

Nairobi Convention Focal Points Meeting

Date: Wednesday 08 July 2020

Venue: Skype Call (11h00 – 13h50 EAT)

Report of the Meeting

National and Project Focal Points

1. Mr. Ismael Bachirou (Comoros)
2. Mr. Ambadi Issouf (Comoros)
3. Mr. Clément Payeur (France)
4. Dr. Pacifica Ogola (Kenya)
5. Mr. Stephen Katua (Kenya)
6. Ms. Susan Otieno (Kenya)
7. Mr. Jacquis Rasoanaina (Madagascar)
8. Mr. Nicolas Andriamboavonjy (Madagascar)
9. Ms. Nashreen Soogun (Mauritius)
10. Mr. Ramchurn Seenauth (Mauritius)
11. Mr Alexandre Bartolomeu (Mozambique)
12. Ms. Sidonia Muhorro (Mozambique)
13. Mr. Ahmed Y. Ahmed (Somalia)
14. Mr. Abdi Osman (Somalia)
15. Mr. Yamkela Mngxe (South Africa)
16. Ms. Emelda Adam (Tanzania)
17. Dr. Aboud Jumbe (Tanzania)

Secretariat Staff

1. Mr. Dixon Waruinge
2. Ms. Sinikinesh Jimma
3. Mr. Jared Bosire
4. Mr. Timothy Andrew
5. Ms. Angela Patnode
6. Mr. Theuri Mwangi
7. Ms. Marlyn Omondi
8. Mr. Bonface Mutisya
9. Ms. Mastura Chelangat
10. Mr. William Obote
11. Mr. Bernard Inzilia

Status in the countries due to COVID 19 pandemic and impact on implementation of project activities under the Nairobi Convention.

- a) The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries currently have varying levels of restrictions put in place to contain the spread of COVID 19. Restrictions in some countries have been eased and some activities have resumed, though with great caution being exercised, while in other countries partial lockdown, complete lockdown and other movement restrictions are still in place. It is therefore expected that implementation of some activities on the ground will resume in some countries but progress will still be slow while restrictions are gradually eased. Meanwhile, desktop work and virtual engagements with different

stakeholders are ongoing to ensure that activities that are not field-based and do not require face-to-face interactions proceed unhindered.

- b) France eased the lockdown restrictions on 11 May 2020 and normal working conditions are resuming, with staff returning to their offices. The situation with the COVID pandemic has improved with a reduction in the spread of the virus in the country.
- c) Tanzania is working to manage the spread of the virus in the country. Some activities have resumed in offices and on-the-ground with great caution while others have been suspended. There are some activities that will only be resumed following directives, guidance and approval by the relevant government agencies. Therefore, it is expected that progress in implementation will still be slow. Progress has been made in the development and submission of a project proposal to the SAPPHIRE project. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat is requested to provide additional support to the SAPPHIRE focal point in the preparation of proposals to be submitted under the SAPPHIRE project.
- d) Kenya is still monitoring virus infections and community infections are increasing. Lockdown restrictions were eased on 06 July 2020. Government officials have been working in shifts with limited travel outside their duty stations. With the lockdown restrictions eased, controlled movement may be allowed to enable resumption of some field activities. The situation in the country is, however, still unstable and much caution is being exercised to limit the spread of the virus. Activities planned are thus anticipated to progress slowly with delays. Activities such as the development of a Blue Economy strategy for Kenya are ongoing, with a focus on desktop work and virtual consultations.
- e) Madagascar's situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is still at its peak level with numbers of infection rising. There is a complete lockdown restrictions in Antananarivo, which has the highest rate of infection, while other cities have partial lockdown restrictions. This has resulted in slow progress in the implementation of project activities. The development of the National Strategy on Marine Litter is ongoing and a meeting to support the work was held on 23 June 2020.
- f) Mauritius eased lockdown restrictions on 30 May. Government officials resumed normal working habits on 01 June. There has been progress in the implementation of some activities, such as the submission of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) outlook chapter for Mauritius to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat on 24 May 2020, review of the MPA dashboard and communication materials, a virtual meeting to discuss the Ecosystem Diagnosis Analysis (MEDA) update process and the finalization of a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA). Implementation of activities for some of the demonstration projects has resumed and are expected to progress better, while other activities are expected to be delayed due to slow approval processes as a result of the lockdown. The Secretariat has been requested to provide an extension for closure of some of the agreements such as the SSFA for MEDA to allow for completion of implementation of activities and financial reporting.
- g) South Africa is still under lockdown and the number of infections in the country are still rising. Some restrictions have been eased to allow for economic activities to take place. There is not much progress with the implementation of demonstration projects due to the prohibition of movement across different areas. Working arrangements are still on a telecommuting basis, with consultations and engagement with stakeholders limited to virtual meetings. There has been good progress with desktop activities, such as follow-up on the updating of the Marine Ecosystem Diagnosis Analysis (MEDA), review of the MPA dashboard, and nomination of experts to various regional working groups.
- h) Somalia has eased lockdown restrictions following a declining rate of COVID-19 infections and government officials have resumed normal working conditions. Implementation of activities is expected to progress better and the government is seeking to develop a comprehensive, harmonized action plan for national

