



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Summary of SAPPHIRE Project Implementation Progress 2020

Background:

UNEP-Nairobi convention is executing UNDP's project, Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project with the funding support of GEF. The project promotes policy harmonization and institutional reform for the improvement of the management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems. It is building capacity among governments, conventions, communities, partners, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector in sustainable management of coastal and marine resource and ocean governance.

The project aims to support the appropriate and formally mandated government institutions and intergovernmental bodies in the region to implement related activities in order to deliver the strategic action programme(SAP) and to ensure sustainability of efforts and actions toward long-term management of WIO LMEs as well as the sustainability of associated institutional arrangements and partnerships. The project is under implementation in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania.

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

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

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

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

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

Component 5: Capacity Development to Realise improved ocean governance in the WIO region.

Project Progress

2020 a very important year for the project as demonstration projects and activities prioritised and planned in each participating country would have been commenced implementation on the ground. However, the global pandemic, COVID 19 has significantly hindered the entire Secretariat's work including SAPPHIRE project. Despite this crisis, efforts have been made to discuss with focal points and support the accomplishment of some of the planned activities.

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

Implementation of priority national requirements for strengthening and improving national legislation, policy and institutional arrangements to support the ecosystem-based approach and improved ocean governance through:

- **In partnership with the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) developed an online platform that provides a working space for the ongoing process of updating the 2012 national MEDA. The portal offers users with a wealth of analytical data and information from Nairobi Convention member countries; and allows member countries to view and update their national SDG14, socioeconomic, and SAPPHIRE project data and indicators, as well as share case studies and success stories**
- **Updating national marine ecosystem diagnostic analysis (MEDA) in all participating countries**
- **Supported the UN Decade of Ocean Science Regional Consultation Workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was held from 27- 29 January 2020**
- **State of ocean governance in the WIO region background document ready for publication**
- **Development of regional ocean governance strategy: key partners/ Regional Economic Communities (REC) consultation process postponed due to COVID 19**
- **Demonstration projects: on national level policy review, dialogue and realignment: Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique**
- **Support to national Blue Economy strategy development: Kenya and Tanzania**
- **West Indian Ocean source to sea transboundary diagnostic analysis(TDA) development process has began**



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

- **Collaborative and cooperative mechanisms agreed and strengthened between national and regional partners and stakeholder including government institutions, IMO, IOC, KMFRI, IMS, Nelson Mandela University, WIOMSA, SAIIA, etc.**

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

This component focuses on supporting demonstration projects in selected sites and countries to:

- **Integrated Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach into Local livelihoods activities in selected communities at a pilot level and stress reduction demonstrated and captured for replication (including community and stakeholder engagement and enhanced awareness about Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) goods and services**
- **Supporting small scale fishing communities and deliver artisanal fisheries management plans for inclusion into national fisheries management strategies**
- **Demonstration projects proposal preparation guideline and community selection criteria agreed**
- **National level consultations conducted, and demonstration projects proposals submitted by Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania. Review and revision of proposal is ongoing while Comoros proposal is finalized and the Secretariat is processing small-scale funding agreement(SSFA) to commence project implementation at the ground level.**
- **TOR prepared and shared with the focal points of Madagascar and Mozambique and national level consultation is conducted to provide technical support to finalize proposals**

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

Facilitate public private sector partnership (PPP): support private sector engagement and participation in SAP implementation and mainstreaming the ecosystem approach into their daily activities to reduce and mitigate impacts on environmental quality objectives (EQOs).

- **In partnership with SAIIA (of South Africa) a private sector engagement strategy is under development**
- **In partnership with IMO, prepared background report on Oil Spill Preparedness and Regional Cooperation in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean and,**

- **Organized Regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills and partnership with IOC, IMO and other partners. SAPPHIRE will support the implementation of agreed action plan by the participating countries**
- **To support the efforts to address the impacts of ocean acidification in the WIO region, SAPPHIRE has co-organized Indian Ocean regional ocean acidification workshop that was held on 28th – 29th October 2019 in Zanzibar, Tanzania in collaboration with IUCN- the Ocean Acidification International Reference User Group (OAIRUG) and WIOMSA**

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

Demonstrating effective ocean policy implementation with emphasis on marine spatial planning, intersectoral cooperation, adoption of a blue ocean economy approach, innovative management mechanisms and capture of lessons for transfer and replication.

- **Build technical and management capacity in support of marine spatial planning and effective management of coastal and marine ecosystem**
- **Support the designing of regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) strategy in partnership with Nelson Mandela University (joint initiative)**
- **Partnership with IMS (Tanzania) and KMFRI (Kenya) on oceanographic research: to develop a data and information system along with a programme of data capture and gap-filling as a foundation for evidence-based decision making and adaptive ocean management.**
- **Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) online data resources established, associated metadata content for all datasets developed with secure data backup to support ABNJ management**

Component 5: Capacity development to realise improved ocean governance in the WIO region: Capacity for improved ocean governance strengthened through training and technical support to countries:

- **SAPPHIRE in collaboration with WIOSAP project and SwAM has organized capacity building training on MSP for Somalia experts.**
- **Remote capacity building training on data management is ongoing at country level including compiling oceanographic data country profiles and webpages in partnership with the CEDARE**



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

- **The leadership renewal training for WIO leaders and Scientists that focus on women was one of the key accomplishments**
- **As reported earlier, planned training activities to take place in 2020 have been postponed due to COVID 19, including the regional ocean governance training for government officials and experts: in partnership with IOI (South Africa);**
- **Marine spatial planning, ecosystem health and water quality monitoring trainings for national experts are some of the planned activities postponed due to the pandemic**

Key Roles of Focal Points

SAPPHIRE Focal Points are instrumental in leading and coordinating national level interventions through organizing meetings with National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC) and other partners by identifying problems and seeking joint solutions, guiding and consulting government institutions in developing demonstration projects proposals and implementing activities. Moreover, they are point of entries in each participating country in coordinating data collection, consultations during the development of regional level strategies, guidelines and assessment. Accordingly, the focal points are requested to continue providing their indispensable support to in this challenging time for the successful implementation of the project, among others:

- **Continued leadership and support in coordinating national level activities implementation such as the MEDA update process and review and finalize proposals as well as launching of demonstration projects at community level.**
- **WIO private sector engagement strategy: request to review draft strategy and participate on virtual validation workshop.**
- **Regional interventions: participate in virtual consultations, provide information and help coordination with relevant institutions in the development of a regional marine spatial planning strategy, ecosystem monitoring framework as well as the designing of strategic framework for regional coastal and marine water quality management.**