

The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action
Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms
(WIO LME SAPPHIRE) Project

SAPPHIRE YEAR IN REVIEW

2019



1.0 Project Summary

Project ID and Title	00094555 The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPPHIRE)
Duration	2017 – 2023
Total Budget	Total resources required USD 326,565,994 Total Co-Financing USD 317,799,494 GEF USD 8,766,500 Governments USD 311,040,044 In-kind USD 6,759,450
Annual Budget 2020	USD 1,748,300
Expenditures 2019	USD 1,098,187
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Executing Agency	Nairobi Convention Secretariat (NCS)- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Funding Agency	Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
Participating Countries	The Government of Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania

2.0 Project Background

The SAPPHIRE project aims to support and assist the appropriate and formally mandated government institutions and intergovernmental bodies in the region to implement activities that contribute to a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and ensure sustainability of efforts and actions toward long-term management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems (WIO LMEs) as well as the sustainability of associated institutional arrangements and partnerships. The project builds on the previous work completed under the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project by UNDP with the financial support of GEF and in close collaboration with different partners.

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), undertaken by the countries of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region with the joint support of the ASCLME project and the South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), provided a scientific and technical synthesis report on the status of the ASCLME. The synthesis presented in the TDA was used to develop a SAP to address the problems of greatest concern that are facing the marine and coastal ecosystems of the WIO region. In line with this, the WIO LME SAPPHIRE project was designed to implement the priorities set in WIO LME SAP.

The joint ASCLME-SWIOFP TDA and SAP were intended to be complementary to the TDA and SAP for land-based sources of pollution produced by the WIO-LaB project: Addressing Land Based Sources of Pollution in the Western Indian Ocean (UNEP/Nairobi Convention Secretariat 2009). Throughout implementation, the project will coordinate closely with the successor project of WIO LAB, i.e. the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) project, with the intention of harmonizing activities and ultimately combining institutional and administrative process for a single implementation strategy for the two SAPs. This will in turn enhance cost effectiveness and impact at the national and regional levels.

The project will benefit the Governments of Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. The overall objective of the project is to achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean LMEs in line with the Strategic Action Programme 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

3. Summary of Project Achievements

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

3.1.1 Consultative meetings on policy, legislative and institutional reforms and realignment in support of SAP implementation at national Level: national inception and Scoping workshops

SAPPHIRE held national level project inception workshops and scoping meetings in participating countries; i.e. Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania throughout quarter one and two of the reporting year. The workshops and meetings were focused on, inter alia:

1. Awareness raising on the WIO LME SAPPHIRE project;
 2. Consultation on national prioritization including policies, legislations, strategies and programmes related to the SAPPHIRE as well as WIO LME SAP implementation at the national and regional levels;
 3. Establishment of the NICC and national level implementation modalities; and
 4. Partnership and collaboration.
- Access the Project Inception and Scoping Meetings Reports for each country [here](#).

3.1.2 Regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Training Workshop

A regional workshop on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) was held on 28-29 March 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, organized in collaboration with SAPPHIRE's sister project, WIOSAP. The objective of the workshop was to create a common understanding on the importance of harmonizing and realigning MSP practices at the national and regional levels for the sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean region. The regional workshop created a platform for participants from the WIO and other regions to share their expertise and experiences on the MSP process. The participants gained a better understanding on the status of MSP exercises in the WIO region and of the shared challenges and opportunities in the protection and management of the WIO Large Marine Ecosystem. In addition, best practices and lessons learnt were shared from countries both within and beyond the region, including from the Baltic Sea Convention.

The key recommendations and action points from the workshop were the need to develop a regional MSP strategy for integration of MSP into relevant national and regional policies, programmes and initiatives; as well as to establish a regional taskforce for the WIO region to support countries in implementing MSP for the sustainable management of their coastal and marine ecosystem.

