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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

01 January - 31 March 2019

Project Number/ID: 00094555	Total resources required	USD 326,565,994
Atlas Award ID: 00087612	Total Co-Financing	USD 317,799,494
Regional Launching: 16 & 17 November 2017	GEF	USD 8,766,500
Duration: 2017-2022	Governments	USD 311,040,044
	In-kind	USD 6,759,450
	Current Year Budget	USD 1,467,599

Project Name	The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPPHIRE)
Project Implementing Agency	UNDP
Project Executing Agency	Nairobi Convention Secretariat -UN Environment
Participating Countries	The Governments of Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania
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Reporting Period	01 January - 31 March 2019

Section One: SUMMARY

In this reporting quarter, the focus was on establishing the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and Project Steering Committee (PSC). Establishment of the PCU included the recruitment of a Project Assistant based in Seychelles, a Policy and Governance Officer and a Communication Officer. The Policy and

Governance Officer and the Communications Officer will be shared posts between WIO LME SAPPHIRE project and the GEF-funded project on 'Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for protection of Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities' (WIOSAP) which is also executed by the Nairobi Convention. This will promote synergies and coordination between the two projects. WIO LME SAPPHIRE project is also in the process of hiring consultants to support specific activities. The PSC, which is the highest decision-making body in the project management structure was established with membership from all participating countries, UNDP and the Secretariat established the PSC as per the stipulations in the project document. The other major accomplishment of the quarter is national level project inception workshops and scoping meetings conducted in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and South Africa. These workshops and scoping meetings have increased national-level awareness of the WIO LME SAPPHIRE project to a wider range of national stakeholders and partners and also supported the establishment of strong partnership and trust between the National Focal Points (NFPs) and the Project Manager which is a basis for effective and successful implementation of the project. The establishment of National Intersectoral Committees (NICC) is another milestone for the effective implementation of the project at national level. Consultation meetings were held with countries to discuss the national priorities of the countries and ascertain the relevance of each component of the project to the participating countries as well as to align the project framework with the countries' priorities. A regional workshop on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) was held on 28-29 March 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The regional workshop created a platform for participants from WIO region and across the globe to share their expertise and experiences on the Marine Spatial Planning process. The key recommendations from the workshop were developing a regional MSP guideline and establishing a regional taskforce on MSP for the WIO region to support countries in implementing MSP for the sustainable management of their coastal and marine ecosystem.

Section Two. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS			
Planned Activities for the Reporting Period	Progress on Planned Activities in the Reporting Period (01 January - 31 March 2019)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, Additional Undertakings, Key Observations)
Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance			
Outcome 1.1. Policy, legislative and institutional reforms and realignment in support of the SAP are implemented at national and regional level as appropriate, with emphasis given to strengthening and supporting existing processes and mechanisms including regional bodies (such as Conventions, Commissions, and Regional Scientific Bodies).	Project Steering Committee (PSC) established and met in December 2018 in Maputo and briefed on project overview and management structure. At national level, NICC established to coordinate the implementation of different planned project activities through relevant sector institutions	The National Focal Points took the lead in the organization of national level project inception and consultation workshops. Coordination and management mechanism are strengthened at both national and regional level for effective and smooth	The PSC and NICC are expected to play a key role in promoting ownership and leadership of the project implementation at national level, and subsequent results to the regional and national institutions to ensure sustainability.

