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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, Quarter III

01 October – 31 December 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: 2017-2023	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 October to 31 December 2019 – Quarter IV
Section One: SUMMARY	
<p>In this reporting quarter, the SAPPHIRE project focused on providing capacity building support to the participating countries to strengthen national level initiatives that enhance sustainable coastal and marine resources management and improve ocean governance. In this vein, leadership renewal training was provided to senior women officials and scientists in the WIO region. This high-level training was attended by 18 participants from the nine countries and provided a platform for sharing experiences and challenges they face as women in their work. The participants underlined the need to establish a platform for continuous learning and exchange that would help to strengthen the indispensable roles of women in sustainable resource management, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Accordingly, a WIO leaders' platform was established which includes a WhatsApp group to keep the leaders connected, updated and supported regularly.</p> <p>A partnership between the SAPPHIRE project and WIOMSA, the government of Seychelles and Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) helped deliver a successful Marine Spatial planning training for Somalia nationals. Together with an Indian Ocean regional ocean acidification workshop from 28th – 29th October 2019 in Zanzibar, Tanzania (organized in collaboration with the Ocean Acidification International Reference User Group (OAIRUG) and WIOMSA), these events marked some of the remarkable achievements of the quarter. Moreover, SAPPHIRE will continue to work closely with IUCN and WIOMSA on monitoring and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification in the WIO region, as well as with IMO and IOC on oil spill control and emergency response activities.</p> <p>The preparation and consultation with all participating countries on the process of updating the MEDAs progressed well. Over the course of the quarter, countries designated a lead institution to direct the process, and the SAPPHIRE project prepared and shared SSFAs, TORs and outlines to support the process. Planning meetings have been arranged set with lead institutions, with work commencing in early 2020. In addition, the design and launching of the project webpage is another remarkable accomplishment the reporting quarter. The project webpage is one of the tools that will be used to share project progress and disseminate knowledge, information, and best practices for replication and scale up.</p>	

Section Two. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS			
Planned Activities for the Reporting Period	Progress on Planned Activities in the Reporting Period (01 October–31 December 2019)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, Additional Undertakings, Key Observations)
Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance			
<p>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)</p> <p>1.1.1. Review national policy, legislative and institutional reforms and facilitate realignment exercise and TDA and SAP update at national level</p>	<p>The Mauritius focal institution has organized a stakeholders’ consultation meeting on the WIO ocean governance background document. Participants reviewed and discussed the alignment of the findings with national policies, strategies and programmes. The compiled comments and inputs has been shared by the focal point.</p> <p>Kenya conducted a National Intersectoral Coordination (NICC) meeting. The NICC discussed national level planned activities, meeting schedules, TOR, etc.</p> <p>The Madagascar NICC also met during the quarter and reviewed the demonstration project proposal.</p> <p>Somalia NICC reviewed national level initiatives during it second consultative meeting held in this quarter and identified National</p>	<p>The national focal points are working hard in coordinating the commencement of national level consultations on policy, legislations, strategies and programmes review and the update and realignment process. In addition, based on the national prioritization exercises, demonstration proposals have been finalized, and national level institutional arrangements are underway to start implementation of activities at the local level. The active participation and ownership of the project by the national focal points and institutions has been one of the biggest achievements of the project and aides in the smooth implementation and sustainability of initiatives.</p>	<p>Ocean governance matters are complex and cross sectoral and thus require a feasible mechanism/framework to enhance the coordination and collaboration of wider stakeholders and partners. Thus, the regional ocean governance strategy is expected to highlight the roles and responsibilities of different actors and recommend the best alternatives to strengthen regional coordination for improved ocean governance.</p>

	<p>Marine resources and environmental management and capacity building in ocean governance as the priority of the country. Discussion has been conducted on how to support local level capacity building activities in collaboration with other partners.</p>		
<p>Outcome 1.2: Technical and institutional capacity developed to deliver Knowledge-Based Governance approaches by delivering scientific results to management and policy makers for adaptive management decision-making 1.2.1. Regional Ecosystem Monitoring indicators and guideline developed, adopted and implemented in pilot countries</p>	<p>The WIO ocean governance background document was widely reviewed by WIO countries and partners and is currently in the publication process.</p> <p>The Information Note on Ocean Governance in WIO Region was prepared and shared with wider partners. The paper provides information to key stakeholders on the ongoing initiatives and process to develop a regional ocean governance regime for the region within the framework of AMCEN's Cairo Declaration (2015).</p> <p>In addition, a working document on the status of oceanographic research and data management in the WIO region is finalized and</p>	<p>The WIO regional ocean governance background document will be one of the latest reference documents for countries and partners on the status of ocean governance in the region that will support policy and strategy formulation and programme design.</p> <p>The information note presents a summary of progress towards a regional ocean governance strategy, current actions and future options as well as the roles of key actors.</p> <p>The status report on WIO oceanographic research and data management was discussed by partners, who proposed establishing a regional data</p>	<p>The rich and large marine ecosystem (LME) of WIO region is facing degradation due to human activities and climate change impacts. It is therefore important to regularly monitor the status and take corrective policy and management action for its sustainable use and environmental benefits.</p> <p>The project supports the preparation of knowledge products and studies to support countries to use up-to-date data, information and analysis in preparation of</p>