3.1.3 Regional Partnership Workshops on the Management of Oceanographic Data and Research in WIO

Keen on promoting partnerships and collaborations for scientific research in the WIO region, the contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention, during the fourth Conference of Parties, directed the Secretariat, in collaboration with other organizations, to facilitate the establishment of the network of academic and research institutions in the region to enhance cooperation and facilitate the sharing of information. The decision also directed the Convention to facilitate identification of opportunities for collaborative research with these institutions. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat established Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) based on Decision CP4/8. The CHM was designed to enable countries develop a comprehensive information base and access services to quickly provide information to decision makers for the improvement of the management of the coastal and marine resources.

SAPPHIRE, along with other projects executed by the Secretariat, is providing support in strengthening the CHM in order to enhance evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation process for improved ocean governance at the national and regional levels. Accordingly, data collection parameters were developed and shared with national data centers. The data shared by these centers will be migrated to the CHM for easy access by countries and partners. In addition, in partnership with CEDARE, capacity building training will be provided to the national data managers on data management and visualization.

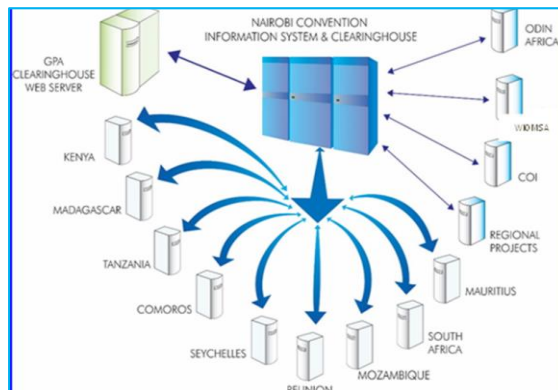


Figure 1: The Structure of the Nairobi Convention Clearing House mechanism (CHM)

Furthermore, the SAPPHIRE project organized five partnership meetings on oceanographic data and scientific research in the WIO region from March - June 2019. One of these meetings was the 'Partnership for action meeting on oceanographic data management and research in the WIO region' that took place on 28 June 2019 in Durban, South Africa. The sessions brought together scientists, policy makers, and partners to discuss on the status of national data centers, identify priorities of countries in using, managing and owning data and research findings. In line with this the participants agreed to establish mechanisms and strengthen partnerships to improve data collection, sharing, and archiving among others in the WIO region.



Photo: Participants of Regional workshop on Partnership for Action for the Management of Oceanographic Data and Scientific Research in the WIO Region, 28 June 2019, Durban, South Africa

Moreover, the participants agreed to establish a platform to promote collaboration on data and information sharing, as well as technical support and experience sharing. The secretariat highlighted the upcoming national Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA) update process through the SAPPHIRE project and requested that the practice of sharing recent data be incorporated into the updating process and their translation into National Action Plans, as appropriate, to support the science-based ocean governance practices by the participating countries.

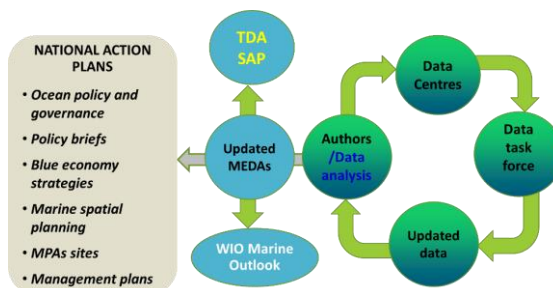


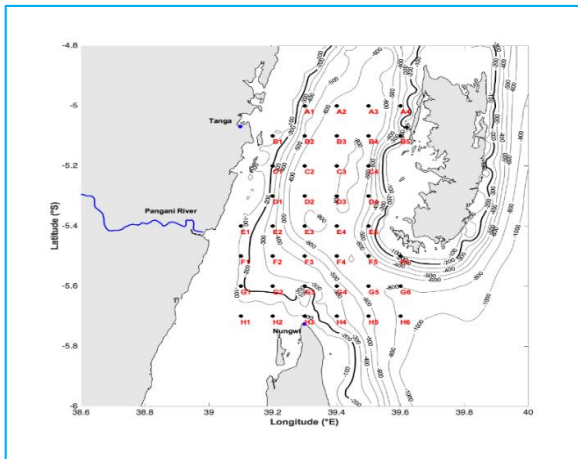
Figure 2: A schematic diagram showing the steps agreed upon by the national data managers and the expected outputs from the planned data management activities at Durban workshop in June 2019