		implementation of the project	
1.1.1. Support establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Regional SAP Implementation Policy Steering Committee with membership from all of the participating countries and including Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations	<p>The participating countries officially nominated National Focal Points from the project focal institutions. The National Focal Points are responsible for and take the lead in intersectoral coordination for effective implementation of the project at the national level</p> <p>Terms of Reference (TOR) were developed and shared with the national focal points for comments and further input.</p>	The first joint meeting of Focal points of the WIO LME SAPPHERE and WIOSAP projects was held in Maputo in December 2018 and consensus was reached on the joint thematic areas and the need for coordinated implementation of the two projects	It was agreed that the Regional SAP Implementation Policy Steering Committee will be the highest decision-making body and will comprise the focal institutions and other ministries as required. The committee can be invited to regional meetings if needed for specific purposes
1.1.3. Review national policy, legislative and institutional reforms and facilitate realignment exercise and TDA and SAP update at national level	<p>A regional stocktaking workshop is planned to take place as a parallel session during the Regional Science to Policy workshop 27 -29 May 2019 in Mauritius in order to assess the status of oceanographic data and scientific research in WIO LMEs region.</p> <p>The recruitment process for Data and Science Coordinator is underway, who will lead in updating of Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDAs) Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and also the revamping of the national data centers.</p>	<p>The Secretariat is organizing the workshop in collaboration with the relevant institutions of Mauritius government and other partners. Key experts have been identified and will make presentations on different thematic areas and mandated institutions will share their research findings</p> <p>The Data and Science Coordinator will be on board soon to lead the process of updating MEDAs and TDA as well as strengthening the national data centers</p>	<p>The regional stock taking workshop will enable the development of a feasible action plan to strengthen national and regional level data management, utilization and sharing mechanism. The workshop will also providerecommendations on how to update the MEDAs and TDA.</p> <p>The Science and Data Coordinator will provide guidance and coordinate the utilization of available scientific inputs and outputs to update the MEDAs and TDA,and establish and lead national level experts' group</p>

			for MEDAs, TDA and SAP updating process
1.1.4. Consultative meetings on policy, legislative and institutional reforms and realignment in support of SAP implementation at national and (regional level as appropriate)	Scoping meeting and national level project inception workshops were conducted in participating countries; Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and South Africa. Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania will organize national level inception workshop in the second quarter. The workshops/meetings were focused on 1. awareness raising about WIO LME SAPPHIRE project, 2. consultation on national prioritization including polices, legislations, strategies and programmes related to the project 3. establishment of NICC and national level implementation modalities, 4. partnership and collaboration, among others	During the national consultation on polices, legislation and strategies, key stakeholders and partners found that all components of the project are relevant to participating countries' current effort towards effective management of their coastal and marine ecosystem and resources and the move towards the blue economy.	WIO LME SAPPHIRE will support countries to develop and implement the priority policies, strategies or guidelines through continued capacity building efforts in different forms.
Outcome 1.3. Collaborative and cooperative mechanisms agreed and strengthened between national, regional and global partners and stakeholders	High level consultation meeting conducted with (Kenyan Marine and Fisheries Research Institution (KMFRI) and Institute of Marine Science (IMS), Tanzania to build partnership on oceanographic research and scientific data collection in the North Kenyan bank and Pemba channel of Tanzania respectively. One of the objectives of this support is to fill the existing data gap in the above-mentioned sites. KMFRI and IMS are engaged with Sustainable Oceans, Livelihoods and food Security Through Increased	As a follow, up to the partnership consultation meeting held in Mombasa and Zanzibar key priority areas for the two institutions were identified, and the way forward agreed upon. In line with this, KMFRI submitted a proposal and IMS will do the same.	It is vital to strengthen national and regional research institutions to collect data, analyze and inform the policy makers and development practitioners to improve ocean governance and enhance sustainable use of resources. National level data ownership and management is another focus area to empower the

