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Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region

Contracting Parties

Eleventh meeting
20 - 22 August 2024

Approved Programme of Work for the period 2025–2028 for the implementation of the Nairobi Convention

Note by the Secretariat

Background

1. Among the priorities identified at the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 10) to the Nairobi Convention included the completion of various ongoing processes initiated after COP 9 including various guidelines on critical habitat restoration, Marine Protected Area Outlook, Critical Habitats Outlook, Marine Spatial Planning Strategy, Ocean Governance Strategy, Information Management Strategy, the Framework for Marine Ecosystem Monitoring, Water Quality Management Framework and associated guidelines, and a Toolkit for Green Ports Development.
2. Decision CP.10/1 of the COP10 requested the Secretariat to develop and support the implementation of priority areas through the approved Programme of Work. It further invited partners to support the implementation of the priorities. Following on from a decision at COP9, the Secretariat was requested to complete the development of a regional integrated strategic programme for the full implementation of the two strategic action programmes developed under the WIO-LaB project by UNEP, the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems Project by UNDP, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) by FAO/SWIOFC and World Bank, and the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention area and their extension beyond the lifespan of these programmatic documents. Moreover, the Secretariat was asked to report on progress to the Contracting Parties at their eleventh meeting.
3. The Covid-19 pandemic led to lingering impacts after 2021 and this affected the pace at which activities have been implemented during the 2022 – 2024 period. Countries have yet to reach pre-Covid levels of economic activity and this has had a knock-on effect on project implementation at national level.
4. The new Programme of Work takes into account emerging issues that need catalytic support in the Western Indian Ocean region, such as continuing to support efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs, in particular Goal 14 on oceans, support to the ongoing negotiations towards a binding Treaty on combating plastic pollution, the 2023 Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) (including the application of area-based

management tools in exclusive economic zones and adjacent areas), and the 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its associated 30% area under protection by 2030 targets.

I. Introduction

A. Nairobi Convention

5. Recognizing the exceptional environmental properties of the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, the threats that it faces and need for remedial action, the countries of the region requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to create a regional seas programme for the region. By decision 8/13C of 29 April 1980, the Governing Council of UNEP created the Eastern Africa Regional Seas Programme and further requested UNEP to assist the governments of the region to formulate and implement a programme for the management and conservation of marine and coastal resources in the region. Following the eighth session of the Governing Council in 1980, UNEP supported the development of the Eastern Africa Action Plan and the Convention on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern Africa Region (Nairobi Convention).

6. The countries of the region met in 1985 to adopt an action plan and signed the Convention and its two protocols, on collaboration in combating pollution in cases of emergency, and on protected areas and wild fauna and flora. The Convention and its two protocols entered into force on 30 May 1996 and, by 2002, had been ratified by all the signatories.

7. Pursuant to decisions CP.1/4, CP.2/1 and CP.3/6 adopted by the Contracting Parties, the review of the Nairobi Convention and its protocols was authorized, along with the development of a protocol on land-based sources of pollution. This would ensure that the Convention reflected all relevant aspects arising from international legal instruments developed after the Nairobi Convention had been signed in 1985. During the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP), the amended Nairobi Convention was considered and adopted by the Contracting Parties on 31 March 2010 alongside the Protocol on Land Based Sources and Activities (LBSA).

8. Jointly with Parties and other partners, the Nairobi Convention is implementing five projects. These include (i) the 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIOSAP) Project to reduce impacts from land-based sources of pollution and sustainably manage coastal and river ecosystems. Besides many demonstration projects it is within the WIOSAP project that the final stages of drafting and negotiation for the ICZM protocol were carried out and adopted in 2023, building upon the work done in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). (ii) the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme for Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) Project whose aim was to achieve effective, long-term ecosystem management in the WIO Large Marine Ecosystems, and has made significant progress in support of improved ocean governance in the region.

9. (iii) The third phase of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Countries Capacity Building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Programme (ACP-MEAs 3) is the project within which the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region is being revised and amended. (iv) The Partnership Project for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth (NC/SWIOFC Partnership Project) aimed to encourage more engagement between authorities responsible for fisheries and environmental matters and had demonstration activities in Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania and promoted regional capacity building in marine spatial planning. (iv) Its successor effective 2023-2027 is the SWIOFC-Nairobi Convention Partnership Project for resilient marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. The project will enhance livelihoods resilience of coastal fishing communities at selected sites in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique through healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, promote capacity development in ocean governance and co-management of the coastal and marine resources, including fisheries, and increase effective coordination between fisheries and environmental institutions. (v) The NOCAMO project (Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel) 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. In addition, the Convention has partnered with GIZ on the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) aimed at enhancing ocean governance and especially the engagement of the private sector in regional processes to address improvements in this regard.

10. Of the above, the WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, ACP-MEAs 3, and the WIOGI projects have received no-cost extensions and the NC/SWIOFC Partnership Project, has been successful in securing a second phase allowing them to continue to contribute to achievement of the new Programme of Work. The Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel Project (NoCaMo) Project continues to 2027 so will also continue to support the programme work. In addition, with the aim of supporting implementation of the new Programme of Work of work that has been designed during the 2022-2024 period, several funding proposals have been developed and submitted to various partners during 2024 with the anticipation that these will provide resources for the 2025-2028 Programme of Work.

11. While good progress has been made under all projects, significant scope for further innovative development remains. At the COP9 in 2018, the need for an integrated regional strategic action programme to coordinate future undertakings and developments was agreed upon by the Contracting Parties. The Parties thus requested the Nairobi Convention Secretariat (Decision CP.9/1.3. of the Programme of Work for 2018–2022) to develop one regional integrated strategic action programme for the full implementation of the two existing Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) prepared more than a decade ago, as well as actions proposed under the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention area. The one regional integrated strategic action programme would therefore address all the issues identified in the various SAPs related to land-based sources of pollution, coastal and marine ecosystem management, climate change and ocean governance, supporting a comprehensive LME management approach and addressing issues from source to deep sea in an integrated and coordinated manner. Current regional status upon which the Programme of Work is based has been captured in a single updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) (2022) and accompanying SAP for the WIO developed during 2024.

12. The mid-term reviews of both the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects conducted in early 2022 (already approved by the respective Project Steering Committees) recommended that preparations should be made to secure follow up support to ensure progress made during the current projects is built upon, and in particular, that examples of best practice identified through demonstration projects should be replicated or upscaled in other parts of the region, and that emerging issues identified during the project terms should be addressed. At a meeting in Madagascar in November 2022 the Focal Points to the Nairobi Convention endorsed the outline of the concept and the process towards development of the integrated programme.

13. The proposed integrated programme also follows the current momentum in the region and globally towards sustainable blue economy pathways, with cross-sectoral integration as the foundation. New global multi-lateral environment agreements (MEAs) have also emerged which were not in place when the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects were developed which include: Agenda 2030 (SDGs), Paris 2015 Agreements and subsequent climate change commitments, Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, Decade of Ocean Science, the Global Biodiversity Framework, the BBNJ Treaty, and the ongoing inter-governmental negotiations on a global legally binding instrument on plastics. These global commitments will inform the new Programme of Work because they will be executed through regional and national actions.

14. The integrated programme was further presented and approved during the Bureau and Focal Points meetings held in March 2024 in Mombasa (Kenya) and Durban (South Africa) respectively in readiness for consideration at the COP 11.

B. Background to the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties

15. The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP11) to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region is being held in Madagascar in August 2024. COP 10 was held virtually in November 2021 due to unprecedented disruptions to travel occasioned by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. COP 11 is taking place prior to the end of the 2022-2024 Programme of Work (which was approved by Decision CP.10/1)

to provide a seamless transition to the new thematic and priority approach in the 2025-2028 Programme of Work.

16. The 2022-2024 Programme of Work was built on four priority areas, namely, i) management and operational support which focuses on backstopping parties in implementing Conference of Parties (COP) Decisions, development of approaches to ocean financing and ocean governance designed to sustain and enhance the Convention's contribution to comprehensive marine and coastal ecosystem-based management approaches; ii) assessment and conservation of critical habitats and endangered species, which focuses on partner collaboration for the assessment and conservation of critical habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses and endangered species such as shark and rays.; iii) Coordination and legal aspects, which focuses on implementing and updating the existing Nairobi Convention and its protocols, developing and ratifying new protocols, and improving the coordination of activities; iv) Information and awareness, which aimed to provide information in an easily accessible and understandable format to assist in the decision-making processes and to raise awareness among the public of the importance of and threats to the marine and coastal environment.

17. In collaboration with its partners, the Secretariat has developed a new Programme of Work for the period 2025–2028 anchored on the new integrated regional programme and recent global policy commitments. This maintains the momentum of the 2022–2024 Programme of Work by building on its successes and by strengthening and multiplying the linkages between partners, programmes, and projects in the WIO region. A review of decisions from COP10 and the progress achieved has helped to identify new areas that form part of the 2025-2028 Programme of Work.

18. The COP11 is being organized against the backdrop of the COP10 decision that adopted and approved the Programme of Work for 2022–2024 and urged its implementation by the Contracting Parties. Pursuant to this, the Secretariat was requested to develop and support the implementation of priority areas, including the management of marine protected areas, taking into account marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and connectivity in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent areas, ocean governance, pollution from land-based sources and activities, climate change, including ocean acidification, environmental management for the oil and gas industry, growth of the blue economy, scientific research, fisheries management, marine spatial planning, integrated coastal management and the sustainable development of ports and harbours, and, in that regard, invited partners to support their implementation. The GEF, GCF, SWIOFC, COI, WIOMSA, GIZ, IMO, GRID-Arendal, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, CORDIO, PMAESA, BirdLife International, Future Earth Coasts, WWF, EAWL among others were identified in this regard. Additional partnerships were expected, while further enhancing the existing ones. Many of these priorities and partnerships have been addressed and enhanced during the 2022-2024 Programme of Work.