3.1.4 Collaborative and cooperative mechanisms agreed and strengthened between national, regional and global partners and stakeholders

Three high-level consultative meetings were conducted with the Kenyan Marine and Fisheries Research Institution (KMFRI) and Institute of Marine Science (IMS), Tanzania to establish a partnership on oceanographic research and scientific data collection in the North Kenyan bank and Pemba channel of Tanzania, respectively. One of the objectives of this support was to fill the existing data gaps in the above-mentioned sites. Small-scale funding agreements have been signed with both institutions and with preparation activities to commence the research in progress. Find more details about the partnerships below.

3.1.4.1 Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS): Oceanographic Research in the Pemba channel, Tanzania: the project is linked to the following three SAPPHERE project outcomes: 1) oceanographic database for policy harmonization and management reforms in sustainable management of Large Marine Ecosystem Management and improved ocean governance; 2) improved critical mass of trained scientists in marine technology; and 3) improved governance and community engagement for enhancing livelihoods. These outcomes will be achieved through the implementation of different activities under the five components below:

- Scientific study of the ocean ecosystems in the channel
- Socio-economic aspects of the Small Pelagic Fisheries
- Transformation of science into policy and wide stakeholder engagement
- Capacity development
- Communication



Map 1. Scientific Study of the Ocean Ecosystems of the Pemba Channel

3.1.4.2 Kenyan Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI): Oceanographic Research in the North Kenya Bank: the main objective of the project is to determine the overarching and site-specific factors attributing to the North Kenya Bank (NKB) ecosystem functionality, thereby providing for management applicable interventions.

The specific objectives

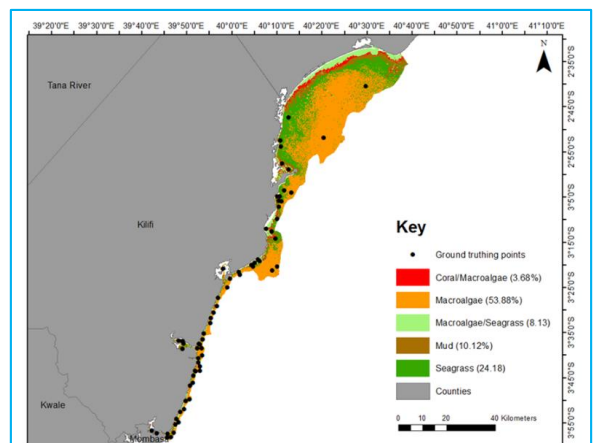
- Generate abiotic and biotic dataset of climate change variables that are likely to have an impact on North Kenya Bank fisheries and their ecosystems.

Proposed Activities: qualitative and quantitative analysis of the nature and extent of land-use change in the catchment areas of the Tana river, determine ecosystem productivity.

- Determine the North East and South East monsoon biogeochemistry of the NKB ecosystem and map and characterize the NKB benthic habitat and determine the NKB ecosystem connectivity.

Proposed Activities:

- Employ a remotely operated vehicle to photographically capture the benthic flora, fauna and substrate,
- Analyse the North Kenya Bank fishery population connectivity building on recent genetics work in the region including analysis of genome wide datasets (NGS) and the use of Regional Oceanic Modelling (ROM)/Individual Based Model (IBM) approaches to estimate larval dispersal.
- Determine the geo-chronological accretion of the NKB sediments, obtain sediment core samples at the NKB, determine Tana river plume dynamic
- Underscore socio-economic and governance issues related to changes in the upwelling regimes of the NKB



Map 2. The Northern Kenya bank biodiversity distribution

3.1.5 Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting, 25 – 28 June 2019, Durban, South Africa

The first project steering committee (PSC) meeting was held from 25-26 June 2019 in Durban, South Africa. The PSC reviewed and approved the terms of reference for the PSC and the National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC). The PSC reviewed and approved the project progress report, the multiyear project budget and AWP 2019 with proposed amendment.

