

## WIOSAP Quick Scan Progress Update

### WIOSAP demo projects implementation across the region as part of documenting evolution from the COVID disruptions in 2020.

Component	Demonstration Project Title	Project Main Objectives	Progress Summary/Key achievements	Challenges and mitigation measures
<p><b>Kenya A</b></p>	<p>“Enhancing Stakeholder Capacity on use of ICZM as a tool for the conservation of the Marine and coastal environment through a demo ICZM project in Malindi-Sabaki area</p> <p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p>To promote sustainable mangrove and fisheries management in Sabaki estuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness creation was done on sustainable management of Sabaki estuary through Milele FM Radio station which had national coverage on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021</li> <li>• Planted 10,500 mangrove trees (i.e., 3,000 potted mangrove seedlings and 7,500 propagules), covering 10 Ha in January 2021. The mangrove species were mainly <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>, <i>Ceriops tagal</i> and <i>Sonneratia alba</i> in 80%, 18% and 2% respectively.</li> <li>• Supported in marking World Wetlands Day (WWD) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at Sabaki estuary, led by NEMA, where about 300 people that were in attendance were reached with awareness creation messages on wetlands management. Through the WWD celebrations, the following were achieved in Sabaki estuary:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Co-financing of additional 10,000 mangrove trees in the estuary by 7 stakeholders: County Government of Kilifi, KFS, KEFRI, Kenya Water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Challenge:</b> Unclear zones of land cover types in Sabaki estuary</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mapping of land cover types and zones of the estuary</li> <li>○ Review Sabaki estuary management plan for enhanced management of the estuary</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Challenge:</b> Poor marketing and packaging of ecotourism products</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop ecotourism circuit, that includes Sabaki estuary,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p>Towers Agency (KWTA), Base Titanium, Eden, and Progressive Welfare Association of Malindi. The following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 200 printed Round-Neck T-shirts bearing message on conservation of Sabaki estuary</li> <li>○ 4 banners produced, bearing themes on wetlands management.</li> <li>○ Nature Kenya and SARICODO SSGs, among others, were awarded trophies for “Best Practice in Wetlands Conservation”</li> <li>○ SARICODO SSG was among exhibitors during the WWD on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021</li> <li>● Conducted Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA) for Kichwa cha Kati Beach Management Unit (BBMU) and SARICODO SSG where capacity needs were identified</li> <li>● Developed Capacity building plan and Training notes on the following topical areas as guided by the capacity assessment report: Brief of GEF-UNEP WIOSAP Project; Brief of Fisheries Management &amp; Development Act 2016; Forest Conservation &amp; Management Act 2016; Biodiversity monitoring; Group Formation</li> </ul>	<p>Mida creek, Arabuko Sokoke forest, Gede ruins and Dakatcha woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop website/ facebook page for marketing ecotourism products</li> <li>● <b>Challenge:</b> Pressure to the estuary due to lack of alternative means of livelihoods</li> <li>● <b>Mitigation:</b> Start nature-based enterprises as alternative means of livelihoods (especially tour-guiding)</li> </ul>
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			<p>and Development; Leadership and Governance; Ecotourism (tour guiding, birding and hospitality services); Policy and Advocacy; Record Keeping and Management; Financial management, and Monitoring and Evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifty two (52) participants were trained on best fishing practices and management of mangrove forests, as guided by the Fisheries Management &amp; Development Act 2016 and Forest Conservation &amp; Management Act 2016, respectively. The following were the deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear roles of Beach Management Unit (BMU)</li> <li>○ Shared best fishing practices</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Clear roles of communities in management of wetlands/ estuary, fish and other marine life</p>	
		<p>To promote community empowerment and alternative livelihoods in Sabaki estuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained 20 members of SARICODO SSG and Mida Creek SSG on Ecotourism (tour guiding and hospitality services) in March 2021</li> <li>• Procured and distributed 4 binoculars and 4 guidebooks on birds to SARICODO SSG to facilitate better monitoring of birds and other biodiversities and also to enhance tour-guiding and hospitality in March 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

		<p>To improve governance and management of Sabaki estuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained 20 members of SARICODO SSG and Mida Creek SSG on Important Birds/ Biodiversity (IBA) monitoring, that included practicals on birds identification and setting up of monitoring transects in March 2021</li> <li>• Set up Common birds monitoring transect in Sabaki estuary</li> <li>• As guided by the Capacity assessment report (refer to Objective 1) 52 participants were trained on Basics of Biodiversity monitoring; Group Formation and Development; Leadership and Governance; Ecotourism (tour guiding, birding and hospitality services); Policy and Advocacy; Record Keeping and Management; Financial management, and Monitoring and Evaluation. The following were the deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clarified roles of communities in management of mangrove forests</li> <li>○ Shared protocols on biodiversity monitoring and reporting</li> <li>○ Checklist of failure and success factors for sustainable group development</li> <li>○ Solutions for identified failure factors for each group</li> <li>○ Approaches to have the groups participate in Advocacy and decision-</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
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			<p>making fora in their respective County wards/ Governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Draft advocacy plan for each group</li> <li>○ Checklist of requisite financial records for groups</li> <li>○ Clarified roles and qualities of a Treasurer</li> <li>○ Guideline/ mechanism for procurement of goods and services</li> <li>○ Self (internal) and external auditing mechanisms</li> <li>○ Annual workplan for each group</li> <li>● Sustainability measures for each group</li> </ul>	
		To improve solid waste management in Malindi town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting held with Malindi Municipality to create awareness and buy in of the project</li> <li>● Clean-up of Malindi Town and Sabaki was undertaken during World Wetlands Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Challenge:</b> COVID-19 containment measures delayed implementation of some project objectives</li> <li>● <b>Mitigation:</b> Strict adherence of COVID 19 health guidelines through procurement of face masks, sanitizers, etc as the other project objectives are equally fast-tracked</li> </ul>
		Project coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yet to be undertaken</li> </ul>	

