable Management of Mangroves in the Boeny Region Littorale, Madagascar IP: Directorate General of Environment	Nirina Mamy Rajaonarivelo
11:00-11:15	Plenary discussions	
11:15-11:25	Break	
	<i>Component B</i>	
11:25-12:10	12. Improving Mtwapa Creek water quality by use of Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment technology in Shimo la Tewa IP: Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute	Stephen Mwangi
	13. Strengthening regulatory framework and national capacity for monitoring effluent discharges, water, and sediments quality in coastal and marine areas of Madagascar IP: National Centre For Environmental Research - CNRE	Dr. Yves Mong
	14. Improving Water Quality by use of Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment at a Farm in the South of Mahé Island IP: Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	Mr. Fredrick Kinloch
	15. Improvement of ecosystem health and water quality by implementing a Source to Sea-based approach to tackle marine litter in five priority river systems in Durban, Kwazulu- Natal, South Africa IP: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Dr Yazeed Peterson
	16. Improvements in Marine Water Quality through enhanced Estuarine Management (South Africa) IP: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	Ayanda Matoti/Yamkela/Zimbini Nkwintya
	17. Upscaling and Amplification of the Msingini Wastewater Treatment Facility Model in Chake Chake Town, Pemba. IP: Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries	Farhat A. Mbarouk/ Dr. Aboud Jumbe
	<i>Component C</i>	
	18. Sustainable Catchment Management through Enhanced Environmental Flow Assessment and Implementation for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities in Tanzania IP: Sokoine University of Agriculture	Japhet J. Kashaigili
	19. Sustainable management of EFlows for west coast rivers of Madagascar: a case of Betsiboka River IP: Environmental Assessments Directorate	Noeline Rakotovelolo

	20. Environmental Flows for enhanced Biodiversity and Poverty alleviation in the Incomati delta, Mozambique (EFlows-Moz) IP: IP: University of Eduardo Mondlane	Dinis Juízo
12:10-12:20	Plenary discussions including additional support to ongoing projects	Chair
Session III		
12:20-12:35	Presentation of the revised Results Management Framework	WIOSAP Project Manager
12:35-12:40	Discussions and approval of the revised RMF	Chair
12:45-12:50	Closing remarks	Nairobi Convention
12:50 -12:55	Closing remarks	UN Environment Programme
12:55 -13:00	Closing remarks	Chair
End of Meeting		

3. Fifth WIOSAP PSC Meeting List of Participants

Fifth WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting				
9th November 2021				
Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams				
No.	Name	Email	Country	Gender
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