The PSC also reviewed the project result framework and mandated the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to develop outcome level indicators and present to the PSC for review and endorsement within three months. In line with this, the PSC approved the revised result framework in its extraordinary meeting on the 6th September in Seychelles.

In addition, the project focal points have requested a report on the realization of the co-financing commitment made during the project endorsement as well as the establishment of the NICCs.

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

The participating countries were guided to conduct national level consultations to select demonstration sites (i.e. communities) and prepare proposals. Proposal guidelines were developed and shared with countries. As a result, draft demonstration proposals are under preparation with the leadership of the national focal institutions/focal points. The demonstration projects will focus on the integration of ecosystem-based management approach into the local communities' economic activities in select sites, mainly the fisher communities and artisanal fisheries.

Through the demonstration projects, sensitization of fisher communities on the value of LME goods and services will be conducted. In addition, an integrated artisanal fisheries management plan will be prepared for selected sites to mainstream an ecosystem-based management approach into local and national plans to promote the sustainable management of resources. The project will work in collaboration with other supporting projects executed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to develop community/site selection criteria and harmonize interventions.

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

SAPPHIRE has launched the designing of a private sector engagement strategy for the WIO region with the objective of providing a framework for the private sector to mainstream ecosystem based management approaches in their business practices and to voluntarily adopt regulatory mechanisms for pollution reduction, actions which would significantly contribute to ecosystem conservation.

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

3.4.1 Strengthening the Science-Policy interface through support to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in developing an evidence based decision-making process

Regional Science to Policy Workshop

The WIO regional science to policy workshop was organized from 27 - 29 May 2019 in Mauritius, in recognition of the need for science-based policy formulation, decision-making and adaptive management. The joint SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP PSC meeting in Durban in June 2019 recommended the establishment of a Science to Policy Platform (SPP) to facilitate information sharing, provide technical and scientific advice on priorities for management and assessment, and enhance cooperation among stakeholders. The SSP's terms of reference has been developed, membership and operation modalities discussed, and preparation is ongoing to establish the platform and organize its first meeting in 2020.

3.4.2. Progress Towards WIO Regional Ocean Governance Strategy Development

The project organized a special session on ocean governance at 11th Scientific Symposium of WIOMSA on the 5th of July in Mauritius. Based on the request made at this meeting, a WIO regional ocean governance workshop was organized from 04 - 05 September 2019 in Seychelles. An assessment of the state of ocean governance in the WIO region was conducted, presented and widely discussed. The background document provided a comprehensive update and information that supports the development of ocean governance strategy for the region. A draft WIO regional ocean governance strategy initiation document was presented to the participants and a thorough discussion and dialogue conducted that provided a roadmap for the development of the strategy with the leadership of AU and RECs.



Photo: Participants of the WIO Regional Ocean Governance Workshop, 04- 05 September 2019, Mahe Seychelles

3.4.3. Improve Ocean Planning and Governance for ABNJ in the Western Indian Ocean and South East Atlantic Ocean regions workshop

The SAPPHIRE project facilitated the collective meeting between the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions as part of the above entitled regional workshop held on 10 - 12 June 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa, organized in collaboration with key partners. The meeting brought together the contracting parties of the two conventions to share experiences and concerns regarding the governance of the high seas (ABNJ) and develop a collaborative approach for improved management and governance.