		To monitor WIOSAP Project implementation and the state of marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Implementation Committee meeting planned to take place in April 2021</li> <li>• Monitoring, assessment and ground truthing exercise planned to take place from 29th March to 2nd April 2021</li> </ul>	
		To prepare and present regular and timely briefings on the WIOSAP project to national inter-ministerial coordination committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is yet to be undertaken after PIC meeting</li> </ul>	
Mauritius A	<b>Coral culture for small-scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius</b>	<p>Sensitization and awareness raising on the project</p> <p>Registration of participants under the Coral Culture Training Programme (CCTP)</p> <p>Set up, monitor, maintain and manage demo sea-based farms</p>	<p>Awareness raising/ sensitization programmes across the island ongoing.</p> <p>Screening and pre-selection of potential trainees (from list of registered fishermen) for registration under the CCTP completed.</p> <p>Development and procurement of sensitization materials including of flyers, booklets and polo-shirts completed. Procurement of sanitary materials (i.e. protective masks, hand sanitizers and contactless infra-red thermometers) completed.</p>	<p>Inception workshops and registration of trainees under the CCTP delayed because of Covid-19 safety measures in place including social distancing restrictions (i.e. meetings could not be held in community centres/village halls).</p> <p>All project activities were also delayed because of the Wakashio Oil spill in the</p>

		<p>Set up, monitor, maintain and manage demo coral-gardens</p> <p>Training of participants under the Coral Culture training programme</p>	<p>Procurement of all materials required for nursery construction completed.</p> <p>Field surveys completed for lagoon at 1 site in order to select appropriate sites for set up of coral farms</p> <p>Venue for classroom lectures identified (i.e. community centres and village halls).</p> <p>RFP for procurement of snorkeling sets and services for training in snorkeling and EFR sent.</p>	<p>South East region of Mauritius, with project team members (as well as all staff from the MOI) deployed on site and involved in post spill monitoring and implementation of mitigative measures.</p> <p>The second lockdown for Mauritius, from 18-03-2021 to 25-03-2021 is seriously jeopardizing the proper implementation of activities under the project, with planned activities having to be postponed once more.</p>
<b>Mauritius A</b>	<b>Restoring the integrated terrestrial native habitat and seabird community of Ile aux Aigrettes, Mauritius</b>	<b>Weeding of 14 ha of invasive alien species</b>	The total area weeded up to 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 sums up to 6.9 ha so far. (To note this figure includes 1.25 ha covered twice, first to weed <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> only and a second weeding of other usual invasive plant species.)	In 2020, 3 months of weeding was missed due to the COVID-19 lockdown in Mauritius. The labourers resumed on 22 <sup>nd</sup> June, worked for six weeks and weeding was halted again on 7 <sup>th</sup> August following the Wakashio

				oil spill around Ile aux Aigrettes. Another 2 months of weeding was subsequently missed. The labourers finally resumed work on 12 <sup>th</sup> October and worked until 23 <sup>rd</sup> of December. Thus weeding activities were not conducted for five months in 2020, for the reasons explained above. A second lockdown was enforced in 2021 as from 10 <sup>th</sup> March after a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the population in Mauritius. Weeding activities have halted again since then.
		<b>Native species planted for reconstitution of the pristine environment suitable for native fauna reintroduction.</b>	Planting started on 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 13 critically endangered species were planted on Ile aux Aigrettes. On 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 a second lockdown was enforced and (which is still ongoing) so planting could not be continued.	In 2020, planting could not be completed as we missed two peak months of rainy season (March and April) due to the COVID-19 lockdown. When lockdown was removed in May, we resumed planting but stopped at the end of May as the big rains (necessary condition for planting) had stopped. Around 1000 plants are planned to be planted in 2021. We started planting on 9 <sup>th</sup> March and on the 10 <sup>th</sup> , the country went into a second lockdown so we could not continue with planting. At the moment only the Ile aux Aigrettes horticulturist has a Work Access Permit and a team