19. As indicated above, the COP9 held in Mombasa, Kenya on 30 and 31 August 2018 requested the Secretariat to develop a regional integrated programme for the full implementation of the strategic action programmes developed under the WIO-LaB project, ASCLME Project, the SWIOFP project and the Climate Change Strategy for the Nairobi Convention area and their extension beyond the lifespan of the WIOSAP and the SAPPHIRE projects, for the efficient and harmonized delivery of project outputs and outcomes.

20. Preparations towards the new integrated programme were subsequently reported at COP10, and since then been developed into the “Nairobi Convention Integrated Programme: Implementation of the Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme to support a sustainable and inclusive regional Blue Economy”, to underpin the future work of the Convention.

21. Commitment to the Convention has continued to grow, as demonstrated by the number of ratifying countries. All the ten countries that signed the Nairobi Convention went on to ratify or accede to it. Since the first meeting of the Contracting Parties, the number of Ministers and high-level government representatives attending meetings under the Nairobi Convention has steadily increased. There has been a significant increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in the region which attend the Convention meetings. In addition, governments have continued to financially contribute to the Eastern Africa Trust Fund on the basis of assessed contributions, thereby demonstrating their commitment to the Convention as a suitable framework for managing coastal and marine issues.

22. A presentation on the financial management of the Convention was made at COP10 focusing on the trust fund managed by UNEP on behalf of the Contracting Parties, namely the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region. The internal controls and the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, and audit recommendations relevant to the Convention were also reported.

23. Since 2018, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat has leveraged resources from various sources, including \$10.867 million from the Global Environment Facility for implementation of the WIOSAP project and \$8.766 million for implementation of the SAPPHERE project, both of which are administered by the Nairobi Convention. The NC/SWIOFC Partnership Project brought in \$8.67 million, with the Secretariat being responsible for administration of \$3.065 million. The second phase of the NC/SWIOFC Partnership Project brought US\$ 14.5 million with the Secretariat being responsible for administration of \$5.815 million. The ACP-MEAs 3 project made a \$2.1 million contribution from the EU for implementation. The NoCaMo Project kicked off in 2020 with a budget from FFEM of €1.5 million, while the WIOGI contributed around \$3.4 million, which was administered by GIZ.

II. Programme of Work of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for the period 2025–2028

A. Overview of the 2022-2024 Programme of Work

24. The Programme of Work for the 2022–2024 period was presented at the meeting of Focal Points in October 2021 in an online format due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions. It was subsequently approved by COP10 under Decision CP.10/1 in November 2021. A succinct report on the implementation of the Programme of Work will be presented at COP11 identifying appropriate linkages with ongoing projects and pinpointing potential new projects to support further implementation.

25. Governments have implemented measures to strengthen the Nairobi Convention comprehensively and progressively through, *inter alia*, the development of ambitious work programmes and the seconding of an expert to the Convention by France to bolster Secretariat capacity. Such an opportunity is available to all the Contracting Parties. Previous COP meetings have adopted work Programmes at periodic intervals, notably that adopted at the second Conference of the Contracting Parties, held in Mauritius in November 1999, followed by the 2002–2003 Programme of Work. The Programme of Work was developed over a four or five-year cycle: 2004–2007 (Decision CP 4/1), 2008–2012 (Decision CP 6/1), 2013–2017 (Decision CP7/1), 2018–2022 (Decision CP9/1), and 2022-2024 (Decision CP10/1). Based on these Programmes, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, partners and individual countries successfully carried out a number of activities, largely with the support of the Eastern Africa Trust Fund, donors and partners.

26. In the past the Programme of Work focused on five themes, namely: assessment; management of coastal and marine ecosystems; coordination and legal aspects; information and awareness, and financing. The five themes were handled together so as to provide a cohesive, integrated and holistic approach to the interlinked challenges. In particular, the assessment theme is closely linked to the management theme. The activities under management, coordination and legal aspects, and cross-cutting issues were successfully implemented through partnerships, as there has been increasing collaboration between the Secretariat and other organizations. In the 2025-2028 Programme of Work several focus areas based on new and emerging priorities have been included based on extensive consultation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, national focal points to the Nairobi Convention and regional experts. These focus areas allow the Programme of Work to include activities that are designed in such a way as to be aligned with current regional and global priorities and, importantly, to existing and potential funding streams to support implementation of the Programme of Work.

27. The Programme of Work for 2022–2024 maintained the momentum by building on previous successes and strengthening and multiplying the linkages between partners' programmes and projects. The Programme of Work was highly collaborative, reflecting the increased

coordination among stakeholders working on marine and coastal issues. The Secretariat worked closely with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) as the host of the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) to enhance collaboration with scientists and partners, other regional non-governmental organizations and a range of national and regional research institutions. The WIO-C is designed to improve information exchange, synergy and coordination between non-governmental organizations working on coastal and marine environmental issues, and to move towards a joint programmatic approach to tackling these issues. Due to major emerging issues identified during the implementation of the 2022-2024 Programme of Work, the proposed new Programme of Work for 2025-2028 provides a timely opportunity to incorporate and address these issues.

28. Through various partnerships the Secretariat executed Decision CP.10/5. on the development of an Ocean Governance Strategy. This was carried out through a highly participatory process as a contribution to the African ocean governance strategy. The Secretariat also worked to strengthen national data centres, through capacity development on information and knowledge management, and in collaboration with partners, developed a Regional Information Management Strategy and mechanisms to address common challenges for informed decision-making on ocean governance.

29. Pursuant to Decision CP.10/3 the Secretariat convened a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in September 2023 to adopt the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region, which was opened for signature.

30. Decision CP.10/4. on Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes was executed through convening an ad-hoc legal and technical working group to prepare a revised Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes, with priority for conservation action on marine ecosystems and critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable species, for negotiation and adoption.

31. The Secretariat made good progress in facilitating the execution of Decision CP.10/6. on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response through completion of a review of national oil spill contingency plans (NOSCPs), identification of capacity gaps in oil spill preparedness and response, and preparation of oil spill sensitivity maps for Contracting Parties that require such support. Mauritius was supported to digitise and update their sensitivity maps as a best-practice example for the region. The Seychelles, Comoros and Mauritius have all been assisted to update their NOSCPs.

Preparing for the 2025-2028 Programme of Work

32. The future of the Convention requires innovative interventions and consistent resource mobilisation efforts to build on the progress made in the region to date, especially in the last decade. There needs to be continued effort to address the UNEP mandate in combating the triple planetary crisis of climate change; biodiversity and nature loss; pollution and waste. While the 2022–2024 Programme of Work started this process, the new Programme of Work 2025-2028 intends to take this further, and also address emerging issues, often guided by global initiatives and agreements.

33. The 2025–2028 Programme of Work outlines the process for the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention to systematically build partnerships by implementing catalytic activities and projects under a single programme supported or implemented by members of the WIO-C and other non-governmental organizations in the region. The Programme of Work focuses on the promotion and implementation of the objectives of the Nairobi Convention in an integrated, mainstreamed and cross-sectoral manner at regional and national levels.

34. The 2025-2028 Programme of Work takes into consideration the global political processes that have taken place during the 2022–2024 period, with the obligations to be met by member countries of the Nairobi Convention. Such political processes build on previous successes and strengths including the continued implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), which was adopted by Heads of State and Government in September 2015, and subsequent ocean-related conferences such as in 2017 (New York), 2018 (Nairobi), 2019 (Maputo), the Growing Blue Conference (November 2021, Maputo), and 2022 (Lisbon) to support

the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Other important processes include implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, the second (2021) World Ocean Assessment and processes under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF); the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ Treaty); initiation of negotiations towards a legally binding instrument on combating plastic pollution including in the marine environment; and UNEA6 resolution 15 on strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution. It is against this background, and a heightened ambition to reach a transformative turning point for many interconnected challenges, that an opportunity exists to shape the work of the Nairobi Convention and focus the attention of Governments on significantly scaling up ocean biodiversity protection, efforts to address climate change and pollution and degradation, with a focus on building sustainable blue growth in the WIO.

35. The Programme of Work is also informed by the December 2023 WIO Science-Policy dialogue which investigated science-policy interactions in several strategic and thematic areas as defined by the stakeholders. The additional inputs for the Convention's Programme of Work for 2025-2028 align with the work programme of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025) that addresses the three interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The Medium-Term Strategy lays the foundation for science-policy interface, promotes environmental governance, and creates an enabling environment for digital, finance and economic transformations. The 2025-2028 Programme of Work is cognizant of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2022-2025 which aims to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of oceans more effectively into policies and programmes. RSSD 2022-2025 also aims to harmonize methodologies for tracking progress, and foster an integrated response to combat the ecological, climate, pollution, and health crisis for achieving long-term health of the ocean, as well as the people who rely on the ocean for subsistence or otherwise.

36. The 2025-2028 Programme of Work addresses new and emerging issues prioritized by Contracting Parties, among them improved ocean governance in support of a sustainable blue economy, adoption of tools to support improved ocean governance, enhanced environmental quality (including addressing plastic pollution) with a focus on the Source-to-Sea approach, biodiversity conservation with a focus on nature-based solutions and area-based planning, and improved coordination and knowledge management at a regional level. Gender mainstreaming will continue to be an integral part of implementation of the Programme of Work. The work programme serves as a tool for the Secretariat and the collaborating partners to catalyse change in the management of the marine and coastal environment in countries that are Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention, thereby contributing to the achievement of agreed goals and targets as they relate to the sustainable development of coasts and oceans.