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

3.5.1 Marine Spatial Planning Training for Somalia Nationals

Together with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) and WIOSAP project, SAPPHIRE held a training on MSP for Somali government representatives from 11-13 November, hosted by the government of Seychelles. The workshop introduced participants to the advantages of spatial planning and discussed the necessary policy, institutional, and technical requirements for MSP adoption in Somalia. The government of Seychelles, a frontrunner of MSP in the region, shared their experiences and progress in MSP. Participants further discussed the need for and plans for river basin management in the Juba-Shebelle region and began preliminary talks on a proposed common roadmap for MSP in Somalia.

3.5.2. Leadership Renewal Training for Senior Officials and Policy Makers (Women) in Marine Policy and Ocean Governance in WIO Region

The SAPPHIRE project organized a training workshop on Leadership Renewal for Women Senior Officials and Policy Makers in Marine Policy and Ocean Governance in the WIO Region in Mombasa, Kenya on 4 – 6 December 2019.

This was done in recognition of the fact that the roles and responsibilities of men and women in the WIO region are evolving in response to changing social, political and economic contexts and the opportunities confronting them. It also took account of the fact the number of women involved in science, marine policy and action has significantly increased that in recent years accounting for 30% of the world's researchers, thus the need to promote gender mainstreaming in integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems as well as ocean governance.

The training offered a platform to motivate and inspire the participants – offering an environment in which they could reflect on and share successes, failures, and ideas on how to seize future opportunities.

The leadership renewal training equipped the participants with leadership skills for better advocacy on inclusivity in management and policy development to promote the use of integrated ecosystem-based approaches in the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems within the government and in partnerships with local, regional and global stakeholders.

In addition, it provided the participants with skills necessary for the formulation of informed policies and decision-making critical to the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. Moreover, it enabled the establishment of a platform for exchange and learning between the participants and created an opportunity for networking.

The participants have created a WIO Women Leaders group for continued sharing, learning and support to each other, which will help them both in their leadership journey and in their contributions to sustainable development and ocean governance in the region.



Photo: participants of leadership renewal training for senior officials and policy makers (Women) in marine policy and ocean governance in WIO Region

4. Communications and Knowledge Products

Enhancing awareness among stakeholders and partners is critical to strengthen partnership for and coordination of efforts for the sustainable management of the coastal and marine ecosystems and ocean governance. In this regard, major events and project progress have been communicated via national and social media, quarterly updates and reports. Some of the analytical products include assessments of data and research management in the WIO region, an information paper and background document on the state of ocean governance in the WIO region are prepared and distributed to the wider stakeholders and partners.

5. Monitoring Progress

Regular monitoring will be conducted and technical support provided to countries for the successful implementation of project activities. Periodic reporting such as quarterly and annual progress reports, mission reports and various partnership meetings minutes with actionable recommendations are prepared and shared with responsible stakeholders, participating countries and the Secretariat team for follow up and taking timely actions. Moreover, recommendations and adaptive management interventions will be implemented for the achievement of the intended outcomes.

6. Opportunities and Way forward

The commitment of the national focal points and institutions to support the implementation of the project is one of the key successes of the project. In line with this, through the leadership of the national focal points and institutions, National Intersectoral Coordination Committees were established in all countries with representatives from key institutions and sectors to support the coordination and implementation of the project at the national level.

In addition, the Secretariat is coordinating the implementation of SAPPHIRE, WIOSAP and other supporting projects through jointly planning and implementing of thematic areas as recommended at the joint steering committee meeting. This has accelerated project implementation, enhanced coordination and resulted in cost effectiveness.

The project will maintain the strengthened partnership established with Kenyan Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) on management of oceanographic data and scientific research for improved ocean governance in the WIO region. WIOMSA is a key partner in mobilizing and coordinating with other partners at the regional level and supporting implementation of different planned activities.

Furthermore, at the Secretariat level, harmonization of crosscutting activities under all projects has been given due emphasis. Accordingly, activities have been planned and executed jointly with the Nairobi Convention projects and with other organizations to enhance cost effectiveness and deliver bigger results. The project is working in partnership with IMO on oil spill control and emergency response activities; with IUCN and WIOMSA on monitoring and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification; and with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) on MSP.

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