				of at least 5 persons is usually needed to conduct planting. We hope to resume planting once the lockdown is lifted and hoping that the rains have started in earnest.
		<b>1 ha of suitable habitat created for seabirds</b>	Weeding in the seabird area was planned in March 2021 but it is on hold at the moment due to the second COVID-19 lockdown.	Initially we planned to split the labourers team in two so one team can start weeding the seabird area. However the area that we have been focussing over the past few months is highly invaded and the terrain is very rugged. It is thus taking more time than previously expected, so we did not split the labourers. The plan was to weed the 1 ha area before the end of March so we can start planting in there in April, but this could not go ahead due to the current 2021 COVID-19 lockdown.
		<b>Bio-security protocols for Ile aux Aigrettes are reviewed and applied</b>	The Ile aux Aigrettes visitor's bio-security inspection protocol was updated last year and sent to eco-tour guides and field staff to implement. In February 2021 we conducted a working session on bio-security with all managers involved with Ile aux Aigrettes and the conservation director, to develop a bio-security plan for the island.	Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns and the Wakashio oil spill, this activity has incurred some delays. However, we intend making good for any lost time by working through electronic means, if needed.
		<b>Seabird decoys deployed to attract seabirds on Ile aux Aigrettes</b>	Not implemented yet.	This activity has been put on hold as our project volunteer (Recruited in 2020) has still not obtained her visa to come and volunteer with us due to COVID-

				<p>19 pandemic. This person is going to be responsible for deploying the seabird decoys and conduct seabird monitoring. However, we are currently looking into possibly recruiting somebody locally to implement the seabird aspect of the project.</p>
		<p><b>More than 20,000 visitors (including Mauritian adults, children and tourists) visits the island and learn about the ecosystem restorations effort</b></p>	<p>2437 Eco-tour visitors visited Ile aux Aigrettes in January to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020; 508 in July, August and December 2020 and 618 in January and February 2021.</p> <p>3 educational tours were conducted in January and February 2021 with 44 fishermen, who have previously followed the islets education training workshops.</p> <p>All the visitors learned about the ongoing restoration work on Ile aux Aigrettes.</p>	<p>Ile aux Aigrettes was closed to the public from 16<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 due to COVID-19 outbreak and from 7<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, following the oil spill around the island. Since the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020 till March 2021, the island was opened to the public for 4.5 months only. Very few tourists visited Mauritius since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak as the Mauritian borders were closed for a long period of time. When the island was re-opened after the oil spill, local visitor numbers were maintained (similar to previous</p>

				‘normal’ years). However, the overall figure of visitors is greatly reduced by the fact the island was closed for 3.5 months for Covid-19 and 4 months for Wakashio.
		<p><b>Exposure for external partners and internal staff, students, researchers, partners and government officials to ecosystem restoration activities</b></p>	<p>On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 Mr Masayoshi Kamioki of Bird Life International - Tokyo, Japan visited Ile aux Aigrettes and was briefed about the ecosystem restoration work. Mr Kamioki was delegated to Mauritius to look at the bird situation in the context of the Wakashio oil spill. He planted a threatened endemic plant on the island and also helped with cuttings of a threatened species.</p> <p>On 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2020, student Axelle Moutou helped out in the plant nursery for a day as a part of a work experience initiative.</p> <p>In the context of World Wetlands Day, the staff of the National Parks and Conservation Service and staff of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security head office visited Ile aux Aigrettes on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.</p> <p>The British High Commissioner and staff visited Ile aux Aigrettes on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to see the work on the island first hand.</p> <p>On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, Pascal Sk. Mucktoom, the Ile aux Aigrettes horticulturalist, gave a short talk about the plant conservation and forest conservation work ongoing on Ile aux Aigrettes to 10 students and 3 educators from a local high school. This was followed by a potting activity.</p>	<p>The combination of the COVID-19 lockdown and the Wakashio oil spill and related impacts on staffing, double closure of the island to visits, including designation of the island as a restricted zone, priorities for biodiversity rescue and clean-up, have resulted in delays in implementation of this activity. We intend catching-up on this activity once the island is no longer a restricted area, which happened in December 2020. With the COVID-19 lockdown we once again are unable to take visitors to the island.</p>