37. The structure of the Programme of Work is influenced by a range of factors that affect the number and the mode of implementation of activities. Where funding is concerned, Contracting Parties, through the Eastern Africa Trust Fund, fund the Programme of Work of the Nairobi Convention according to the assessed contributions outlined in Table 1 below. As the Programme of Work is constantly growing in its scope, it is essential to ensure that its funding is not only adequate, but also predictable. When contributions by Contracting Parties are insufficient to meet the demand, the Secretariat is required to perform its work through strategic partnerships and resource mobilization.

Table 1: Assessed annual contributions by Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention Trust Fund (in United States dollars)

Contracting Member State	Assessed Contribution
Comoros	15,100
France	78,000
Kenya	45,302
Madagascar	22,651
Mauritius	30,201
Mozambique	45,302
Seychelles	15,100
Somalia	15,100
South Africa	37,500
United Republic of Tanzania	45,302
Total	349,558

38. Two potential funding scenarios are presented to support the activities outlined in the Programme of Work:

(a) The current level of funding is limited and includes funds originating from contributions of member countries to the Trust Fund and from the funding provided by ongoing projects including the Phase 2 of the NC/SWIOFC Partnership Project, and the NoCaMo Project. Based on current and expected workloads, the Secretariat staff costs will include one Senior Programme Officer at P5 level as the Head of the Secretariat, one administrative assistant at the G5 level and a United Nations Volunteer (UNV).

(b) The second and optimal level of funding envisages a situation where all the Contracting Parties meet their obligations to the Trust Fund, and the Secretariat leverages additional resources from funding agencies and collaborating partners, while UNEP continues to host the Secretariat. Several proposals have been submitted to cover the remaining costs associated with the new Programme of Work, including staff costs. Staff to support the new Programme of Work at optimal level will include two Programme Officers at P4 and P5 level as project managers, and one Programme Officer at P3 level as the Knowledge and Communications Officer. Others are one National Officer at NO-C level, one Finance and Budget Assistant at G7 level and one Administrative Assistant at G7 level.

(c) Existing and potential projects to support the new Programme of Work 2025-2028 under the optimal funding scenario include: (i) Phase 2 of the NC/SWIOFC Partnership Project to promote resilient marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. With a total budget of \$5,815,490 appropriated to the Convention, Phase 2 was initiated in 2023. The project will continue in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique until October 2027. A Project Officer and one UNV will support implementation of the environmental component of the project; (ii) The NoCaMo Project, funded by the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) with an amount of Euro 1,500,000 and implemented by the Convention in collaboration with its partners. In July 2021, FFEM granted the Nairobi Convention Secretariat a grant of Euro 421,728 for implementation of agreed activities in the NoCaMo project. The project will continue to support the services of a Coordinator as well as a UNV to assist with implementation and partner coordination until September 2026.

(d) Under the optimal funding scenario, the Secretariat will increase the number of activities and work force required to implement these activities. Additional UNV and project staff will be recruited if and when necessary and depending on the level of funding received from outside sources. The Secretariat, in collaboration with its partners, will implement priority catalytic activities, as encapsulated in the Programme of Work 2025-2028 towards realization of the new integrated programme 2025-2035.

(e) The Contracting Parties are requested to consider the options for strengthening the operational functioning of the Secretariat, such as direct support to the Secretariat through non-staff personnel, and by seconding of national officers to the Secretariat to underpin the effective implementation of the Nairobi Convention Programme of Work. The Secretariat sincerely

appreciates support from France for seconding an expert to the Secretariat for the last 2 years, whose tour of duty ends in August 2024.

(f) The Secretariat has been actively pursuing alternative sources of funding to meet its Programme of Work needs, including support from donors and the development of partnerships for various activities. The Secretariat has developed a number of project proposals aligned to the Programme of Work and submitted to various donors for consideration for funding. These include: (i) Enhancing resilience of blue carbon ecosystems and associated community livelihoods in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region (WIO-Blue) submitted to the Africa Development Bank (US\$20M); (ii) Integrated Ecosystem Management in Support of a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region (20M Euros); (iii) Enabling and accelerating the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement for marine conservation in the Western Indian Ocean region (20M Euros and submitted with UNEP Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit and Grid Arendal), and (iv) Implementation of the Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme in support of a sustainable and inclusive regional Blue Economy (GEF PIF of US\$15M).

B. Main objectives of the Programme of Work for the period 2025–2028

39. All activities that will be supported or undertaken by the Nairobi Convention over the period 2025–2028 will be designed to achieve the overall objective of strengthening the role of the Nairobi Convention as a platform for promoting collaboration, synergies and coordinating implementation of regional initiatives for the protection of the marine and coastal environment.

40. Design of the 2025-2028 Programme of Work takes into consideration the programmes of regional organizations and partners such as the WIO-C, the African Union, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the regional economic communities, and regional fisheries bodies, along with global political processes and conventions on oceans, among others. It also considers capacity development within the framework of the 2004 Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; interregional South-South cooperation, the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030 UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, the 2021-2030 UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025), and the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022-2025, including efforts of building ocean resilience in the face of climate change and emerging pandemics. In addition, the new Programme of Work 2025-2028 provides support to the ongoing negotiations towards a binding Treaty on combatting Plastic Pollution, ratification and implementation of the High Seas Treaty (including the application of area-based management tools in exclusive economic zones and adjacent areas), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The regional integrated programme 2025-2035 forms the foundation for the 2025 – 2028 Programme of Work.

41. Recognising the vast array of challenges still facing sustainable coastal and marine resource utilisation and management in the WIO region, and that it would be an impossible task to address these simultaneously, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, together with regional stakeholders, agreed to a focused systematic approach for its new Programme of Work, acknowledging related SAP recommendations provided in the joint TDA.

42. The specific objectives are as follows:

(a) To promote the Nairobi Convention as a platform for increasing collaboration with, and implementation of the marine and coastal elements of the environmental programmes of regional organizations and partnerships;

(b) To support countries in their commitment to attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

(c) To contribute to building regional capacities for the integrated management of the coastal and marine environment;

(d) To promote integrated management of coastal areas in order to safeguard coastal habitats and combat physical alteration of the coast by building linkages with river basin and watershed management;

- (e) To support initiatives addressing the reduction of marine pollution, including marine litter, microplastics and microbeads;
- (f) To promote the use of ecosystems-based management approaches in the Western Indian Ocean region;
- (g) To support policy harmonization and management reforms towards improved ocean governance;
- (h) To promote improved coastal livelihoods and empowerment in sustainable resources management through the engagement of coastal fishing communities;
- (i) To engage stakeholders in the public and private sectors in minimising the carbon footprints in operations and management practices for innovative ocean governance;
- (j) To support countries in the development of institutional, legal and financial mechanisms and instruments necessary for the long-term implementation of the Nairobi Convention and its Protocols.

C. Main Components of the 2025–2028 Programme of Work

43. The 2025–2028 Programme of Work aims to enhance the Nairobi Convention’s effectiveness in supporting the conservation and management of the region’s marine and coastal ecosystems and associated biodiversity by addressing current and emerging threats. Reflecting on the key concerns highlighted in the joint TDA and its SAP recommendations, as well as global trends pertaining to sustainable ecosystem management and governance in support of a sustainable Blue Economy, the new Programme of Work acknowledges five key components as pillars:

- i. Component 1: Improved integrated ocean governance underpinned by regional cooperation.
- ii. Component 2: Improved area-based planning underpinned by an ecosystem-based approach to integrated ocean management.
- iii. Component 3: Improved Environmental Quality underpinned by a source-to-sea approach and innovative techniques.
- iv. Component 4: Improved biodiversity conservation underpinned by area-based planning and innovative approaches to habitat restoration and management.
- v. Component 5: Improved regional coordination, collaboration, and knowledge management

44. All five components of the Programme of Work are designed to promote sustainable and inclusive regional blue economies and societal livelihoods in the Western Indian Ocean Region. Further, these components are well-aligned and positioned to address the UN system’s triple planetary crisis currently facing humanity, focusing on the WIO region; that is climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These components, however, cannot be executed as siloed, independent entities but rather comprise a system of interlinked (and interdependent) components jointly aimed at supporting a sustainable regional Blue Economy, as illustrated in the Conceptual Framework for the new Programme of Work in Figure 1 below.