implementation of the activities of WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects. The government will share with the Secretariat a concept note and an action plan for the fast-tracking of activities.

- i) Mozambique has partial lockdown restrictions with limited movement and a reduced number of staff in the offices. There have been difficulties in the implementation of activities on the ground and delays are still expected. The activities that are desktop-based are now being prioritized and consultations with stakeholders are ongoing through virtual meetings. The proposal for the project on “Ocean Governance Initiative in the Western Indian Ocean region” has been received by the government of Mozambique and submitted to the Minister of Environment. Feedback from the Minister will be provided to the Secretariat in due course. A meeting is being organized between the Nairobi Convention focal point, SAPPHIRE focal point, SAPPHIRE National Intersectoral Coordination Committee, the South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) contact person in Mozambique, and the project proponents of the three demonstration project under the WIOSAP project. The meeting seeks to promote a harmonized and streamlined approach to the implementation of project activities.

Complimentary/Supporting projects developed under the Nairobi Convention (update on new projects and progress in implementation of ongoing projects)

‘Partnership project for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth in the WIO region

- a) The 4-year project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to a tune of US\$ 8.6 Million and is being jointly executed with the South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC). The project focuses on three component areas:
 - i. environmental management of marine and coastal resources (marine spatial planning, management plans for conservation of critical habitats, restoration of degraded habitats, capacity development for climate change vulnerability)
 - ii. ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (Strategies and plans to enhance the livelihoods of youth, women and men involved in small-scale fishing, Management plans and other arrangements for selected fisheries)
 - iii. promoting coordination and harmonization of approaches by environmental and fisheries management bodies to sustainably manage coastal and marine resources (Fisheries Management-Environmental Policy Dialogue at regional and national levels, Functional knowledge and information sharing mechanisms).
- b) The Nairobi Convention is directly implementing the component on environmental management, which has been allocated US\$ 3 million, while the component on ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management (US\$ 2 Million) will be implemented by SWIOFC and focuses on three pilot countries: Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania. The third component on coordination has a funding allocation of US\$ 3.5 Million and is being executed jointly by the SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention.
- c) Project activities began in October 2019. The project will seek to ensure coordination and linkage with the ongoing activities of the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects in the countries.
- d) An inception meeting was scheduled to take place but was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. The Secretariat and SWIOFC are proposing to convene a virtual inception meeting for the project that will bring

on board the Nairobi Convention Focal points institutions and SWIOFC Focal points from fisheries management institutions.

‘Partnership project on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries capacity building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)’

- e) The project funding agreement was signed in May 2020. The project is funded by the European Union (EU) and is being implemented by four regional seas conventions, including the Nairobi Convention. The Nairobi convention will receive funding to a tune of US\$ 2,022,310.
- f) The project focuses on Ocean Governance aspects in the WIO region and will provide support to the review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and ensure that the protocol is updated to focus on ecosystem-based approaches to management rather than species-based approaches. The project will also have activities on the analysis of management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in selected sites, as well as on the management of marine litter and lessons learnt from the interventions on marine litter being carried out in the countries

Project on ‘Ocean Governance Initiative in the Western Indian Ocean Region’

- g) The project was officially signed in April 2020. The project is funded by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to a tune of 3.4 million euros and will be implemented in collaboration with the Deutsch Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project coordinator has been recruited and will be based in the GIZ office in Nairobi, Kenya. The Kenyan government is providing support in obtaining a work permit for the project coordinator.
- h) The project will be supporting the ongoing discussions on ocean governance in the WIO regional level and the engagement of private sector in marine and coastal resources management, which links to ongoing work under SAPPHIRE project on the development of private sector engagement strategy for the WIO region. A pilot project will be implemented in Mozambique engaging the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) team in promoting sustainable coastal and marine resource management in Mozambique.
- i) The selection of the pilot site for the project was done at the discretion of the German Government and the Nairobi Convention will work to ensure that there are synergies between the proposed project activities and ongoing interventions in the country.