		<b>Regional coordination of the project enhanced through partnership</b>	MWF updated Dr Ademola Ajagbe, Regional Director, Africa at Birdlife International, about the status of the project in quarterly reports and regular electronic conversations (e.g. zooms --).	We have occasionally found it difficult to fix a mutually convenient time to connect. However, we rescheduled zooms when required and managed to have the conversations in the end.
		<b>Communication materials developed</b>	<b>Media:</b> One post was written about the weeding work on Ile aux Aigrettes and was published on the MWF Facebook page on 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MauritianWildlife/posts/3894637730625131">https://www.facebook.com/MauritianWildlife/posts/3894637730625131</a> .	Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns and the Wakashio oil spill, this activity has incurred some delays. However, we intend making good for any lost time by increasing the frequency of articles.
<b>Mozambique A</b>	<b>Seagrass restoration for sustainable shellfish fisheries and drafting of a management action plan (Mozambique)</b>	<p>Document seagrass edible invertebrates, stakeholders and agents involved in seagrass fisheries and value chains;</p> <p>Document gender participation in invertebrate fisheries management in the sites</p> <p>Undertake seagrass restoration in Maputo Bay and a pilot program in Inhambane Bay</p>	<p>We have documented seagrass edible invertebrates, stakeholders involved in invertebrate fisheries, and value chains in both sites. Some implemented following standard Indo-Pacific Seagrass Network (IPSN) methodologies</p> <p>Until now, 30 000 modules (ramets) of the seagrass <i>Cymodocea serrulata</i> were transplanted in Maputo Bay – Inhaca Island. Tested restoration conducted once (Dec 2020) in Inhambane.</p> <p>Impact of experimental passive seagrass restoration on invertebrate abundance in</p>	<p>COVID19 pandemic forced the delay in including the social component of the project (community involvement mainly in seagrass restoration), due to restrictions on access to communities, ban on meetings and social distancing and isolation practices emanated in several Mozambican decrees aiming to contain the pandemic. We were forced to have small teams</p>

		Develop a site specific seagrass management plan, harmonized for anthropogenic or climate related impacts.	Maputo Bay – Bairro dos Pescadores, has been documented.  One MSc thesis defended with project outputs. One book chapter (in press). Two other ms in prep.	on the field carrying out restoration, which is delaying the achievement of the restoration goals at Inhaca (1 – 2 ha). In order to face this challenge, our partners from Faculty of Social sciences and a social NGO are re-designing the community engagement strategy in the ongoing seagrass restoration in Inhaca Island/Maputo Bay. Our partners in Inhambane Bay. The Ocean Revolution Mozambique, are doing the same in their site. This to engage small community groups.  Project team had to postpone some of the field trips.
<b>Mozambique A</b>	<b>Mangrove Restoration and Livelihood Support through Community</b>	Overall objective of the project is improving mangrove management in Mozambique through restoration, community	<b>Activity 1.1: Mangrove mapping and change detection between 2003 and 2018/9 (update of last mapping).</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Total mangrove area: 928ha</li> </ul>	There were contractual constraints with a first consultant who was stranded abroad due to the pandemic situation and