	Capacity in Ecosystem research in the Western Indian Ocean (SOLSTICE) on research in the two sites of the WIO region. The SAPPHIRE project will provide support in the identified priority areas.		research institutions to work beyond publications Capacity building is at the center of the initiatives in the areas of data collection and modeling to enable the institutions support regional and national level
1.3.1. Support countries to participate at different appropriate coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation 1.3.2. Support countries technical coordination offices with equipment to support implementation of the project and SAP	The participating countries project focal points were supported to participate in the Fourth Negotiation meeting of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol in order to enhance their awareness on the ICZM process in the region and use the meeting as a platform to engage with key government institutions and establish a common understanding for collaboration in the implementation of the project	National focal points had a better understanding of the ICZM protocol and their responsibilities in its implementation, and the need for establishment of an appropriate coordination mechanism at national level	As key institutions mandated to coordinate national level implementation of the project, the focal institutions, especially the focal points require a proper understanding of the different components of the project as well as the need to lead in establishing the required mechanism for the smooth implementation of the project
Component 2. Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management			
Outcome 2.1. Integrating the Ecosystem-based Management approach into existing Local Economic Development Plans (LED) at selected communities Pilot level and stress reduction demonstrated and captured for replication 2.1.1. Technical support to communities and artisanal fisheries engagement in EBM 2.1.2. Communities sensitized about the values of LME goods and Services	During the scoping meetings the need to raise local community awareness in sustainable resource use and enhancing alternative livelihoods as well as the need to support national capacity in developing and implementing regulatory mechanisms were highlighted and are among the key measures to be implemented during the project period	The national focal points/ institutions have understood their role and started coordinating with the national fisheries sector to develop demonstration projects for selected communities. A Guideline for preparation of a proposal was developed and shared. The	Empowerment of the local community mainly the fisheries community will be given priority focus in order to reduce excessive dependence on fisheries biodiversity for livelihoods. This is one of the major challenges in participating countries with large coastal fisheries communities such

		government of Madagascar, was the first to submit a proposal for a demonstration project, and the proposal was reviewed and sent back for improvement	as, Madagascar, Mozambique and Comoros.
Component 3. Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices			
<p>Outcome 3.1. Stress reduction within the LME through more effective and 'hands-on' Private Sector engagement and participation in SAP implementation and through risk reduction and contingency response mechanisms using public-private sector partnership agreements along with regional partners</p> <p>3.1.2. Technical support and coordination of Private sector/industry participation in EBM</p>	The private sector is one of the key partners in the implementation of the project in order to reduce stress from excessive exploitation of resources. In the reporting quarter identification of key private sectors and partners to collaborate with in promoting public private partnership was done	A regional conference will be organized to raise the awareness of the private sector to enable them to mainstream EBM in their business practices	The participating countries will be supported to develop regulatory framework as well as capacity building for public and private sector institutions to conduct regular monitoring and surveillance of marine and coastal ecosystems .
Component 4. Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstration			
<p>Outcome 4.1. Identifying innovative management options for High Seas areas within LMEs</p> <p>4.1.2. Strengthening the Science-Policy interface through support to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in developing an evidence based decision-making process</p> <p>4.1.3. Support countries in the realignment of the sectoral ocean management process to a coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach</p>	The Nairobi Convention Secretariat is seeking to establish a joint regional Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) or Science to Policy Platform (SPP) to serve as key a framework to bridge the science to policy interface for improved ocean governance, evidence-based decision making and adaptive management in the WIO region. Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) will support in the process.	The joint Regional SPP/STAP will be established in May 2019, Mauritius during the Science to Policy workshop. Draft TORs have been prepared and preparation for the workshop is ongoing.	The Regional Science to Policy Platform or STAP is expected to provide the necessary information for evidenced-based decision making, knowledge generation and dissemination on WIO LMEs as well as dialogue and consensus building under the two GEF projects of the Secretariat, WIOSAP and