	ready for publication and distribution.	management and sharing network. The document will promote data sharing and learning at both the national and regional levels.	programmes, policy and strategy formulation.
<p>Outcome 1.3. Collaborative and cooperative mechanisms agreed and strengthened between national, regional and global partners and stakeholders</p> <p>1.3.1. Support countries to participate at different appropriate coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation</p> <p>1.3.2. Support consultative meetings on policy, legislative and institutional reforms and realignment in support of SAP implementation at national and (regional level as appropriate)</p>	<p>As part of the national capacity building initiative, the project has supported the participation of focal points and relevant government officials in relevant workshops and trainings. In the reporting quarter, the project supported these representatives' participation in the regional workshop on ocean acidification, organized in collaboration with IUCN and WIOMSA.</p> <p>Demonstration projects have been submitted to support a national-level policy and legislation review and realignment exercise as well as local capacity building activities. To date, Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania have submitted proposals to the regional review committee.</p>	<p>The workshop enabled participants to take stock of current regional knowledge and actions on ocean acidification and develop a regional Action Plan for the WIO region that will guide how the region will respond to this challenge in a coordinated manner in the future.</p> <p>Countries are prepared to implement the national priorities identified during their national consultations, including the review of existing policies and programmes in support of ocean governance, coastal and marine environment management and protection. The demonstration projects will also build national capacity and enhance ownership, another objective of the project.</p>	<p>Ocean governance in the WIO region requires strong coordination and partnership. Thus, SAPPHIRE is closely working with partners and stakeholders to collaborate in the implementation of joint activities for sustainable management of the LME.</p> <p>The national focal points are taking leadership in coordinating and facilitating national level intersectoral coordination and dialogue for better synergy and harmonization of interventions for effective and sustainable management of resources and improved ocean governance. The project is playing a vital role in</p>

			catalyzing the process at both the national and regional levels.
Component 2. Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management			
<p>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</p> <p>2.1.1. Technical support to communities and artisanal fisheries engagement in EBM</p> <p>2.1.2. Communities sensitized about the values of LME goods and Services</p>	<p>Consultations have been conducted with national focal institutions on the selection of mandated institutions to prepare demonstration project proposals and submit to the Secretariat. Accordingly, most countries have nominated local NGOs and government fisheries departments to submit proposals.</p> <p>The demonstration projects will be implemented in selected sites and focus on the integration of ecosystem-based management approach into the local communities' economic activities, mainly fisher communities and artisanal fisheries. The project will work in collaboration with the SWIOFC and NOCAMO projects to develop community/site selection criteria and harmonize interventions.</p>	<p>The proposal will be reviewed first by the Secretariat and then by the Regional Review committee to ensure the minimum required standard is met. Through the demonstration projects, fisher communities will be sensitized on the values of LME goods and services. In addition, integrated artisanal fisheries management plans will be prepared for selected sites to strengthen the mainstreaming of sustainable management of artisanal and subsistence fisheries into local and national plans.</p>	<p>The demonstration projects will be granted small funding in order to support the local communities in selected sites, mainly fishery communities, to integrated ecosystem-based management in their economic activities to a) reduce excessive exploitation of fish biodiversity and b) strengthen alternative means of livelihoods.</p>