	<p><b>Participation in Mozambique</b></p>	<p>empowerment and generating baseline information to support decision making.</p> <p><b>Objective 1.</b> To expand mangrove rehabilitation to other degraded areas in the Limpopo estuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Degraded and dispersed mangrove: 382ha</li> <li>▪ Dense or intact mangrove: 382ha</li> <li>▪ Reforested area: 118ha</li> <li>▪ Salt marshes: 46ha</li> </ul> <p>Extent of dense mangrove in 2019: 382ha Extent of dense mangrove in 2003: 264ha</p> <p><b>Activity 1.2: Mangrove structural assessment in healthy, degraded and restored areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Draft evaluation report of the structure and carbon reserve in natural and replanted forests in different years in the Limpopo Estuary, Gaza province</li> <li>▪ Collected data for Mangrove structural assessment in healthy, degraded and restored areas</li> </ul>	<p>could not deliver the work on time. A second consultant was contracted and work is going smoothly now</p> <p>Data processing may take longer than expected as access to the laboratory where soil samples are being processed is limited during the state of emergency period. Activity affected by COVID-19</p> <p>To overcome this challenge DPAQUA Gaza and UEM created a series of mechanisms in order to reduce risk of contamination and created a protocol for security. This included several institutional procedures from UEM and DPAQUA, active sensitization of field</p>
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				<p>workers on COVID protection measures, deploying a private car for transport, providing face masks and hand sanitizer for everyone, enforce social distancing and providing travel insurance for those coming from outside Gaza province.</p>
			<p><b>Activity 1.4:</b> Mangrove restoration in degraded areas in need of human intervention (planting and hydrological restoration)</p> <p><b>Hydrological restoration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topographic survey was carried out in an area of 15ha</li> </ul> <p><b>Hydrological restoration channels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 hydrological profiles</li> <li>• Total length of the hydrological channels was 1,855m</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement of the local community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrological channels were opened by the local community</li> <li>• More than 150 members of the local community were involved</li> <li>• 90% of participants were women</li> <li>• Incentive was U\$7.5 / 5 meters of dug channel</li> </ul> <p><b>Establishment of the community mangrove nursery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60,000 mangrove seedlings from 6 species of trues mangrove and associated plants was produced:</li> </ul>	<p>This activity started early in relation to the schedule of activities, due to the limitations imposed by COVID 19, which forced the non-performance of other activities that brings together many people. By its nature, this activity contains sub activity that requires agglomeration of people, these activities were carried out obeying all safety protocol to prevent the spread and contamination of COVID 19.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Avicennia marina, Ceriops tagal, Bruguiera gymnorrhiza, Rhizophora mucronata, Xylocarpus granatum and Thespesia sp.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Mangrove planting campaigns</b></p> <p><b>Engagement of the local community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 1000 members of the local community were involved, of which more than 80% were women</li> <li>• Planted 18ha of mangrove, through local community engagement</li> <li>• Incentive was U\$3.3 / 1ha of planted per person</li> </ul>	
		<p><b>Objective 2.</b> Improving the community-based management system in the Limpopo Estuary, providing capacity building to the local community and designing a local management plan</p>	<p><b>Activity 2.1:</b> Conduct environmental education campaigns on the importance of mangroves and best management practices</p> <p><b>Project launch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the Limpopo district, the project was launched on 6/11/2020, with 235 participants, chaired by the district administrator</li> <li>▪ In the district of Xai-Xai the project was launched on 5/11/2020, with 90 participants, chaired by the district administrator</li> </ul> <p><b>Article published in WIOMSA Magazine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tidal inundation can boost mangrove restoration</li> </ul> <p><b>Contributed for publication of the Guidelines on Mangrove for WIO</b></p>	<p>Due to the restriction measures imposed by COVID 19, the project was not launched. This sub activity was reserved for the moment after the relaxation of the restrictive measures against this pandemic</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Guidelines on mangrove ecosystem restoration for the Western Indian Ocean Region</li></ul> <p><b>Media</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ One produced and published on Radio Mozambique, a report with 3 interviews:</li><li>▪ 2 students from Eduardo Mondlane University and</li><li>▪ the AQUA Delegate</li></ul> <p><b>Awareness material production</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 12 mangrove awareness stickers produced</li><li>▪ Six Lesson Plans regarding</li><li>▪ mangrove environmental awareness materials:</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Printed 200 awareness pamphlets</li><li>✓ Stamped 14 capulanas,</li><li>✓ stamped 124 T-shirts,</li><li>✓ stamped 124 hats,</li><li>✓ stamped 70 face protection masks</li></ul>	
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		<p><b>Objective 3.</b> To Produce baseline information for the implementation of REDD+ project as a means to create long term sustainability for the program</p>	<p><b>Activity 3.1: Conduct carbon inventories in above ground, below ground and soil pools in healthy, degraded and restored mangrove forests</b></p> <p>1 Technical report describing the estimation of amount of above and below ground carbon, as well as soil carbon in healthy, degraded and restored forests</p>	<p>There was a delay in the start of the field data collection activities, due to the restrictions imposed in the context of prevention of propagation and contamination of covid 19. To overcome this challenge DPAQUA Gaza and UEM created a series of mechanisms in order to reduce risk of contamination and created a protocol for security. This included several institutional procedures from UEM and DPAQUA, active sensitization of field workers on COVID protection measures, deploying a private car for transport, providing face masks and hand sanitizer for everyone, enforce social distancing and providing travel insurance for those coming from outside Gaza province.</p>
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		<p><b>Objective 4.</b> To explore other options for long term financial sustainability through partnerships with the private sector</p>	<p><b>Activity 4.1:</b> Facilitate the creation of a Women cooperative for fish trade and support on the acquisition of some equipment (e.g.: one freezer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under construction the small house for fish processing for women fish sellers</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity 4.2:</b> Explore business opportunities for mangrove products (ex. honey, crab <i>Scylla serrata</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10 smart hives were acquired</li> <li>▪ The smart hives are being explored in the mangrove</li> <li>▪ 6 have already been colonized with bees</li> <li>▪ 5 members of the natural resource management committee trained in mangrove beekeeping techniques</li> <li>▪ 10 pigs purchased and raised in the community through the local natural resource management committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity 4.3:</b> Create a nursery for alternative wood sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50,000 seedlings of different forest species are produced for various uses including forage for livestock</li> </ul> <p>More than 40,000 plantations of forest species and forage for livestock are planted in approximately 16ha of forest</p>	<p>This activity started early in relation to the calendar, as it does not represent much danger of propagation and contamination of COVID 19.</p>