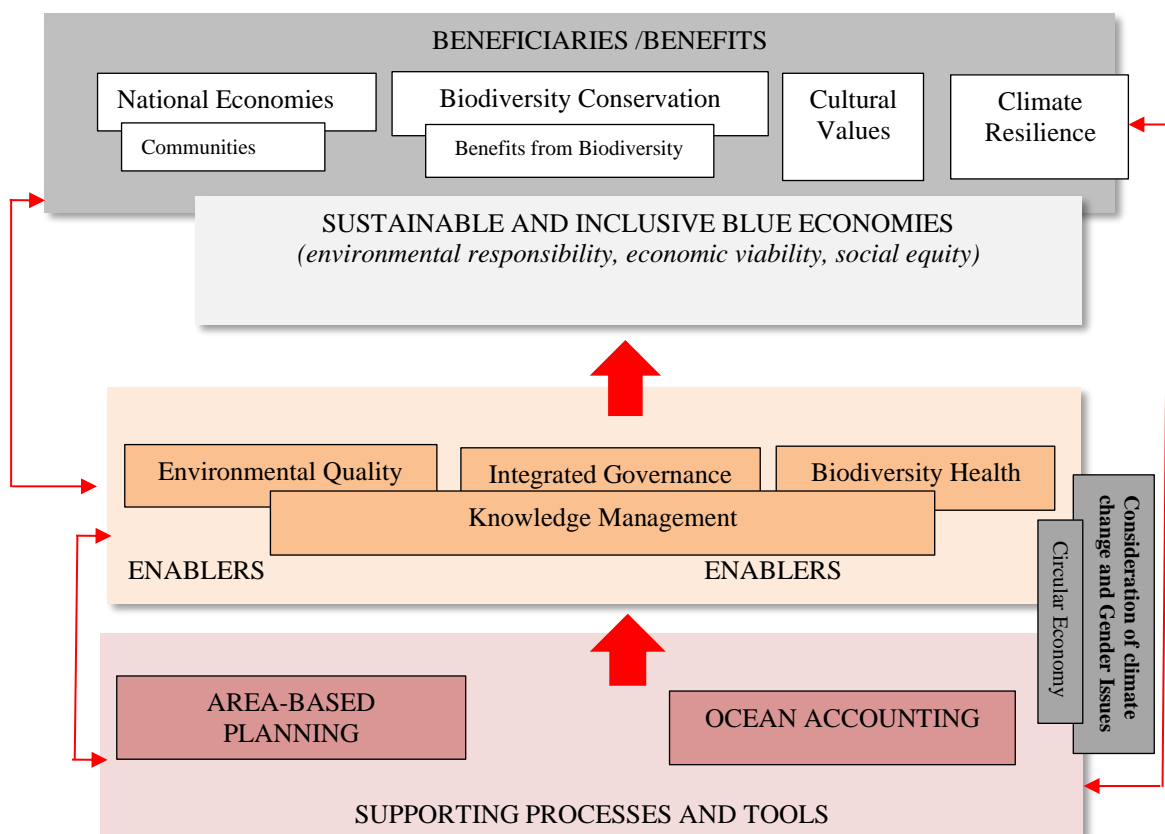


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the Nairobi Convention Integrated Programme in support of a sustainable and inclusive regional Blue Economy. Outcomes of the Programme are shown in grey, at the top of the diagram. The vision is to have a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in the region underpinned by environmental responsibility, economic viability and social equity. The benefits that will flow from such an economy will include social, economic and environmental components, for example, e.g., vulnerable communities will have safeguards, a circular economy will reduce waste, and the natural environment will be more resilient to climate change and thus more able to provide the ecosystem services that the region relies on (e.g. healthy fisheries)

46. The activities will build on the 2022–2024 work programme and focus on the priorities identified through partnerships and by the six projects and programmes that have been implemented during the previous Programme of Work. The new Programme of Work will also support and consolidate the gains from the revision and amendment of the Nairobi Convention Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region. The programme is informed by an analysis of new and emerging issues identified by Contracting Parties that require attention in respect of their policy implications.

Component 1: Integrated Ocean Governance

47. The Nairobi Convention is part of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) mandated to address environmental governance of land and sea sources of pollution, integrated coastal zone management, conservation of habitats, including through protected areas, and transboundary pollution emergency management. Operationally, it supports implementation of four protocols: on combatting pollution, on pollution emergencies, on habitat protection and on ICZM. In recent years, in addition to its normative work, the COP of the Convention has mandated the Secretariat to examine measures to advance the region's blue economy, to liaise with the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) on approaches to effective ocean governance and examine the role of the Conventions with respect to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Although the Nairobi Convention is engaged in dialogues related to the ABNJ, largely within the context of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects, its charter does not currently extend to coverage of the ABNJ and the intervention of the Convention on ABNJ is based on the principle of adjacency emphasizing on connectivity between territorial waters and ABNJ and thus the need for integrated management approaches. While good progress has been

made towards the development of a regional ocean governance strategy, implementation, especially through supporting mechanisms at a national level, needs to be enhanced over the next decade in support of blue economy aspirations and conservation. In addition, while regional decisions around improved ocean governance and sustainable blue economy development have been made in the WIO, domestication of these remains an ongoing challenge that could be addressed through the new Programme of Work. This component would include work towards integrating Circular Economy and Ocean Accounting approaches into activities undertaken.

Component 2: Area-based Planning

48. The ecosystem-based approach (EbA) is gaining momentum globally and it is now recognised that successful integrated ocean governance and the pursuit of a sustainable Blue Economy cannot be achieved if ecosystem health is not acknowledged as a key pillar of the sustainable development paradigm. Irreversible collapses in marine ecosystems would indeed induce the collapse of the economic sectors whose existence depends on these ecosystems. Systems thinking supports these approaches by identifying the interrelations between sectors and processes, hence enabling a holistic approach to governance. Drawing from these novel approaches, Integrated Ocean Management provides a basis for modern ocean management and is based on five principles i.e., i) transboundary integration, ii) governance integration, iii) stakeholder integration, iv) knowledge integration and v) integration of system dynamics.

49. Striving to balance conservation and economic objectives, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) has been gaining prominence globally, defined as “a process of analysing and allocating parts of three-dimensional marine spaces (or ecosystems) to specific uses or objectives, to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process”.

50. A regional approach to MSP has the potential to address broad-scale threats (joint monitoring and surveillance), prioritising conservation efforts in a cost-effective way, securing joint international funding and shared access to knowledge, data and technical capacity. Platforms exist for centralising regional data (e.g., Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism, Maspawio, WIO Symphony, ODINAFRICA, Oceanplus Library) that could be used and strengthened. To achieve effective MSP in the region, important enabling mechanisms to consider include: Political support for the implementation of the Regional MSP Strategy; development of a supporting legal framework; nested plans; co-development of area plans; identification of priorities; capacity development; guidelines and tools; and monitoring and evaluation.

Component 3: Environmental Quality (Adopting Source-to-Sea (S2S) Approach)

51. Environmental quality must be suitable and fit-for-use to support recreation and ecotourism; support coastal community livelihoods (fishing, algae harvesting, etc.); commercial uses such as fisheries and marine aquaculture; and carbon sequestration potential linked to climate change mitigation. Therefore, good environmental quality can be viewed as a critical enabler for sustainable Blue Economy growth and societal well-being. Rapid, and often, uncontrolled urbanisation poses a serious threat to good environmental quality, including pressures associated with land-based sources of marine pollution, marine litter and plastics and pollution from shipping (e.g., oil spills). This requires continuous renewal and adaptation of management responses to combat such pressures, through uptake of new, innovative thinking and adopting best practice learning from across the world.

52. Oil pollution incidents result in serious direct ecological and socio-economic damages. Effective prevention, preparedness and response can mitigate the risks by reducing the likelihood and/or consequences of possible spills. Furthermore, indirect impacts can exacerbate the damage, through potential tourists misconstruing media reports and, assuming that a spill may have blighted or ruined an area, irrespective of the reality, and choosing to avoid that area or even the country. There may also be losses in market confidence for fish and mariculture products taken from the area or country, again not necessarily related to actual pollution impacts. Furthermore, there have been various international projects focusing on this field, and activities to build national and sub-regional capacity are likely to continue. Significant oil or hazardous and noxious substances causing marine pollution incidents can create challenges that may overwhelm national response capabilities and require regional or international support. Hence implementation of a regional cooperation and coordination mechanism under the Emergency Protocol of the Convention is a critical need.

Component 4: Biodiversity Conservation

53. Coastal and marine ecosystems are critical for people and nature. For example, blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marsh) are significant for climate, community, and biodiversity conservation. Coastal habitats and associated biodiversity are threatened by a combination of human and natural drivers, of which over-exploitation of resources, habitat conversion, pollution and climate change are the main drivers degrading mangroves, seagrasses, and coastal forests in the WIO region. Therefore, the protection of critical habitats and promotion of their restoration will contribute to the improvement of benefits they provide to society and biodiversity.

54. Transformative actions will include the expansion of restoration efforts that have been piloted in specific sites of the region in order to increase areas under rehabilitation. This is expected to have direct benefits to communities living in the WIO and also indirect global benefits through contributing to carbon sequestration aspirations. Regional restoration efforts will also create a community of conservation practitioners devoted to understanding the value of biodiversity conservation, and build networks of key-actors, including community-based organisations (CBOs). Efforts towards conserving and restoring biodiversity in the WIO region is strongly aligned with several global and regional commitments and initiatives, including the UN Decade of Restoration and the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Component 5: Regional Coordination, Collaboration, and Knowledge Management

55. The Nairobi Convention offers a regional legal framework and provides a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination, and collaborative actions, and enables the Contracting Parties to harness resources and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups towards solving interlinked problems of the coastal and marine environment. It is also an important platform for dialogue between governments and civil society at the regional and national level. It also provides a platform for relevant knowledge generation and sharing and capacity development at national, regional and African levels, and with global partners. The implementation of the Convention's Programme of Work is coordinated by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, which is acting as the central nervous system of regional activities. The Secretariat is guided by the decisions of the COPs held every two years and supported by National Focal Points (NFP) which serve as the channel for all formal communications between States and the Secretariat and vice versa. The Secretariat of the Convention will facilitate coordination and implementation of this regional programme.