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>3.1.1. Develop Private sector engagement strategy</p>	<p>TOR have been developed for a consultant to design a private sector engagement strategy and the expert selection process is underway. The strategy will provide a framework on how to better engage the private sector to incorporate ecosystem-based management approaches in their business practices, actions that could significantly contribute to pollution reduction and ecosystem conservation.</p>	<p>The strategy is expected to provide an alternative mechanism to enhance the contribution of the private sector in reducing stress on the LME through mainstreaming EBM in their practices and the voluntary adoption of regulatory mechanisms.</p>	<p>Private sector/industry is one of the key actors in the utilization as well as management of coastal and marine resources. Thus, the private sector engagement strategy will help to establish strong partnerships between industries and the various regional players responsible for SAP implementation and stress reduction.</p>
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>4.1.1. Strengthening the Science-Policy interface through support to Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in developing an evidence based decision-making process</p> <p>4.1.2. Support countries in the realignment of the sectoral ocean</p>	<p>The capacity of the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) to efficiently serve as data and information hub for the region has been enhanced. This resource can support evidence-based policy and programmes formulation as well as decision making. In addition, in partnership with CEDARE, capacity building training for national data managers on data migration/ and visualization is</p>	<p>The capacity building training will enhance the skills of the national data center managers in managing data.</p> <p>The research by IMS and KMFRI will fill the gap in oceanographic data in the Northern Kenya and Pemba channel of Tanzania, which have great relevance in the development of policies and programmes that support</p>	<p>Strengthening national data centers and research institutions to collect, analyze, and inform the policy formulation and decision-making process will improve ocean governance and enhance sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.</p>

<p>management process to a coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach</p>	<p>planned to be provided in the first quarter 2020.</p> <p>KMFRI and IMS have launched oceanographic data collection and research expeditions in North Kenya bank and Pemba channel of Tanzania, respectively.</p>	<p>sustainable management of fisheries resource and the larger LME.</p>	
<p>Component 5. Capacity Development to Realize improved ocean governance in the WIO region</p>			
<p>Outcome 5.1. Capacity for improved Ocean Governance strengthened through training and support</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>Capacity building training on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) was provided to 23 Somalia nationals from 12-14 November 2019 in Seychelles with the objective of strengthening local experts' skills and knowledge on the application of MSP as a national-level planning tool and practice. Moreover, a high-level leadership training was organized for senior women officials and scientists in order to strengthen their leadership capacity and significantly contribute to the national and regional level efforts of improving sustainable use of resources and environmental protection.</p>	<p>The training offered a platform in which participants were able to learn from the practical MSP experiences of Seychelles and Sweden and get motivated to apply their learning at the national level.</p> <p>The women senior scientists and officials, on the other hand, not only acquired leadership-enhancing tools and skills at their training, but were also given a chance to share successes, failures, and challenges. The meeting resulted in the formation of a network for collaboration and support.</p>	<p>The SAPPHIRE project recognizes the importance of capacity building to enhance local initiatives as well as take full advantage of women's unique viewpoints and contributions. Accordingly, the project activities will continue to support countries efforts in harmonizing and reforming policies and institutions to advance ocean governance, the blue economy, and beyond.</p>

	Partnership discussions have been conducted with IOI to deliver ocean governance training, which will occur in the first quarter of 2020.		
Project Management/Staffing	SAPPHIRE project implementation is supported by the NCS team and innovatively through joint project planning and delivery that enhances efficiency and cost effectiveness.	Collaboration and project coordination will be enhanced through harmonization of the implementation of joint thematic areas with the WIOSAP project and other supporting projects under execution by the NC Secretariat.	Coordination and support are key elements for smooth and successful implementation of the project.
Recruitment of additional technical staff	The recruitment of consultants to coordinate the MEDAs and TDA updating process in Comoros and Somalia, as well as to design private sector engagement strategy, is underway.	All consultants will be on board in the first quarter of 2020 and all planned interventions will be commenced as planned.	The updated MEDA will help countries to include findings into national priorities and planning process. The private sector engagement strategy, on the other hand, will provide guidelines to enhance the collaboration and involvement of the private sector in improved ocean governance.

Section Three: Institutional Context & Project Partnership Issues

In the reporting quarter, the project has organized a number of workshops in collaboration with partners. Jointly with the WIOSAP project, and in partnership with the government of Seychelles and Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), a Marine Spatial

planning training was provided to 23 Somalia nationals in order to build national capacity for planning and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.

In addition, the project supported the organization of Indian Ocean regional ocean acidification workshop on 28th – 29th October 2019 in Zanzibar, Tanzania in partnership with the Ocean Acidification International Reference User Group (OAIrUG) and WIOMSA. The workshop enabled participants to take stock of current regional knowledge and actions on ocean acidification and develop a regional Action Plan for the WIO region that will guide how the region will respond to this challenge in a coordinated manner in the future.

Furthermore, at the Secretariat level, the harmonization of crosscutting activities under different projects is given due emphasis. Accordingly, activities are planned and executed jointly with other projects to enhance cost effectiveness and deliver bigger results. SAPPHIRE will benefit from the partnership established with IMO on oil spill control and emergency response activities; monitoring and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification with IUCN and WIOMSA; and in the ongoing collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) on MSP.