<p><b>Seychelles A</b></p>	<p><b>Community-based ecological coastal rehabilitation using an Ecosystem approach in Seychelles – UNEP WIOSAP</b></p>	<p>The overall objective is: Rehabilitation of fragmented wetlands and associated foothills as a tool to reduce the impacts from land-based stresses onto critical habitats downstream.</p> <p><b>Immediate objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish baseline environmental conditions and monitoring over time of Pasquire wetlands and foothills</li> <li>2. Rehabilitate and manage the wetlands and foothills at Pasquiere to enhance ecosystem and enable development of sustainable activities e.g. ecotourism, education and research</li> <li>3. Train and enhance restoration skills and knowledge amongst local communities and participating organisations</li> <li>4. Disseminate and enhance public awareness on the importance of wetlands,</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish baseline environmental conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baseline surveys completed (marine, mangrove, coastal, wetland, aquatic and forest surveys)</li> <li>- Amphibian survey ongoing</li> <li>- Longterm monitoring sites/activities established (1 Marine, 1 Aquatic, 1 Amphibian, 1 Soil loss, 1 Plant survival/growth, 1 Bird &amp; Reptile)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Rehabilitate and manage the wetlands and foothills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation and management plans prepared</li> <li>- Plant propagation ongoing. 6000 seedlings being prepared.</li> <li>- Planting done during October to December 2020 (3000 plants), but had to stop between January and March 2021.</li> <li>- Clearing of invasive species &amp; replanting with native plants in and around the wetland ongoing (1.5 out of 2 ha completed).</li> <li>- Clearing of invasive species &amp; replanting with native plants on degraded hills ongoing (1 ha out of 2 ha replanted).</li> <li>- Continuous plant maintenance – removing new invasion from nearby invasive plants, remove excess sediments from plant pits, restore stone mulch and barrages around each plant.</li> <li>- 23 field activities organised with communities for clearing, replanting &amp; awareness.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Some fieldwork started in March 2020 but then due to Covid-19 restrictions we were unable to undertake fieldwork until the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020. All field activities were postponed to May. Good progress was made between May and December 2020. Another restriction was imposed on movement between 3<sup>rd</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 which further impeded field work. We could not undertake plantings with communities. Plantings are normally done in the planting/rainy season of October to March/April). This means that we have lost half of the planting season. <b>Considering delays caused by Covid-19, plus we are currently facing a dry spell and soon we will move into the dry season which is not appropriate for planting, TRASS will have to resume planting in October 2021 to finish</b></p>
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		<p>their rehabilitation and management.</p>	<p>3. Training and skills enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15 UniSey students trained in plant and animal identification, wetland mapping, biodiversity inventories, bird and reptile point counts, planting techniques, plant monitoring, setting up soil loss and planting experiments, setting up experiment to measure competition between seedlings of invasive alien plant species and native species, preparation of questionnaires, community mapping surveys, ways to conduct interviews, learning how to use the GPS for data collection, plant propagation in the nursery, preparation of fact sheets for educational purposes, visit to a newly burnt forest including identification of burnt plant and counting, how to use safely rehabilitation tools such as a hoe, pik-hoe and hammer.</li> <li>- 24 staff from the Seychelles Employment Transition Scheme (SETS). trained in plant identification, plant propagation, replanting &amp; clearing of invasive plants</li> <li>- 2 SETS staff trained in data collection and use of smart phone for data collection</li> </ul> <p>4. Disseminate and enhance public awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 set of educational &amp; promotional materials being prepared</li> <li>- Footages for documentary being collected</li> <li>- One article published in local media</li> </ul>	<p><b>planting the plants that are being maintained in the nursery. This means that the project which is supposed to end in August 2021 will have to be extended at no extra cost, to include another planting season up to April 2022.</b></p> <p>Despite restrictions on movement, field staff managed to continue with the work – plant propagation, clearing invasive plants, maintenance of planted seedlings etc.</p> <p>The Project Manager based on Mahe Island could not travel to Praslin during the restriction period and hence some work like data collection could not be done. Coordination was done virtually and through phone calls. Staff captured videos and photos to send to the Project Manager who managed to assess progress on the field and provide</p>
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			<p>- 10 hand-on (awareness) activities organised with communities mainly on importance of critical ecosystems and learning through replanting activities</p>	<p>guidance accordingly.</p> <p>TRASS was receiving assistance from the Seychelles Employment Transition Scheme (SETS). SETS was set up to provide employment opportunities to people who were made redundant due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 24 staff were placed under TRASS responsibility and they were helping us mainly with fieldwork. This allowed TRASS to catch up with work during May and December 2020. But TRASS was unable to continue SETS involvement during Covid restrictions of January-March 2021. This meant that a lot of the work planned could not be done (seed/seedling collection, plant propagation, planting, weeding and plant maintenance). SETS was unfortunately closed down in February 2021. 2 smaller TRASS teams are currently carrying out the work on</p>
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				<p>site.</p> <p>We postponed the ordering of equipment because the suppliers were not shipping to Seychelles during the Covid-19 restrictions. In addition, some suppliers were very slow to get back or were not operational in their respective countries due to lockdown or restrictions. Equipment were borrowed from other organisations and personal ones were used too.</p> <p>There have been other challenges not related to Covid-19. These are related to the variable climate change. Heavy rains during the rainy season were very destructive to newly planted plants which were uprooted, washed away or covered with sediments. The planting technique i.e. ‘crescent-pit-basin’ which proved successful during previous planting programme was not always effective in this scenario.</p>
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				Alternative methods had to be trialed. Wattle fences using palm leaves were constructed to create barrages which slows down surface run-off, capture sediments and hence reduce negative impacts on the seedlings. Although time-consuming, this technique is proving very useful and will be adopted for all plantings in similar places and on steep hills.
<b>Tanzania A</b>	<b>Designing Sustainable Community-Based Mangrove Harvesting and Restoration Models in Rufiji Delta - Tanzania</b>	1. To design and demonstrate a business model for sustainable collaborative harvesting that incentivise community participation and responsibility for Rufiji Delta		
		(i) Community sensitization, awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconnaissance survey for introducing the project conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall project implementation was delayed for over nine</li> </ul>



