

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Project Steering Committee Meeting for the Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NOCAMO) project

6th December 2023, from 2pm to 5pm EAT

Maputo, Mozambique

1. Background

The transfrontier Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) area covers an area of approximately 700,000 km² and is believed to be the world's second most biodiverse marine hotspot after the Coral Triangle. It serves as a biological reservoir for the entire Eastern African coast, in particular for coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and is an important breeding and foraging area for flagship marine and migratory species. The coastal population of the NMC is currently estimated to be around 12 million (expected to grow to 22-25 million in 2050) and is largely dependent on healthy and productive ecosystems through fishing, coastal agriculture, and tourism. The annual economic output from living resources and ecosystem services of the WIO has been calculated at US \$ 20.8 billion annually.

The region's critical ecosystems are in decline from the combined impacts of local use and global threats, including growing pressures from coastal infrastructure development, extractive industries (in particular recently discovered natural gas and oil), population growth and climate change. In this context the project will address scenarios for development to maximize the opportunities for sustainable development in the NMC, based on preservation of the health of marine ecosystems as a foundation for future prosperity. In this regard the project uses the holistic approach of integrated management for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and will assist the countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14 on Oceans.

The NOCAMO project aims to maintain and enhance the Northern Mozambique Channel's high biodiversity value coral reef and associated ecosystems through effective spatial management of marine uses, in particular the oil & gas sector, to secure a sustainable future for coastal communities and economies by 2030.

Although the expected start date was set for January 2019, contracting negotiations and aspects created a delay in implementation. At present, as master contracts have now seen progress, partners need to convene the first steering committee meeting.

2. Objectives of the Steering Committee Meeting

The main objective of the meeting is to agree on different aspects of the project coordination and implementation. Specifically:

- Provide guidance, as well as overall strategic policy and management direction to the project,
- Annually review and assess the progress of the project,
- 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 the donors' 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,
- Seek additional funding to support the outputs and activities of the WIOSAP project,
- Review the quality of deliverables produced

3. Permanent Members

- Focal points of participating countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania)
- Representative from WWF FR
- Representative from WWF MDCO
- Representative from CORDIO
- Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat
- Project Manager NOCAMO
- Donor agencies: FFEM and OFB

4. Roles and responsibilities of the Chair of the Project Steering Committee

- Ensure that there is a coherent project organization structure and logical set of plans,
- Monitor and control the progress of the project at a strategic level,
- Ensure that risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible,
- Brief PSC and Nairobi Convention Focal Points, representatives of government institutions and relevant stakeholders about project progress as required.

5. Roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee

- Acts as the highest decision-making body for the project,
- Provides overall supervision of project and its deliverables, workplan and budget,
- Interacts with NC Secretariat over all policy level decisions,

- Reports back to the focal government institutions in their respective countries or to the intergovernmental organizations (IGO)/regional body they represent,
- Ensures the project activities are fully integrated into countries' related policies, strategies, programmes and initiatives as appropriate,
- Advises and agree on appropriate administrative and institutional mechanisms for appropriate implementation.

Initiating the Project

- Review and approve the initiation plan (Annual Work Plan),
- Review progress report for the initiation stage.

Running the Project

- Review and appraise detailed annual project plan (AWP),
- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within specified constraints,
- Address project issues as raised by the Project Manager/Coordinator,
- Provide guidance and agree on possible countermeasures or management actions to address specific risks,
- Agree on annual work plan,
- Conduct regular meetings to review the project quarterly progress report and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans,
- Review the project annual progress report, make recommendations for the next AWP,
- Assess and decide on project changes through revisions.

Ending the Project

- Make sure that all project deliverables have been produced satisfactorily,
- Review and approve the final project report, including lessons learned,
- Make recommendations for follow up actions to be submitted to the participating countries, Nairobi Convention Focal Points
- Notify operational completion of the project to the participating countries, Nairobi Convention Focal Points, and donors.