56. The Convention clearinghouse mechanism (CHM) has been established to pool coastal and marine environment information held by numerous institutions in the region in order to improve the scientific knowledge base for policy and management decision-making. The establishment of an effective information system and strengthening of the CHM facilitate effective information exchange for improved management of coastal and marine environment is a key and ongoing priority. This strengthening of knowledge and data-sharing mechanisms and platforms, including reporting mechanisms and information exchange, and institutional strengthening is critical for the implementation of the Convention. An Information Management Strategy has been prepared with the assistance of a regional multi-stakeholder working group, and there will be a need to implement the elements of the Strategy.

III. Main activities of the programme of work for the period 2025–2028

57. The main activities of the Programme of Work fall within the five inter-related components (a – e above) that takes into consideration new and emerging issues and global agreements that Contracting Parties may have committed to or intend to commit to in the future. The activities under each of the components focus on broad areas related to: improved ocean governance in pursuit of a sustainable blue economy; tools in support of improved ocean governance including area-based management; environmental quality incorporating the source-to-sea approach; biodiversity conservation including nature based solutions; and coordination, information sharing and awareness raising.

A. Component 1: Integrated Ocean Governance

58. At the expected level of funding, the focus will be on providing support to ongoing projects to achieve several outcomes under this component. The Secretariat working with Contracting Parties and Partners will work to mobilize additional resources to support implementation of the expanded scope of the Programme of Work.

59. **Outcome 1.** The policy, legislative, institutional frameworks and tools necessary for improved and integrated governance and management of the ocean, coasts and resources are in place, harmonized and operational at a national level in support of a sustainable, inclusive and climate smart regional blue economy, and implementation of relevant multi-lateral environment agreements (MEAs). The envisaged outputs (or interventions) towards achieving this outcome are as follows:

Output 1.1: Operationalization of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) and ICZM Protocol at regional and national levels on approaches and aspects articulated including supporting frameworks for integrated ocean governance.

Activities

- Implement the ROGS and establish strategies/policies/institutional frameworks articulated in the ROGS at regional and national levels
- Collaborate with African Union, RECs, RFBs and other partners on ocean governance
- Review, harmonize and develop relevant policies and laws that support regional ocean governance and sustainable blue economy at national levels
- Support development of financing mechanisms to implement ocean governance and sustainable blue economy at regional and national levels

Indicators

- At least 2 regional policy frameworks are harmonized and aligned for integrated ocean governance and improved collaboration and coordination
- At least 5 national strategies/policies/legislation/institutional frameworks/financial frameworks are developed, adopted and aligned with the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy
- At least 3 collaborative frameworks or activities are developed and implemented with partners, stakeholders
- Projects and activities on integrated ocean governance are implemented in at least 3 countries

Output 1.2: Ratification, domestication of Nairobi Convention legal Instruments and relevant global legal instruments

Activities

- Support countries to ratify/accede to and domesticate the Amended Nairobi Convention, LBSA and ICZM Protocol
- Support countries to ratify/accede to and domesticate the BBNJ Treaty
- Review, finalize the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Flora and Fauna to the Nairobi Convention
- Support countries to ratify/accede and domesticate the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Flora and Fauna to the Nairobi Convention
- Review and finalize the Emergency Protocol to the Nairobi Convention
- Support countries to ratify/accede to and domesticate the Emergency Protocol to the Nairobi Convention

Indicators

- Amended Nairobi Convention and LBSA Protocol, ICZM are ratified /acceded to and are in force
- Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Flora and Fauna is reviewed, finalized and adopted
- Emergency Protocol to the Nairobi Convention is reviewed, finalized and adopted
- BBNJ Treaty is signed, ratified/acceded to by at least 5 countries

Output 1.3: Relevant stakeholders are engaged on policy, legislative, institutional frameworks and on the use of tools to support on integrated ocean governance and management and sustainable blue economy.

Activities

- Engage and involve relevant stakeholders including line ministries and agencies, Regional Economic Communities and Commissions, local communities in regional ocean governance and sustainable blue economy at regional, national and local levels
- Engage and involve private sector in implementation of sustainable blue economy at regional and national levels
- Support the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships/platforms in regional ocean governance and sustainable blue economy at regional, national and local levels

Indicators

- At least 3 blue economy sectors are involved in implementation of sustainable blue economy at regional and national levels
- At least 2 multi-stakeholder partnerships/platforms that include private sector and local communities are used to implement integrated ocean governance and sustainable blue economy at regional and national levels

Output 1.4: Circular economy approaches are integrated into blue economy development initiatives in the countries of the WIO region leading to ocean sustainability.

Activities

- Develop Circular Economy Roadmaps and costed Action Plans for each of the WIO countries
- Develop bankable plans for 3 project deliverables in different sectors for each WIO Country
- Develop a Circular Economy Platform or framework either for WIO region or in-country, including key stakeholders across all sectors
- Engage financing institutions to support development of circular economy projects and mainstream financial commitments to project development with identified project management and implementation teams
- Develop knowledge-sharing mechanisms to inform decision-makers on the role of Circular Economy to sustainable blue future

Indicators

- At least 3 Circular Economy Roadmaps and costed Action Plans are developed
- At least 3 bankable plans for 3 projects in different sectors are developed
- Circular Economy platform or framework is developed and in place with key stakeholders across the WIO region
- Knowledge-sharing mechanisms at regional level to inform decision-makers on the role of Circular Economy to sustainable blue future is developed
- Climate and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) finance aligned to CE through key international agencies to support project development

Output 1.5: Ocean Accounts are utilized to track progress towards Programme of Work implementation achievement at a regional level in the WIO, and National Capital Accounting and Ecosystem Evaluation are regularly utilized in support of BE development in the region

Activities

- Adopt a regular and consistent Regional Ecosystem Monitoring Framework (within and across disciplines at a national level)
- Mainstream ocean accounting as the framework in integrating knowledge production across the component levels of integrated ocean governance, area-based planning, environmental quality and biodiversity conservation
- Develop measures of ocean accounting capacity among Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties and the needs associated with these measures along with the associated capacity development across research, monitoring and uptake arenas
- Align current and future ocean accounting initiatives at different spatial scales within the WIO (e.g. those of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership) to expedite accounting uptake by Contracting Parties
- Inclusion of ocean accounting derived indicators in the science to policy interface and informed and evidence-based decision making across the identified SAP component levels of integrated ocean governance, area-based planning, environmental quality and biodiversity conservation
- Draw on established international experience and expertise or best practice provided by GOAP Membership to ensure that national and regional accounts align with international standards and norms (the same structures as national accounts maintained by National Statistical Offices or Finance Ministries) thereby measuring BE progress towards growth and sustainability in line with SDG 14, 15.9 and 17.19 and other indicator targets.

Indicators

- Gross-value-add contribution of national BE sectors to GDP and consistent and regular national economic indicators of Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties. Marine / Ocean Economy Satellite Accounting allow for the measure of ocean production and income, consumption and capital formation, imports and exports, that are critical measures in tracking economic indicators for strategic macroeconomic planning and investment decision
- System of Environmental Economic Accounts Central Framework (SEEA – CF) in tracking the sustainable use of ocean natural capital across sectors, sectoral drivers of environmental decline and the costs and efficacy of ocean management through Environmental Activity accounting
- System of Environmental Economic Accounts Ecosystem Accounts (SEEA – EA) in tracking ocean health and wealth, critical natural capital, ecosystem service potential and capacity, environmental depletion and degradation as well as thematic areas indicators such as Blue Carbon or MPA accounting
- Social Account that allows the tracking of ocean human capital including employment opportunities, resource access inclusivity and social equity
- Novel and emergent Risk Accounting systems that are under development to model environmental social and economic risk within ocean resource use and BE sectors. Such approaches may integrate natural and disaster risk (e.g. through the Sendai Framework Indicators), Ecosystem-based adaptation to risk, and anthropogenic risk modelling across accounting systems
- Governance Accounting tied to environmental activity accounts including regulatory instruments, norms and codes, compliance, monitoring and enforcement efficacy; and
- Summary Account that draws the above accounting to identify benefits and costs of BE (focus on flows among systems) and national and regional ocean wealth (focus on stocks).

60. **Outcome 2:** The capacity of Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders on policy, legislative, institutional frameworks and on the use of tools to support on integrated ocean governance and management and sustainable blue economy is strengthened/enhanced. The envisaged outputs (or interventions) towards achieving this outcome are as follows:

Output 2.1: Enhanced Capacities of Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders on policy, legislative, institutional frameworks and on the use of tools to support on integrated ocean governance and management and sustainable blue economy

Activities

- Undertake a gap analysis on existing regional and national frameworks that support regional ocean governance and sustainable blue economy
- Develop capacity including training, technical support for project development, awareness and information sharing on integrated ocean governance and management and sustainable blue economy
- Develop capacity including training, technical support for project development, awareness and information sharing of ROGS
- Undertake capacity development, including training, technical support to develop projects, awareness and information sharing of relevant ocean governance and blue economy sectors' managers, regulatory and management authorities and other stakeholders

Indicators

- At least three (3) regional capacity development trainings on policy, legislative, institutional frameworks and tools on integrated ocean governance and management and sustainable blue economy, including improving understanding of the elements of the ROGS are carried out
- At least 5 regional and national trainings and sensitization workshops on ROGS are carried out
- At least five (5) national capacity development trainings on policy, legislative, institutional frameworks and tools on integrated ocean governance and management and sustainable blue economy
- Develop measures of ocean accounting capacity among Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties and the needs associated with these measures along with the associated capacity development across research, monitoring and uptake arenas
- Align current and future ocean accounting initiatives at different spatial scales within the WIO (e.g. those of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership) to expedite accounting uptake by Contracting Parties
- Inclusion of ocean accounting derived indicators in the science to policy interface and informed and evidence-based decision making across the identified SAP component levels of integrated ocean governance, area-based planning, environmental quality and biodiversity conservation
- Draw on established international experience and expertise or best practice provided by GOAP Membership to ensure that national and regional accounts align with international standards and norms (the same structures as national accounts maintained by National Statistical Offices or Finance Ministries) thereby measuring BE progress towards growth and sustainability in line with SDG 14, 15.9 and 17.19 and other indicator targets.