		<p>raising and securing willingness on sustainable utilization of mangrove resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of Trainers workshop for local village school teachers and respective Ward Educational Officers conducted and guided towards establishment of School Environmental (Mangrove) Clubs</li> <li>• Community surveys/consultations through Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews and Household questionnaires conducted in 10 villages of the delta and data processing and interpretation in progress</li> </ul>	<p>months including a 3 months delay in receipt of first instalment of the budget and the six months following eruption of COVID-19 in the region in early 2020. The field mission was cautious done in August 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accordingly, during the challenging times of restrictions, more of desk work in review of literature and sorting and analysis of remote sensing data was conducted.</li> </ul> <p>Working hard to recover as much as possible the lost time.</p>
		<p>(ii) Update land use/cover changes, status and projections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digitization of the 1989 maps used for the development of the old management plan completed and adopted as baseline for assessment forest land use/caver changes</li> <li>• New map of 2019 with estimated gain/loss produced from Remote Sensing data</li> <li>• Field validation/ground truthing conducted to ascertain changes and map alignment</li> </ul>	
		<p>(iii) Validation of available ecological, socio-economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informed by activity 1(i), (ii); 2(ii), (iii)</li> <li>• Field surveys conducted for ground thruthing</li> <li>• Reanalysis and (re)mapping in progress</li> </ul>	

		and governance baseline data relevant to the project	Community surveys through Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews and Household questionnaires conducted in 10 villages of the delta and data processing and interpretation in progress	
		(iv) Identify, demarcate, map collaborative harvesting demonstration blocks of 100 ha in selected communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nine potential/prospective harvesting blocks prescribed in the management plan have been rapidly surveyed for ground verification, georeferencing and characterization of the available stock. Preliminary findings indicating actually that not all the nine prescribed blocks are feasible for harvesting based on species composition, structure and stock level.</li> <li>• Detailed inventory is in plan to ascertain and reconstruct the blocks</li> </ul>	
		(v) Development of sustainable collaborative harvesting guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conjunction with activity 1(vi)</li> <li>• Developing outline of the guide in progress</li> </ul>	
		(vi) Field based community training and demonstration on sustainable selective harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pending completion and to be informed by activity 1(iv)</li> </ul>	
		(vii) Development of community agreements to support and enforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pending and to be conjunction/informed by activity 1(iv), (v) (vi)</li> </ul>	

		implementation of designated harvesting scheme		
		<b>2. Develop and demonstrate a model for sustainable collaborative mangrove restoration for Rufiji Delta</b>	•	
	i.	Analysis and mapping of stakeholders and their roles	• Done in combination with activity 1(i); 2(ii)	
	ii.	Community sensitization, awareness raising and determination of willingness to participate on restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with activity 1(i)</li> <li>• Community surveys through Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews and Household questionnaires conducted in 10 villages of the delta and data processing and interpretation in progress</li> </ul>	
	iii.	Assessment, selection, demarcation, mapping at least 100 ha of demonstration sites for collaborative mangrove restoration in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification, selection and pre-survey of restoration sites conducted.</li> <li>• Adopted some previously planted areas through other past and ongoing initiative/projects for contrasting and comparing</li> <li>• Mapping in progress in conjunction with</li> </ul>	

		selected community		
		iv. Expert study visit to Gazi Bay – Kenya on experiences and lessons from Mikoko Pamoja project that operate on community agreements including collaborative mangrove restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kept on hold pending developing situation with COVID-19</li> </ul>	
		v. Expert facilitation in development and approval community agreements to support and safeguard designated demonstration restorations sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending completion of 2(iii) and (iv)</li> </ul>	The challenge is the fact that Mikoko Pamoja is the only one mangrove carbon project in the region that best suits the purpose for the visit. However, in case the situation doesn't become any better to allow such travel and engagement, an alternative will be have to be determined in due course.
		vi. Execution of mangrove restoration schemes in at least 10 ha in the 100 ha designated sites in selected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per activity 2(iii), restoration sites identified, pre-surveyed and mapping in progress</li> </ul>	

		communities following a Step-by-Step WIO Mangrove Restoration Guide		
<b>MADAGASCAR B</b>	Strengthening regulatory framework and national capacity for monitoring effluent discharges, water, and sediment quality in coastal and marine areas of <b>Madagascar</b>	The demonstration project goal is to improve the water quality and consequently the health status of land-based activities affected marine and coastal ecosystems of the River Betsiboka estuary (including the Bombetoka Bay) at the end of the project. The overall objectives are: Objective 1. To improve the MEEF and its regional capacity to effectively manage and regulate land-based sources of pollution and activities; Objective 2. To increase existing national monitoring capacity to help implement and	<p>Within objective, working group members have been selected and wait to be officially nominated by their department. The documents produce by PMU (currently under review by component B RTF) will facilitate the achievement of this objective since these document will be taken as reference documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related to objective 2, one local consultant has been contracted and has started to design the decision support tool based on environmental quality indicators and indices and is expected to be delivered in May. Further, field material and computer equipment have been ordered. However, conducting field mission remained challenging as the study site is among the Covid-19 unsafe zone.</li> </ul>	<p>Rise of the number of case of covid-19 leading to government to strengthen social measure such as gathering restriction. Working group will work on line</p> <p>We are waiting things to stabilise and conduct the field mission as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is also delay on delivering of material as</li> </ul>