Project on ‘Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel’

- j) The project is funded by Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM) to a tune of 1.5 million euros and will be co-implemented by several members of the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem in the Western Indian Ocean.
- k) The project focuses on: (i) Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) area, (ii) Development and sustainable management of the oil and gas sector in the NMC area and (iii) Community engagement in marine resource management in the NMC area.

- l) During the virtual focal points meeting in April 2020, it was agreed that the Project Support Costs for the project would be charged to the Nairobi Convention Trust Fund. The project agreement has been finalized by UNEP and will be sent to France for review and signature.

Progress in implementation of SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects

SAPPHIRE Project

- a) The MEDA update process is ongoing in most countries. The updated MEDA is expected to support national level policy, legislation and strategy formulation and inform national action plans and programmes design that support SAP implementation.
- b) The background paper on the state of ocean governance in the WIO region was finalized and completed with the input from France. It is currently ready for publication.
- c) The organization of dialogues and consultations with regional institutions on the development of the WIO ocean governance strategy, including the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union (AU) and other stakeholders which was to take place in April 2020 were postponed. Discussions are ongoing on how to proceed with the development of the ocean governance strategy for the WIO region and mechanisms to engage the relevant stakeholders in the process.
- d) Development of demonstration projects on policy review and realignment is ongoing in collaboration with national and project focal points and key institutions in the countries. Proposals have been received from Mozambique, Madagascar, Comoros and Kenya and are under review.
- e) The development of Blue Economy Strategies for Kenya and Tanzania has been initiated and consultations are ongoing with the relevant institutions in the countries.
- f) The demonstration project guidelines and criteria of selection of communities for demonstration projects under Component 2 on *empowering and engaging the community on site-level ecosystem management and improved integration with economic activities* have been agreed upon. Proposals have been received from Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania. Support will be provided for one proposal per country. These will support the development of small-scale fisheries management plans, integration of ecosystem-based management approach to activities at the local level and introduction of alternative means of livelihood to improve community wellbeing and reduce stress on marine and coastal resources.
- g) The SAPPHIRE project is working with the South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) in the development of a Private Sector Engagement strategy for the WIO region. The strategy will provide alternatives for how the region can better engage with the private sector to contribute to sustainable management of resources. The work responds to component 3 on facilitating public-private sector partnerships to promote and advocate for private sector engagement and contribute to the improved management of coastal and marine resources through: (i) mainstreaming an ecosystem-based approach in their businesses; (ii) encouraging the private sector to be key partners and voluntarily contribute to stress reduction on the ecosystem; and (iii) encouraging the private sector to contribute resources to the conservation and management of coastal and marine ecosystems. A survey was sent by SAIIA to the focal points and other stakeholders. Feedback on the survey was received and will inform the ongoing development of the strategy. A virtual validation of the strategy will be organized upon its completion and the focal points will be invited to participate and support the process.

- h) A report on regional cooperation and emergency preparedness on marine oil spills has been developed in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The report highlights the discussions held in March 2020 with the focal points and other relevant stakeholders. Short and long- term action plans have been developed and the SAPPHIRE and other projects will work to support the region in the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism and implement the regional action plan to reduce the impacts of oil spill in the WIO ecosystem.
- i) SAPPHIRE is working with various stakeholders and key research institutions and organizations in improving data management mechanisms. It is also working to support oceanographic research for policy-making processes and to inform national programme design for improved ocean governance and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystem. This contributes to the fourth component focusing on lessons learned, improvement of ocean governance, and developing innovative approaches for the better management of marine and coastal resources both in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Oceanographic research work carried out by the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Northern Kenya bank and the Institute of Marine Sciences in Pemba channel of Tanzania is ongoing. Data provided is being collated for input into the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM). Both IMS and KMFRI will deliver a synthesis report (research findings) and policy briefs that will strengthen the national-level decision-making process and the planning and implementation of adaptive management.
- j) A training for national data center managers was postponed due to COVID 19 related travel restrictions, thus capacity building guidance is being provided virtually focusing on data management, development of national profiles and data collection.
- k) A training on improved ocean governance for government officials and experts was planned for the 3rd quarter of 2020 but has been postponed. The training is being organized in collaboration with International Ocean Institute in South Africa (IOI-SA).
- l) The focal points are requested to continue supporting: (i) the MEDA update processes at the national level, (ii) the finalization of the demonstration project proposals and launching the demonstration projects where possible, (iii) virtual validation of the private sector engagement strategy, and (iv) consultations and the providing of information, as well as the coordination with relevant institutions in the development of other joint strategies and frameworks by SAPPHIRE, WIOSAP and supporting projects.