61. Key implementing partners in this component include the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, the Contracting Parties, national institutions, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), African Union and Regional Economic Commissions (RECS), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), GIZ through the WIOGI Project, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), WIOMSA, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), East African Wild Life Society, Wildlife Conservation Society, the South-Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, FARI, Our Blue Future, African Circular Economy Network, Plastics SA, Sustainable Seas Trust, and others.

B. Component 2: Area-based Planning

62. At the expected level of funding, the focus will be on providing support to ongoing projects to achieve several outcomes under this component:

63. **Outcome 2.1.** A regional ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Plan to support integrated ocean management for sustainable blue economies and societal livelihoods.

Outputs (Interventions) towards achieving Outcomes:

- Adopted Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy
- Increased awareness and understanding of the Regional MSP Strategy (through the MSP Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and Focal Points for each country)
- Pathways to enable the institutional, human and financial capacities through the funding of seminars and training programmes involving the MSP TWGs and other regional stakeholders.
- Improved stakeholder engagement in MSP processes (e.g. via collaborative platforms, inclusion of Traditional Ecological Knowledge etc.)
- A centralised knowledge management system (that provides a sustainable clearing house for data collection and co-production, curation, management, analysis and distribution)
- A regional biodiversity assessment (similar to South Africa's National Biodiversity Assessments) that provide maps of ecosystems and human uses and calculate ecosystem threat and protection status.
- A regional ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Plan that addresses regional issues and provides a platform and guidance for sub-regional, national and local scale MSPs.
- A zonation for conservation and other human uses (including sustainable livelihoods, sustainable blue economies, MPAs, etc.) in line with the Regional MSP Strategy
- Effective management plans for all of the zones
- Policy harmonisation for the region's zonation (e.g. MPAs, LMMAs, OECMs, ABNJ, shipping lanes, fisheries areas, cross-border MSPs/MPAs, etc.)
- Support for the governance and management of ABNJs.

Proposed key indicators (for achieving outputs):

- Reference to the Regional MSP Strategy in sub-regional/national/local MSP processes
- Country/Institutional representativeness in the MSP TWGs
- Number of International Training Programs (ITP) in MSP per year
- Country representativeness in MSP ITP attendance
- Regional data set inclusion and quality in the centralised knowledge management system
- Quality, resolution and extent of regional data sets
- Level of access and sharing of regional data
- Number of management plans for zones
- Number of transboundary zones covered in the region
- Opportunities for knowledge integration (top down and bottom-up), e.g. stakeholder workshops, policies for comment, etc.
- Number of regionally harmonised policies for zones
- Surface area of ABNJs in a MSP zone
- Level of restriction/protection in ABNJs.

64. **Outcome 2.2.** A harmonised network of subregional, national and local scale Marine Spatial Plans that use Area-based Management Tools (ABMTs), including, MPAs, LMMEs, OECMs, EBSAs, etc.

Outputs (interventions) towards achieving outcomes:

- National biodiversity assessments (aligned with the regional one) that provide maps of ecosystems and human uses and calculate ecosystem threat and protection status.
- National (in-country) work on MSP to align with the Regional MSP Strategy's principles, objectives and approach.
- Subregional, national or local Marine Spatial Plans aligned with the Regional MSP
- National adoption of ABMTs by aligning policies and legal frameworks with regional ones

- Increased in-country capacity through working with the WIO MSP TWG (for example, the use of Decision Support Tools and the UNESCO-IOC steps of the process)
- A network of zones (from MSP products), to better manage multi-use conflicts.
- Informed by the scaled MSPs, an expanded network of ABMTs in the WIO region to support healthy ecosystems for nature and people.
- Effective management plans for all of the zones
- Scenarios for future human uses and their potential impacts on human and ocean health (sub-regional, national or local level)

Proposed key indicators (for achieving outputs)

- Number of national biodiversity assessments
- Number of sub-regional Marine Spatial Plans
- Number of national and local Marine Spatial Plans
- Representativeness of stakeholder groups and sectors during stakeholder engagement meetings
- Existence of legal frameworks that inform on the stages of the MSP processes in each country.
- Total percentage area in different zones, e.g. MPA zones, OECMs, etc.
- Number of effective management plans for all of the zones
- Contribution to the 30/30 objectives, the GBF targets, the Framework for BBNJs and the Global Chemicals Framework
- Representation of ecosystems and habitat targets in appropriate zones
- A dashboard of indicators to monitor the status and performance for the network of area-based management tools.
- A set of regional indicators that measure the integration of national and regional scales (e.g. integration of zonation types, data usage/sharing, aligned policies, stakeholder inclusion)
- Level of conflict among ocean users (measured by a suitable metric)
- Number of scenarios developed at sub-regional, national and local scales (where scenarios follow a theory of change approach)

65. Key implementing partners in this component include national institutions, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWaM), Nelson Mandela University, Macquarie University, WIOMSA, FARI, the WIO-C, SWIOFC, among others.

C. Component 3: Environmental Quality (Adopting Source-to-Sea (S2S) Approach)

66. At the expected level of funding, the focus will be on support to ongoing projects to achieve several outcomes under this component:

67. **Outcome 3.1:** Reduction of marine pollution from land-based and sea-based sources (improve coastal and marine water and sediment quality).

Output 3.1.1: Conducive legislative and regulatory environment to facilitate reduction of marine pollution at national level (strongly linked to Component 1).

Activities

- Strengthen national regulatory systems to better control disposal of land-based wastewater at source (e.g., permitting/licensing of wastewater quality and volumes informed by environmental impact assessment)
- Strengthen national regulatory systems to embed requirements for the development and implementation of C&MWQM frameworks

Output 3.1.2: Adapting regional strategic framework for C&MWQM at country-level through development of National Frameworks for C&MWQM, including adoption of water and sediment quality guidelines

Activities

- Expert-led targeted training programmes (training-the-trainers) on development of National Frameworks for C&MWQM and local planning for C&MWQM (including monitoring) developed under WIOSAP
- Develop and adopt National Frameworks for C&MWQM
- Establishment of National Task Forces for C&MWQM

Output 3.1.3: Adopting Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in a Blue Economy**Activities**

- Expert-led targeted training programmes (training-the-trainers) based on Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in a Blue Economy developed under WIOSAP
- Adopt Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in a Blue Economy at national level by rolling out of the toolkit in ports in pilot countries

Output 3.1.4: Developing and implementing local C&MWQM plans (including monitoring plans) in accordance with regional and national C&MWQM frameworks focusing on marine pollution hotspots

Activities

- Develop and implement a local C&MWQM plan (including monitoring), using a marine pollution hotspot (e.g., country demonstration projects)

Output 3.1.5: Operational monitoring programmes for C&MWQM that embraces S2S approach and utilizes harmonized methodologies across WIO region (under National Frameworks for C&MWQM, as well as C&MWQM plans focusing on marine pollution hotspots)

Activities

- Investigate a synchronized regional mechanism/ platform whereby monitoring data on water and sediment quality (including hazardous chemicals) can be collated and shared

Output 3.1.6: Innovations and technologies to reduce water, and sediment pollution along S2S continuum with an emphasis on public private partnerships.

Activities

- Prepare Regional Best Practice Guide on innovative wastewater management solutions (consolidating learning for demonstration project under WIOSAP) to capture and share learning gained across regions
- Prepare source inventory within the region - leakage/conduct baselines for plastics and chemicals of concern e.g., DDT
- Investigate development of incentive scheme to encourage improved municipal wastewater treatment and management, e.g., South Africa's Green Drop Initiative. (<https://ws.dws.gov.za/iris/releases/GDWR.pdf>)

Output 3.1.7: Regional and national education and awareness programmes on marine pollution and society's role in combating such problems.

Activities

- Prepared Regional Best Practice Guide on Education and Awareness campaigns relevant to marine pollution and society's role in combating such problems applicable within contexts within the WIO region

Proposed Indicators to reflect on performance at output level (quantitative aspects to be confirmed at national level because different countries are at different levels of 'maturity'):

- Number of countries that strengthened national regulatory systems to better manage and control marine pollution

- Number of countries that have developed National Frameworks for C&MWQM, including adoption of Guidelines for setting water and sediment quality objectives and targets in the WIO region (linked LBSA Protocol)
- Number of countries having established National C&MWQM Task Forces
- Number of countries having developed and implemented demonstration projects on local &MWQM plan (including monitoring) focusing on marine pollution hotspots
- Number of countries having established monitoring programmes utilizing harmonized methodologies (as per National Frameworks for C&MWQM and C&MWQM plans focusing on marine pollution hotspots)
- Conceptual design of synchronized regional mechanism/ platform whereby monitoring data on water and sediment quality (chemicals) can be collated and shared
- Decision on regional incentive scheme to encourage improved municipal wastewater treatment and management has been reached
- Number of countries adopted Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in a Blue Economy (previously referred to as Green Port Toolkit)
- Regional Best Practice Guide on innovative wastewater management solutions developed
- Regional Best Practice Guide for education and awareness campaigns for marine pollution developed

68. **Outcome 3.2:** Reduction of marine pollution from land-based and sea-based sources (oil spill preparedness)

Output 3.2.1: Conducive legislative and regulatory environment to facilitate reduction of water and sediment pollution at country-level (strongly linked to Component 1).