Section Four: Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Women’s empowerment through the leadership training brought a high level of inspiration and opportunities to closely work with women officials and senior scientists. This initiative will continue at different levels in order to enhance the role and participation of WIO women in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in the region. The comments and inputs from countries and partners on WIO ocean governance background document are very informative and significantly helped to enrich the content. Countries such as Mauritius and Madagascar have organized national consultation and review of the document and provided consolidated inputs. The background document will be one of the knowledge products delivered by the project, to be used as a reference by countries and partners during policy formulation, strategy and programme design that contribute to improved ocean governance.

SAPPHIRE has also launched the process of supporting countries to update their existing national Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDAs) and regional Transboundary Diagnosis Analysis (TDA) developed under the ASCLME and South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP). The MEDAs will provide each country with an updated assessment of their ecosystems within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and a baseline document upon which they can base their National Action Plans (NAP) for the sustainable management of marine resources. Moreover, the scope of the MEDAs will be expanded to include assessments of land-based sources of pollution--i.e. issues addressed by SAPPHIRE’s sister project, WIOSAP. This will enable countries to have their first-ever “Ridge to Reef” assessment of their marine ecosystems. The findings will be fed into a new regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and prioritize areas of concern that can be addressed through a merged Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

Section Five: Monitoring and Evaluation

The project monitoring and evaluation activities will be conducted regularly. As planned, there will be regular country-level project progress monitoring. Quarterly, annual and PIR reporting, as well as midterm and terminal evaluations, will be conducted to measure periodic project progress and results. The PSC will meet annually to review project progress, provide recommendations, and find joint solutions as problems arise during the project implementation.

Section Six: Communication, Dissemination and Advocacy

SAPPHIRE was represented at the IW LEARN annual meeting in Cartagena, at which progress and learning issues from WIO region on sustainable management of LME were shared. Articles and quarterly update sheets were prepared and widely shared in order to update participating countries, partners and the larger public on the progress made in the implementation of the project. In addition, various visibility materials such as banners, posters and notebooks prepared and displayed at workshops and meeting to raise awareness of the participants about different components and progresses of the project. Moreover, wider coverage on social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, provided an opportunity to reach larger public. Finally, the new project webpage was designed and launched this quarter, providing a platform for participating countries, partners, and the wider public to learn and engage with project issues and impact.

Section Seven: Risks, Issues and Challenges

Coordination among different sectors and institutions at the national level remains as one of the main challenges that affect the timely accomplishment of activities at national level. Moreover, long-time taken to revise demonstration proposals and processing SSFAs (UNEP and UNON internal process) has significantly hindered the timely implementation of project activities. In addition, allocation of limited funds for demonstration projects at the community level is another challenge, as all participating counties showed a high interest to have more demonstration activities in multiple sites.

Section Eight: Collaboration and Support

Project implementation is supported by the NCS team, national focal points and partners. National focal points and institutions are playing a key role in supporting and coordinating implementation of planned activities at the national level. At the secretariat level, work to harmonize, plan, and implement activities that fall under thematic areas across projects is underway. This will enhance coordination and performance of the projects, in addition to improving efficiency and cost effectiveness.

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

In the first quarter of 2020 the major focus will be:

Component 1. Supporting organization of national level coordination and consultation meetings; Demonstration projects: reviewing national policy, legislative and institutional reforms and facilitating realignment in support of SAP implementation. WIO ocean governance strategy, regional ecosystem monitoring indicators and guidelines, and a regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Strategy for WIO region will be developed and support provided to countries to participate in different coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation. In addition, support will be provided to the participating countries in revising the national MEDAs and TDA and incorporating their findings into National Action Plans as appropriate. The National MEDA update process will be launched in all participating countries.

Component 2. Technical support will be provided to communities and artisanal fisheries to engage in EBM and community sensitization on the values of LME goods and Services. Support will be given for the development of Artisanal Fisheries Management Plans, which will be adopted at four small-scale fishing community sites to demonstrate best practices in stress reduction in the small-scale fisheries sector.

Component 3. Private sector engagement strategy will be developed to support the coordination of private sector/industry participation in EBM and organization of regional PPP consultation workshop.

Component 4. Countries will be supported in the realignment from a sectoral ocean management process to a coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach. Assistance will be given in the development of knowledge products, adaptive management guidelines, and policy briefings related to changes in ecosystem balance, climatic variability, etc., including in ABNJ and high sea areas.

Component 5. Technical support will be provided for participating countries on capacity building activities to enhance the leadership skills of policymakers and government experts. In addition, ocean governance and Marine Spatial Planning training will be provided to national experts to support capacity building initiatives at national level.