WIOSAP Project

- a) A total of 20 demonstration projects have been approved by the Project Steering Committee of the WIOSAP project and are different stages of implementation.
- b) 11 demonstration projects fall under Component A on Sustainable management of critical habitats, of which seven projects have received funding. Four are expected to receive funding shortly.
- c) Four project guidelines have been developed under Component A: Mangrove restoration guidelines, Seagrass restoration guidelines, Economic Valuation guidelines, and a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment toolkit. The mangrove and seagrass ecosystem restoration guidelines have been finalized and are ready for launch. The Mangrove ecosystem restoration guidelines will be launched online during World Mangrove Day on 24 July 2020 and an invitation will be sent to the focal points to participate in the launch.
- d) Six demonstration projects have been approved under Component B on Improved Water Quality, of which four have received funding. Two are expected to receive funding shortly.

- e) The process of developing of a regional water quality monitoring framework is ongoing in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa and other partners.
- f) A regional marine litter and microplastics technical working group has been established, in collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). The group will carry out an assessment of the current status of marine litter in the WIO region at the policy and institutional levels, as well as ongoing work on the ground.
- g) Three projects have been approved under Component C on Sustainable Management of Riverflows. One project will be receiving funding shortly while the other two have SSFAs under development.
- h) The Guidelines on Environmental Flows Assessment (EFA) have been completed and will be launched in due course.
- i) The Project Management Unit is working with the government of Somalia to develop the Terms of Reference for a consultancy to support the assessment of the current status of Juba-Shebelle basin and relevant policy and management recommendations.

Synergies between the supporting projects and SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP project – areas of joint intervention and delivery of results.

- a) The supporting projects have been carefully designed with partners so that they can address the Nairobi Convention Work Programme and also complement and expand the ability of the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects to deliver on the Strategic Action Programmes for greater impact in the WIO region.
- b) There are six crosscutting themes identified across all the projects which include:
 - i. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Critical Habitats,
 - ii. Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone management
 - iii. Ocean Governance, the Blue Economy and Fisheries,
 - iv. Marine Plastics, Solid waste management and Water quality,
 - v. Science to Policy Interface
 - vi. Data management
- c) The Secretariat has created synergies between the projects that were developed independently to ensure that there is a harmonized approach to the implementation of the activities of the different projects with respect to the marine and coastal resources of the WIO region.
- d) The full participation of national and project focal points and leadership in ensuring seamless national coordination of the projects at the national level is necessary to ensuring the effective implementation of the projects to address WIO country priorities.

Role of Nairobi Convention Focal Points in the Science-Policy Dialogue and in development of the WIO Private Sector Engagement Strategy

Science- Policy Dialogue

- a) The focal points approved the formal establishment of the Science to Policy Platform for the Nairobi Convention during the joint Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings for WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE project held in June 2019. The Platform will continue actualizing the request of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention under Conference of Parties (COP) Decision CP.9/2 on ‘*Science to Policy Dialogue*’, which seeks to strengthen the link between science and policy and promote evidence-based decision

making. All projects implementing activities on Science to Policy will be working within the established platform.

- b) Science to Policy dialogues in the WIO region have continued to provide an important avenue for generating important policy decisions at the Conference of Parties (COP). In COP 9, a number of important COP Decisions came out of the Science to policy dialogues.
- c) The national focal points play a key role in strengthening the policy component in the platform and also as an important link to relevant ministries and government agencies engaged in coastal and marine resources policy and decision-making.
- d) The next Science to Policy meeting is planned for February 2021, though the final date depends on the situation with the COVID 19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The country to host the meeting is yet to be agreed upon and a formal request for hosting will be sent in due course. The policy and decision makers are invited to share any issue on marine and coastal management that they would want addressed in the Science to Policy meeting with the Secretariat.
- e) The Secretariat is working with WIOMSA, which is the host of the science pillar of the Platform, to ensure that the science-related issues are raised and relevant scientists participate at the Science-Policy meeting.
- f) The terms of reference for the Science to Policy platform and the role of the focal points will be shared with the focal points.