			SAPPHIRE among other tasks.
Component 5. Capacity Development to Realize improved ocean governance in the WIO region			
<p>Outcome 5.1. Capacity for improved Ocean Governance strengthened through training and support</p> <p>5.1.1. Organize training of trainers on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for national experts of the participating countries</p> <p>5.1.2. Technical support to the CB&T platform and coordination of the CB &T activities in all participating countries</p>	<p>Aregional marine spatial planning workshop was organized in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. A total of 73 participants; government delegates, scientists and experts from WIO region and invited global experts actively engaged in the two days' workshop. Countries' presentation on the status of MSP practices enabled the participants to learn the regional disparity in terms of capacities.</p>	<p>The workshop was a great platform to share national regional and global experiences and knowledge in marine spatial planning. The workshop's key recommendations include the development of regional MSP guideline and establishment of regional MSP taskforce to support countries in their effort of undertaking MSP</p>	<p>The Secretariat was tasked to to design regional MSP guideline, working with partners and establish regional MSP taskforce to support countries in their effort of undertaking MSP. In line with this the Secretariat will bring together the key stakeholders and partners to deliver its commitment.</p>
Project Management/Staffing	<p>The Project Manager is on board as of November 2018 and Project Assistant and Communication Officer joined the Secretariat in March 2019. In addition, the recruitment of Policy Officer is</p>	<p>The entire Secretariat team is supporting the implementation and coordination of planned activities of the project. As the staff will be fully</p>	<p>Having a well-organized project coordination unit is a mandatory requirement for smooth and timely implementation of project activities.</p>

	being finalized and will be on board soon.	onboard soon the PMU will work in full capacity to accelerate project implementation	
Recruitment of additional technical staff	<p>The Secretariat advertised for the recruitment of Data and Science Coordinator to lead the process of updating the TDA, MEDA and SAP as well as support countries to revamp data coordination centers.</p> <p>Another recruitment process was the hiring of project Analyst to support on development of TORs and concept notes for workshops and conferences since none of the applicants meet the criteria, the position is closed</p>	The recruitment of Data and Science Coordinator will be finalized soon, and the consultant is expected to be on board in quarter II.	The Science and Data Coordinator will provide guidance and coordinate the available scientific inputs and outputs, establish and lead national level experts' group for MEDAs, TDA and SAP updating process. The consultant will also lead the revamping of the national data centers

Section Three: Institutional Context & Project Partnership Issues

The Secretariat was able to secure the commitment and leadership of the National Focal Points which is essential factor to accelerate project implementation.

The project has strengthened partnership with KMFRI and IMS to collaborate on management of oceanographic data and scientific research for improved ocean governance in the WIO region. WIOMSA is a key partner in mobilizing and coordinating with other partners at the regional level and supporting implementation of different planned activities. National key institutions have been identified and are represented in the NICC and will be actively involved in project implementation and enhance collaboration and national level harmonization of interventions. Different partners, including private sector and other institutions have been identified to promote collaboration within the project period.

Section Four: Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Prior engagement with the national focal points/institutions and establishing strong partnership and ownership is key to enhancing national leadership in the implementation of the project. The national level project inception and scoping workshops raised the awareness of a wider range of national stakeholders and partners on the project and also brought on board all relevant institutions to collaborate through the establishment of the NICCs which is ongoing. The prioritization exercise helped to understand each country specific needs and priorities that will be a basis for feasible planning at national and regional level. In addition, some of the participating countries would require additional support for national capacity building on aspects such as establishment of pull of regional experts in MSP, ecosystem monitoring, economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services, water quality and other thematic areas to promote effective and sustainable management of the WIO LMEs.

Section Five: Monitoring and Evaluation

Given that the actual project activities implementation commenced in this quarter, the Project Manager will make sure the planned activities will be properly implemented in each participating country and at regional level. Thus, regular monitoring will be conducted and technical support will be provided. Quarterly progress reports, mission reports and various partnership meetings minutes with actionable recommendations will be prepared and shared. In addition, recommendations and adaptive management interventions will be implemented towards achieving the intended outcomes.

Section Six: Communication, Dissemination and Advocacy

In the reporting quarter the focus was on raising the awareness of the focal points, institutions, stakeholders and partners about the SAPPHIRE project. In line with this national level inception workshop and consultation meetings with a wide range of stakeholders and partners was conducted in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa. As a result, more than 200 government officials, experts and partners were addressed. Illustrative project posters, leaflets (500 English and 300 French version) and more than 300 fact sheets were prepared and shared. In addition, different events and activities updates have been shared through the Secretariat's webpage and social media including, Twitter and Facebook.