Activities

- Training to develop capacity on understanding of Conventions, revision of legal texts, laws and rules, involve magistrates, lawyers and legal advisor.

Output 3.2.2: Coordination mechanism for enhanced regional and national collaboration and cooperation for reduction, prevention, preparedness, and response to pollution in WIO region

Activities

Training to develop capacity on:

- updating national plans in collaboration with stakeholders
- finalising and adoption of the regional plan

Output 3.2.3: Regional mechanism under the Nairobi Convention's Emergency Protocol

Activity

- Facilitate implementation of the Emergency Protocol at the national level

Output 3.2.4: Competent staff that can complete and understand Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan's Pollution Reporting (POLREP) process.

Activities

- Training to develop capacity on Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan's Pollution Reporting (POLREP) process
- Set up national Institutions and staff to perform these functions

Output 3.2.5: Quarterly exercises as per POLREP on the Regional Contingency Plan

Activities

- Training to develop capacity on implementation of Contingency Plan
- Coordinate exercises across countries

Output 3.2.6: Online POLREP using existing platforms

Activities

- Training to develop capacity on implementation of Contingency Plan
- Coordinate usage of online POLREP platforms

Output 3.2.7: Logistical, operational, and financial procedures for offers of assistance are simulated through a ‘walk-through’ exercise.

Activity

- Support countries for equipment procurement, including facilities to store equipment

Output 3.2.8: Up to date information is available within the Regional Contingency Plan Appendices

Activities

- Engage and utilise skills of Regional centres in Madagascar (RMFIC) and Seychelles (RCOC)
- Regional inventory of expertise in oil spill preparedness (promote national and regional expertise)

Output 3.2.9: Improved communication to ensure proper alignment with existing programmes and to Secretariat’s function under the Emergency Protocol’s Article 9

Activity

- Establish formal collaborative networks with other initiatives

Output 3.2.10: Increased engagement of private sector in waste management and pollution control measures

Activity

- Establish formal collaborative networks with shipping industry

Output 3.2.11: Increased collaboration between Nairobi Convention and other initiatives in the regional that are addressing marine pollution

Activity

- Supporting countries on an assessment on the actual situation at national and regional levels to facilitate harmonization and prevent duplication of effort

Output 3.2.12: Regional and national education and awareness programmes on marine pollution and society’s role in combating such problems

Activity

- Establish education and awareness programmes through:
 - Sensitisation in schools
 - Sensitisation of stakeholders
 - Creation of courses dealing with pollution

Proposed Indicators to reflect on performance at output level (quantitative aspects to be confirmed at national level because different countries are at different levels of ‘maturity’):

- Regional oil spill contingency plan finalized and approved – with key appendices populated.
- Number of countries that have finalised national oil spill contingency plans
- Regional oils spill exercise programme developed, with an agreed schedule of exercise activities and all countries in the region actively participating.
- Adoption and utilization of the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS) evaluation tool, to track and measure improvements in national oil spill preparedness.

- Number of countries implementing education and awareness programmes on marine pollution

69. **Outcome 3.3:** Reduction of marine litter from land-based and sea-based sources

Output 3.3.1: Conducive legislative and regulatory environment to facilitate reduction of marine litter pollution at national level (strongly linked to Component 1).

Activities

- Review existing legislative and regulatory frameworks to include marine litter pollution
- Support the development/ implementation of legislation on EPR schemes
- Support the implementation of policies addressing plastic pollution, including enhancing synergies at the national level.

Output 3.3.2: Regional Marine Plastic and Associated Action Plan developed, validated, and adopted by the Conference of Parties

Activities

- Review and update the existing regional marine litter action plan to include plastics and associated chemicals including harmonization with Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter under the Barcelona Convention on single-use plastics and IMO action plan on sea-based marine litter
- Integrate the existing marine litter action plan with the work carried out by the IOC on a Marine Plastic Pollution Action Plan for the WIO into a single Plan to address Marine Plastic Pollution in the region
- Validate the updated and combined Action Plan through a stakeholders' workshop

Output 3.3.3: Operational marine litter and plastic monitoring programme that embraces the S2S approach and utilizes harmonized methodologies across the region.

Activities

- Carryout regional training course of the revised and harmonized regional litter assessment methodologies developed by WIOMSA including designing of marine litter monitoring programme
- Expand the existing Marine Litter Monitoring Programme to cover all WIO countries
- Assess the socio-economic impacts of plastic across the value chain
- Develop and disseminate monitoring findings through the annual regional status of marine litter pollution reports

Output 3.3.4: Coordination mechanism for enhanced regional and national collaboration and cooperation for reduction and prevention of marine pollution in WIO region including the private sector and industry.

Activities

- Set up a regional working group on marine plastics and associated chemicals
- Set up and operationalize national marine plastics and associated chemicals task force

Output 3.3.5: Increased adoption of circular economy in plastic waste management (strongly linked to Component 1).

Activities

- Develop the capacity to enhance circularity in plastics and prevent or minimize the generation of plastic waste
- Engage the private sectors to find ways to increase plastic circularity
- Document best practices on waste circularity for peer learning for enhance adoption

Output 3.3.6: Increased engagement of private sector in waste management and pollution control measures, focusing on marine litter

Activities

- Establish a framework for Private Sector Engagement
- Invite private sector and industry experts to share the latest developments in the plastics industry

Output 3.3.7: Increased collaboration between Nairobi Convention and other initiatives in the region

Activity

- Organize joint activities (meetings/ trainings) with the other conventions and other UN bodies

Output 3.3.8: Enhanced education and awareness on marine litter and society's role in combating such problems.

Activities

- Support regional awareness initiatives on plastic pollution
- Support the development of educational materials
- Encourage Contracting Parties to integrate issues of marine litter pollution in the formal education

Proposed Indicators to reflect on performance at output level (quantitative aspects to be confirmed at national level because different countries are at different levels of development):

- Regional Marine Plastics and Associated Chemicals Action Plan adopted.
- Monitoring data on status (amount of plastics in the environment) over time along the source to sea continuum
- Amount of plastic reused, recycled, and upcycled.
- Number of countries with marine litter/plastics monitoring programmes that are utilizing harmonized methodologies.
- Number of countries adopting circular economy, nature-based solutions, and other innovative technologies in reducing marine litter.
- Number of countries implementing education and awareness programmes focusing on marine litter.

70. **Outcome 3.4:** Improved river basin management (water quantity and quality, and sediment) to support healthy marine ecosystems

Output 3.4.1: Conducive legislative environment in place to facilitate improved river basin management at national level.

Activities

- Conduct review of existing regional legislative frameworks
- Carry out analysis to identify the gaps
- Conduct regional meetings to harmonize the national legislative frameworks

Output 3.4.2: Coordination mechanisms enhanced at regional and national levels for improved collaboration and cooperation in river basin management in the WIO region

Activities

- Establish a regional/national community of practice on IWRM ("source to sea").
- Develop IWRM guidelines for the WIO Ocean region harmonized with existing processes/guidelines/ strategies on C&MWQM, ICZM, MSP, EFlow, Marine Litter/Plastics, Ocean Governance, etc.

Output 3.4.3: Operational monitoring programmes developed and implemented that embrace S2S approach and utilizes harmonized methodologies across the WIO region

Activity

- Develop IWRM operational monitoring programme with indicators for the WIO region

Output 3.4.4: Innovations and technologies adopted (e.g., nature-based and circular economy solutions and payment for ecosystem services) to improve river basin management along S2S continuum with an emphasis on public/private partnerships.

Activities

- Establish national and regional platforms for exchanging of best practices through lessons learnt
- Conduct mapping and evaluation of ecosystem services (linked with Component 2)
- Develop bankable nature-based solutions/ programmes/projects through the PPP frameworks to address the S2S aspects.
- Conduct capacity building in hydrodynamic model of estuarine and receiving coastal ecosystems

Output: 3.4.5: Capacity development: Facilitate the implementation of the agreed protocols.

Activity

- Establish a regional community of practices in IWRM, including EFlows

Output 3.4.6: Regional and national education and awareness programmes on the importance of integrated water resource management in combatting marine pollution and how society can contribute.

Activity

- Conduct regional and national education and awareness programmes on IWRM.

Proposed indicators to reflect on performance at output level (quantitative aspects to be confirmed at national level because different countries are at different levels of ‘maturity’):

- Consolidated and harmonized national legislative frameworks in place
- Number of countries having established national community of practice or platforms on IWRM (“source to sea”)
- Number of countries adopting and implementing regional E-flows guidelines at national level
- Number of countries established operational IWRM (river basin) monitoring programmes utilizing harmonized methodologies
- Number of countries implementing education and awareness programmes on IWRM
- Number of countries having developed and implemented bankable nature-based solutions/ programmes/projects on IWRM

71. Partners in these activities will include the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, the Contracting Parties, national institutions, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, FARI, Rhodes University, African Circular Economy Network, Sokoine University, International Maritime Organisation (IMO), UNEP Disasters and Conflicts Branch, Ecosystems Division, Sustainable Seas Trust, the WIO-C, WIOMSA, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, South Africa’s Department of Water & Sanitation, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nature Conservancy, Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Stockholm

International Water Institute, Nature Conservancy, Tanzania Marine Parks and Reserves Unit, Kenya Wildlife Service, Private Sector, and others.