Private Sector Engagement Strategy

- a) SAIIA communicated a survey to the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and the project focal points requesting for pertinent information on private sector engagement. A report on private sector assessment has been prepared. The Private sector engagement strategy is under development. The draft strategy and the assessment report will be shared with the focal points and key partners.
- b) The focal points are requested to provide their input to the documents and to participate in the virtual validation workshop to be held by the end of August 2020. The workshop will be organized for the focal points, key partners and key private sector stakeholders. The focal points are also requested to support the process of developing of an action plan for the implementation of the strategy.

Issues raised by Focal Points to be addressed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat

- a) Circulation of the MPA outlook - the finalized and consolidated MPA outlook should be circulated by the WIOSAP Project Management Unit to the focal points for their reference before publication of the document.
- b) Extension of SSFA agreements – The Secretariat should give consideration to the extension of agreements for activities that have been delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions which have slowed down approval and implementation. This is to allow for proper implementation and reporting on activities.
- c) Communication and coordination of supporting projects to Nairobi Convention focal points – The Secretariat should keep the Nairobi Convention focal points regularly informed of activities of the supporting projects that are ongoing in the countries. This is to support better coordination of the projects at the national level and help the governments to adequately report on progress of the projects and their contribution to the Nairobi Convention.
- d) Strengthening of synergies between projects implemented under Nairobi Convention - The Secretariat was requested to critically look into how the areas of synergies between the supporting projects and the Nairobi Convention Work Programme, WIOSAP and SAPPHERE projects will be adequately addressed considering

that some of the supporting projects are not under the direct control of the Nairobi Convention and implementation is done jointly with other organizations that have different focal points from those of the Nairobi Convention. The role of the national focal points in the implementation of supporting activities should be clarified.

- e) Support to Ratification of the LBSA protocol and the ICZM protocol – it is expected that the EU-funded project on Partnership project on African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries capacity building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) shall support the countries in the process of ratification of the two protocols. Clarification on what kind of support to the countries should also be provided by the Secretariat.
- f) Secondment of French Expert to the Secretariat – The Secretariat is requested to send the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP and *Expertise France* indicating the administrative costs to be covered by the Secretariat.
- g) Circulation of the corrected text of the French version of the Nairobi Convention and LBSA protocol – The Secretariat is requested to provide a hard copy of the corrected Nairobi Convention and LBSA protocol to the government of France so that they can commence the process of ratification of the documents.
- h) Communication and coordination between the Nairobi Convention Focal Points and SAPPHIRE project focal points – the Secretariat and project manager are requested to promote and strengthen the communication between the Nairobi Convention focal points and SAPPHIRE focal points at the national level to ensure that the focal points are adequately informed of ongoing activities in the countries.
- i) Support to National Intersectoral Coordination Committee for SAPPHIRE project - The project manager for SAPPHIRE is requested to follow-up on providing support to the SAPPHIRE Focal points in some countries, such as Tanzania, to convene the National Intersectoral Coordination Committee for the project.
- j) Disbursement of funds for demonstration projects at the national level – the Secretariat is requested to expedite the process of disbursement of funds for some of the projects that are awaiting funding to facilitate implementation.

Concluding Remarks

- a) The supporting projects are designed to complement not only the implementation of the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects but the Nairobi Convention Work Programme as well. Therefore, the Secretariat will work to ensure that appropriate linkages and synergies between the projects are made for effective implementation of all the projects.
- b) The *note verbale* on corrected text in the French version of the LBSA Protocol has been prepared and this will be shared with the focal points along with the corrected and printed French text of the LBSA protocol.
- c) The Secretariat will continue to keep the focal points informed of the progress in implementation of activities of all projects executed under the Nairobi Convention. The Secretariat seeks to ensure that, with the leadership of the focal points, the projects provide outputs that support the governments of the WIO region.
- d) The Secretariat shall organize bilateral calls with some of the focal points who have raised specific issues during the meeting to seek further information on how the Secretariat can support national level project coordination and implementation.