Section Seven: Risks, Issues and Challenges

The coordination of project implementation is becoming a challenge for the Project Manager given the entire project team and the Secretariat is in Nairobi, Kenya while the Project Manager is based in Seychelles. It also affects the implementation of the agreed joint thematic areas with that of WIOSAP project. Thus, this will be expected to significantly affect the plan to accelerate the project implementation.

The establishment of PSC and National Intersectoral Coordination Committee was mandatory requirement for effective implementation of the project. Accordingly, participating countries were requested to nominate relevant senior government officials or experts to perform these duties. The long-time taken by countries to nominate their focal points and changing of the same has had significant impact on the progress of the implementation of the project. Given the multisectoral nature of the project, the other challenge will be the demand for a strong national level intersectoral coordination mechanism for integrated and harmonized implementation of different components of the project. This is expected to be a challenging coordination task for the national focal points. On the other hand, limited national level capacity and coordination as well as competing priorities for the national focal points will be another problem that might hinder project implementation, as has already been experienced in organizing scoping and NICC meetings which was difficult in some countries. In addition, a few countries are yet to sign the project document, and there is regular follow up on this, to ensure that all signatures are received before the PSC meeting in June.

Section Eight: Collaboration and Support

The Secretariat team is working hard to accelerate the implementation of project. Encouraging support and collaboration has been received from the NFPs and institutions after the consultation meeting. As recommended by the participating countries the Secretariat is managing the implementation SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects in strong coordination. Joint thematic areas of the two projects have been identified and under implementation as joint activities to ensure the efficient use of resources and with greater impact.

Section Nine: Next Steps and Key Planned activities for subsequent quarter

In the second quarter the major focus will be:

Component 1. Development of regional Ecosystem Monitoring indicators and guideline, organizing a training workshop on Regional Ecosystem Monitoring indicators and guideline, support harmonisation of national monitoring activities with regional monitoring programme and pilot studies on ecosystem goods and services and deliver cost-benefit analyses at both national and regional level (including relevant financial mechanisms such as PES). Develop Regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Strategy for WIO region and support countries to participate at different appropriate coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation. Support the establishment of the regional taskforce on MSP for the WIO region to provide technical guidance to the MSP process in the region.

Component 2. Provide technical support to communities and artisanal fisheries engagement in EBM and community sensitization about the values of LME goods and Services. Assess the spatial, local social, political, and economic complexities and context of different types of fishing communities in the region. Support the development of Artisanal Fisheries Management Plans and adopt at four small-scale fishing community sites to demonstrate best practices in stress reduction in the small-scale fisheries sector.

Component 3. Organize international Ocean Science and Industry Platform/conference on “Smart Ocean/Smart Industries”, provide technical support and coordination of private sector/industry participation in EBM and develop Private-Public Sector Partnerships strategy

Component 4. Strengthening the Science to Policy interface through support to the Intergovernmental Science to Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in developing an evidence based decision-making process. Support countries in the realignment of the sectoral ocean management process to a coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach. Conduct gap analysis and baseline ecosystem surveys and develop long-term Ecosystem Monitoring Strategy for CAHSA. Assist in the development of knowledge products, adaptive management guidelines and policy briefings related to changes in ecosystem balance and climatic variability etc.

Component 5. Provide technical support to Capacity Building and Training (CB & T) and coordination of the CB &T activities in all participating countries. Facilitate the adoption of national and regional CB & T programmes through a five-year work plan and road-map (based on original MEDA-TDA-SAP findings and guidance). Establish regional Training Coordination Platform with the role of coordination and provision of capacity building and training program to countries. Support countries to attend the IOI Annual 4-week Ocean Governance training course and preparation and dissemination of communication and knowledge products for wider learning and sharing.