D. Component 4: Biodiversity Conservation

72. At the expected level of funding, the focus will be on support to ongoing projects to achieve several outcomes under this component:

73. **Outcome 4.1:** Improved Ecosystem health for environmental benefits (including climate change mitigation and adaptation) and community livelihoods (including small-scale fisheries).

Output 4.1.1: Mapping degraded areas for targeted restoration.

Activities

- Monitoring and Evaluation of restoration initiatives, nature-based enterprises, habitat management
- Develop co-management structures (BMUs etc.) at restored sites
- Implementation of potential ocean climate actions, including restoration of degraded areas
- Training on tools and methodology on carbon Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV), ecosystem valuation, carbon trading

Output 4.1.2: Enhanced community livelihood options including nature-based enterprises (beekeeping, carbon trading, animal husbandry, mariculture)

Activities

- Implementation of potential livelihood options, including carbon trading, seaweed farming, ecotourism, among others
- Upscaling alternative livelihood options to other areas in the region
- Training on alternative livelihood options
- Knowledge exchange, sharing of lessons learnt and best practices
- Conduct economic valuation studies that support alternative community livelihoods that incorporate nature-based solutions

Indicators

- Area cover and biomass/amount of carbon captured
- Biodiversity change/increase and level of connectivity
- Stakeholders/communities participating in co-management
- Restoration metrics
- Number of livelihood options implemented
- Number of economic valuation studies on community livelihoods

74. **Outcome 4.2:** Increase spatial coverage and improved management effectiveness of MPAs and OECMs such as LMMAs in the WIO (for biodiversity and fisheries management)

Output 4.2.1: Countries achieve the 30/30 targets by including OECMs

Activities

- Establishment and management of LMMAs
- Alternatives livelihoods to reduce pressure on LMMAs, including sustainable land management (SLM)
- Policy and management plans for established LMMAs; including TBCAs

Output 4.2.2: Biodiversity monitoring, reporting and verification

Contribute to National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and other national, regional and global reporting tools (e.g., National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), National Action Plans, State of the Coast etc.)

Indicators

- Area/Cover
- Effectiveness of management / Willingness to participate (LEK)
- Biodiversity/biomass/ stock assessment (incl. Climate refugia)
- Economic and socio-economic benefits of MPAs and OECMs
- Number of regional/transboundary MPAs

75. **Outcome 4.3:** Protection of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) improved through the establishment of regional MPAs to protect the biological connectivity between Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and national waters

Output 4.3.1: Prepare a marine connectivity conservation plan for the WIO

Activities

- Awareness on the interdependence of EEZ and adjacent areas
- Area based planning in adjacent areas (seafloor mapping, MSP, MPAs, KBA, and VMEs)
- Institutional governance to address multisectoral and emerging issues, including ocean noise and ship strikes, Ocean Acidification.
- Develop a database of BBNJ in the region

76. Partners in these activities will include national institutions, WIO-C, FARI, WIOMSA, SWaM, Macquarie University, UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), SWIOFC, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), GIZ, UKAID, Private Sector in Oil & Gas, Shipping, and others.

E. Component 5: Regional Coordination, Collaboration, and Knowledge Management

77. At the expected level of funding, the focus will be on support to ongoing policy interventions and projects to achieve various outcomes under this component:

78. **Outcome 5.1:** An efficient and effective mechanism to coordinate multiple regional projects is in place working with regional centres of excellence in particular disciplines to deliver the programme. To achieve this outcome, the following outputs are envisaged:

Outputs

- Convention and Programme Coordination
- Staffing in place to support the programme
- Resource mobilisation ongoing to support future regional programmes of work
- MOUs for strategic partnerships where necessary

Activities

- Programme coordination effectively employed to guide and harmonize project planning and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes and outputs, assessment of lessons learned, and identification of best practices
- Donor Coordination Strategy prepared and adopted in support of an expanded regional programme for SAP implementation
- A Blue Economy Innovation Hub developed to assist countries in introduction of new Blue Economy-relevant innovations and technologies
- Develop MOUs with strategic partners where necessary

Indicators to reflect performance in achieving outputs include:

- Fit for purpose coordination structure within the Secretariat
- Donor Coordination Strategy
- Blue Economy Innovation Hub

79. **Outcome 5.2:** Enhanced level of regional collaboration at multiple levels including with the private sector, academia and policy makers. The following outputs are envisaged to achieve this outcome:

Outputs

- Science to policy platform strengthened and aligned to the Decade of Ocean Science
- Strategic partnerships and regional collaboration
- Production of national and regional periodic assessments reports
- Supporting technical working groups and task forces
- Involvement of Regional Economic Commissions (RECs).

Activities

- Knowledge sharing and networking linkages and events developed, in particular in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, based on recommendations of the Regional Information Management Strategy and linked to the Science-to-Policy Platform
- An assessment of emerging biophysical and socioeconomic issues made in conjunction with annual regional and national level science-policy dialogues prepared
- Linkages and knowledge and experience sharing with other national, regional and global organizations, programmes and projects established.

Proposed key indicators to reflect performance in achieving outputs include:

- Number and type of partnerships established, maintained and strengthened
- Partnership events convened to support various aspects of the programme
- Outputs co-produced with partners
- Number of areas of decisions relevant to the programme proposed by partners

80. **Outcome 5.3.** A sustainable system that allows easy access to useful data and information to support decision making is in place in the region. The following outputs are envisaged to achieve this outcome:

- Strengthening the NC Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) with strong interface with national data centres
- Revised communication strategy for the Convention
- Communication and awareness programmes
- Ocean Literacy and capacity development

Activities

- Regional Knowledge Sharing Platform enabled and incorporated into existing national and regional communication and knowledge platforms, including the NC Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)
- Revise the communication strategy for the Convention

Proposed key indicators to reflect performance in achieving outputs include:

- Completed and operational Information Management Strategy at regional and national levels
- Partnerships and institutional arrangements set up to implement the Information Management Strategy at regional and national levels
- Number and type of value-added knowledge products relevant to the programme produced
- Accessibility of the products by partners on online platforms, especially the CHM

81. Partners in these activities will include the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Contracting Parties, national institutions and national data centres, FARI, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, WIOMSA, SWaM, WIO-C, WIOGI, Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), and others.

IV. Financing the Programme of Work

82. The commitment by Contracting Parties to honour their obligations to the Eastern Africa Trust Fund has enabled UNEP, as the Secretariat of the Convention, to continue leveraging funds from Partners, and the Global Environment Facility. The projected level of funding for the 2022–2024 Programme of Work stood at \$81.03 million, of which \$19.63 million was secured in the previous Programme of Work from the Global Environment Facility for implementation of the WIOSAP and SAPPHERE projects. Cumulatively, an additional \$12.40 million has been raised for the implementation of the following partnership projects: \$8.6 million for partnership project jointly between the South-Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission and the Nairobi Convention in ocean governance and fisheries management; €1.5 million for WIO-C partners and regional partnership in the Northern Mozambique Channel; and \$2.1 million for the implementation of ACP MEAs 3 project.

83. The projection for the 2025–2028 period is that an additional \$75 million will be raised for the following proposed projects: (i) Enhancing resilience of blue carbon ecosystems and associated community livelihoods in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region submitted to the Africa Development Bank (US\$20M); (ii) Integrated Ecosystem Management in Support of a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region (20M Euros); (iii) Enabling and accelerating the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement for marine conservation in the Western Indian Ocean region (20M Euros and submitted with UNEP Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit and Grid Arendal); and (iv) Implementation of the Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme in support of a sustainable and inclusive regional Blue Economy (WIO-Blue)(GEF PIF of US\$15M).

84. The Secretariat will advance a sustainable financing strategy to support processes that increase access to funding in the long term.

85. The proposed 2025–2028 budget for the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention is set out in **Table 2a** below against trends on contributions received over the last four years in **Table 2b**.

Table 2a: Current 2025–2028 budget for the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention from the Eastern Africa Trust Fund in support of ongoing and proposed projects

(by calendar year, in United States dollars)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Personnel component				
Coordinator (P5)	248,000	250,000	252,000	254,000
Administrative Assistant (G5)	34,000	35,000	36,000	38,000
UNV	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Consultant			20,000	
<i>Sub-total</i>	301,000	304,000	327,000	311,000
Operational costs				
Operational costs	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000
Office Equipment		3,000	3,000	2,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	20,000	13,000	23,000	12,000
Contractual costs				
contract Services	10,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	10,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
Travel costs				
Travel	15,000	10,000	50,000	20,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	15,000	10,000	50,000	20,000
Total	346,000	332,000	405,000	363,000
13% Programme Support Costs (PSC)	44,980	43,160	52,650	47,190
Grand Total	390,980	375,160	457,650	410,190
Working Capital Reserve 15% Annually	51,900	49,800	60,750	54,450
NoCaMo Project (partial PSC costs)	3,568	2,487		

Table 2b: Contributions received in the Trust Fund of the Nairobi Convention during 2021-2024

(by calendar year, in United States dollars)

Regional Seas Trust Fund for the East African Region (EA) (in United States dollars)						
Country	Assessed Annual Contribution	Amounts collected in				Unpaid pledges for 2024 and prior years
		2021	2022	2023	2024	
Comoros	15,100					528,600
Kenya	45,302			362,416		
Madagascar	22,651	68,556.82	22,651			96,101.58
Mauritius	30,201	30,201	91,407		30,201	-
Mozambique	45,302					1,149,194.52
South Africa	37,500	75,000	75,000			37,500
Seychelles	15,100	30,200				60,400
Somalia	15,100					501,400
Tanzania	45,302			45,291.07		677,245
France	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000		
Total	349,558	281,957.82	267,058	485,707.07	30,201	3,050,441.10