		monitor effluent discharges and water and sediment quality in receiving coastal and marine environment		still related to Covid-19 impact on economy.
<b>South Africa B</b>	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 in South Africa	<p>1. Investigate areas of litter concern/hotspots (poorly serviced/unserved/underserved areas) along each of the 5 priority rivers during the first 6 months of the pilot project.</p> <p>2. Deploy litter recovery resources, including increased clean-up efforts, to recover litter from the identified priority rivers for a period of 24 months, including the deployment of 5 litter booms/litter inception devices (one in each river).</p> <p>3. Monitor and evaluate (characterise) the types and quantities of litter</p>	<p>Please note that there have been no activities as yet due to Covid-19 which restricted activities taking place.</p> <p>Internal approval for co-funding towards the salary for the project coordinator post has been confirmed for a period of 2 years. This will allow for the post to extend 6 months more than the planned project period. The post has been advertised and closed in February 2021. Over 100 applications have been received. Preparations are being made for shortlisting and interviews to take place by May 2021. The expected start date for the project coordinator is 1 June 2021.</p> <p>South Africa has moved to Lockdown level 1 which allows more people to return to work, arrangements are being made for the project to begin in June 2021. Internal discussions are currently underway with the Department's Environmental Programmes (EPIP) office to</p>	Refer to Covid report submitted on 5 October 2020: SSFA Annex 2 - Interim Progress Reporting Template - RSA marine litter

		<p>collected in the 5 rivers during a 24-month period, including an assessment of the microplastics in the freshwater and marine system of the 5 priority rivers.</p> <p>4. Identify and implement at least 1 waste management intervention (such as waste sorting, recovery and recycling) in one community per priority river.</p> <p>5. Undertake educational activities and awareness raising campaigns (to school, civil society, businesses in the hot spot areas) around litter prevention from land-based sources for a period of 24 months.</p> <p>6. Undertake a review of the pilot project interventions in the 5</p>	<p>procure the new project implementer for the Working for the Coast Program under which this project will be managed. The current implementer's contract ends in June 2021 and a process for Requests for Proposals will be run to allocate the new implementing agent.</p> <p>Meetings were held last month with eThekweni Municipality, Durban Solid Waste and EPIP in order to plan for work going forward. There is a need to re-evaluate the site locations for the booms in view of developments that took place last year with other stakeholders that are working in the same vicinity as this project. A meeting with all relevant stakeholders will be held in the next month or so in order to clarify the site selection to ensure there is no unnecessary duplication of efforts.</p>	
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		priority rivers and hot spot areas with a view to potential replication to other coastal areas in South Africa.		
<b>Tanzania C</b>	Sustainable Catchment Management through Enhanced Environmental Flow Assessment and Implementation for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities <b>in Tanzania</b>	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.	The project has just started in this month of March following the receipt of the first disbursement late February 2021. The project team hold a planning meeting from 20th March 2021. We have created a roadmap for initial activities identified research topics for the Master by research students that will work under the project. We have planned a scoping fieldwork and the stakeholder engagement meeting in early April.	We have experienced several challenges on the funds transfer to SUA. The first transfer was made in April 2020 but it could not go through due to expiration of the control number ((Failed GEPG Validation) and even with further attempts until June 2020, the money bounced –off more than three time. We issued a new control number in July 2020, but this required replacing the old banking



				<p>details from the UN system and seeking clearance with the UN in USA. While waiting for the approval, in late July 2020, it came to our attention that because of COVID-19, UN HQ (New York) has put a freeze on approving of new vendors/accounts. On 2nd February 2021 we received the news from UNEP on the approval of the new SUA banking details by UN and on 4th February we received a payment advice note. On February 06th February 2021 we received the discomfort news that the money bounced-off</p>
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				<p>following the inclusion of old control number. We had to advise UNEP to use the new shared banking details without including control number. On 24th February 2021 the money successfully transferred into SUA account. In total, we have lost 10 months with the funds transfer to SUA. This has some serious implications on the project implementation and the project team is planning some mitigation measures on how to handle the lost time.</p> <p>We need to discuss with UNEP on the rescheduling of</p>
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				the project milestones.
<b>MADAGASCAR C</b>	<b>Sustainable management of E-flow for west coast rivers of Madagascar (case of Betsiboka river)</b>	Promote sustainable management of the river basins in the west coast of Madagascar to maintain a healthy flow and reduce sediment load regimes to minimize detrimental impacts on coastal ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call of the national technical committees (NTC).</li> <li>• Planning of the first activity.</li> <li>• Planning first meeting of contact, information, sharing with the NTCs about the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reorganization and postponement of the schedule of activities.</b></li> <li>• <b>Adaptation of the missions to covid 19.</b></li> </ul>