



Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems, Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE Project)

National Inception and Scoping Workshop

Thursday 11th April 2019

SAVOY Resort and Spa, Beau Vallon, Mahe, Seychelles

Workshop Agenda;

1. Registration
2. Opening remarks
3. Overall presentation on SAPPHIRE Project
4. Plenary discussion (General Q and A session on project)
5. Identification of key country priorities: Breakout session and group presentation
6. Presentation implementation structure and modality for SAPPHIRE (Draft TOR for NICC)
7. Presentation on SAPPHIRE draft Annual Workplan (AWP) 2019
8. Way forward and closure

PROCEEDINGS

Sessions	
1	<p><u>Opening remarks</u></p> <p>The meeting was opened by the Director General for Biodiversity Conservation and Management Division Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change, Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile. In her opening remark, she welcomed the participants and highlighted the background of SAPPHIRE project, its relevance for Seychelles and the WIO region countries in general.</p>
2	<p><u>Overall Presentation on SAPPHIRE Project</u></p>

Mrs. Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma, SAPPHIRE Project Coordinator, presented an overall of SAPPHIRE Project. Her presentation covered; project background, project overview, project organization and set up, project coordination bodies(structure) and explanation on the demonstration projects.

Plenary Discussion:

The presentation is followed by a question and answer session and captured as follows:

PS Wills Agricole (MEECC) - how this GEF fund will it be shared between the nine countries?

PC Answer; There are no specific allocation for per country, the project has both regional and national level interventions. The demonstration projects will be developed by each country and will be submitted o the Secretariat. The PSC will endorse the selected proposals for funding. While the regional level policy, strategy, guideline preparation, capacity building, trainings, workshops, conferences and experience sharing events will be organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with the participating countries.

Mr. Andy Rylance (PAF)- Does the project hire the regional technical team and for how long is the project implementation period?

PC Answer; The project implementation period is from 2017 to 2022, the actual activities implementation commenced in 2019.

The Regional scientific and technical advisory panel is a pull of experts in the WIO region who volunteered to contribute in the implementation of the project through providing support to countries in preparing and reviewing demonstration proposals, review analytical products and other capacity building activities including trainings.

Mr. David Rowat (MCSS)- the oceanographic data collected during the ASCLME project was not shared to countries and we don't have information about that.

Helena Sims (MSP)- reported that her institution received some raw data from ASCLME project but due to lack of software and expertise they couldn't utilize the data.

Justin Prosper (MEECC) – has also raise a question about the existing problem of accessing oceanographic data, even at national level, institutions who have data are not sharing

PC Answer; SAPPHIRE will support the strengthening of the national data centers as well as oceanographic researching in the WIO region with the objective of science provide evidence for decision making and improved ocean governance.

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat is implementing SAPPIHRE and WIOSAP projects and one of the joint deliverables for two projects is strengthening the science to policy interface in the WIO region for improved ocean governance. In line with this we are organizing a Science to Policy workshop in Mauritius from 27 -29 May 2019. In the same workshop, we are planning to host a

parallel session on Stocktaking of Oceanographic Data and Scientific Research in the WIO region to create a platform for Scientists and Policy Makers to aware and reflect on the status of Oceanographic Data and Scientific Research in the WIO region as well as draw a lesson/recommendations and way forward.

Dr. Murugaiyan Pugazhendhi (MEECC) – can you explain more about the Ecosystem assessment and monitoring- Guidelines?

PC Answer: The project will develop a regional ecosystem health monitoring guideline which will be used as a framework by countries in the region to adopt it to their own context. Capacity building training will be providing on the utilization of the guidelines as well as support for piloting the monitoring work in selected sites.

David Rowat (MCSS) - There is an actual supper bleaching for coral reefs and it is becoming more frequent and more severe issue as climate change isaggravating. Regional programme like SAPPHIRE will be difficult to achieve its goals. Marine environment can be impacted on a global basis especially the Indian ocean. How SAPPHIRE could contribute to address this challenge

PC Answer: It is well recognized that climate change has tremendous impact on the WIO region and countries are doing there best to compact the problems. Accordingly, SAPPHIRE will contribute to the ongoing regional and national efforts on long term effective and sustainable management of the WIO LMEs through strong collaboration and support to its participating counters to implement planned activities under it five components.

Helena Sims (MSP) – the timeline of SAPPHIRE project and Seychelles MSP process which will end in 2020 are not aligned. How this project makes sure the process continues after 2020? How SAPPHIRE fits to the scope of other, regional MPS projects?

PC Answer: SAPPHIRE is not designed to fit to all countries MSP process rather it provides support to countries to effectively undertake their MSP. Each country is in different phase of progress in terms of MSP implementation. We had a regional MSP workshop in March in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where global and regional experts and policy makers gathered and shared experiences, lessons learned as well as regional gaps related to implementing MSP. The Secretariat is tasked to develop regional MSP strategy for WIO region as well as establish a regional taskforce to support countries deliver their commitments. In line with this, this project will support national and regional level MSP initiatives.

Questions; Mr. James Mougai (SNPA)- What is the relationship between SAPPHIRE and JAM projects? The PC invited Mr. Roland Alcindor, PM, UNDP to respond to this question.

Roland Alcindor (PM UNDP)- JAM falls under the SAPPHIRE project but has its own Project Manager and management unit based in Mauritius. SAPPHIRE is a follow up project of ASCLME, and UNDP agreed with JAC to have a separate project document, but for GEF purpose it is

	<p>considered as one project, even if it is being implemented separately. JAM has a stand-alone budget of USD \$2.2 million.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><u>National Prioritization: Group Work (Breakout Session)</u></p> <p>Objective: national prisonization and realignment for sustainable resource management and improved ocean governance</p> <p>Based on the overall presentation on the SAPPHIRE project and its major pillars, the Participants will be divided in to Five groups and discuss on the alignment of the national priorities with in the project framework and draw recommendation on the way forward for the coordinated implementation of the project at national level</p> <p>Group Activities: discussion, identification of Seychelles</p> <p>Key success (best practice) (3-5)</p> <p>Gap (challenges (3-5)</p> <p>Recommendation: key national priority (3-5)</p> <p>On the following thematic areas;</p> <p>Group 1; Policy harmonization and institutional reforms towards improved ocean governance.</p> <p>Group 2; community engagement and empowerment in sustainable resources management.</p> <p>Group 3; the roles and operations of the private sector/ industry in sustainable resources management; improved practices for ecosystem protection ad conservation.</p> <p>Group 4; Partnership, coordination and collaboration for innovative ocean governance and management of ABNJ (Areas beyond national jurisdiction)</p> <p>Group 5; National capacity to realize improved ocean governance and mainstreaming of Ecosystem based management approach (EBM) in to national development planning and implementation.</p> <p>The groups came up with vital points and recommendations that will give good guidance in terms of implementation of project activities Seychelles context. The MSP process, the Blue economy strategy, blue bond, debt swap (innovative finance for marine area in the world), trust funds (e.g. SEYCCT) are some of the best practices listed by the group. On the other hand, large gap in terms of ocean governance is data, national co-ordination/ governance, poor implementation due to capacity gaps, finance and others are mentioned as gaps.</p> <p>The recommendations include framework marine resource management, synergies, ecosystem level monitoring and surveillance, strengthen community engagement and empowerment for decision making, as well as sensitize and incentivize private sector to play a bigger role in ecosystem protection and conservation.</p> <p>For Full Group Presentation refer to Annex 4</p>
<p>4</p>	

Presentation on Regional and National Structure and Implementation Modality for SAPPHIRE

The Project Coordinator presented/explained, implementation process, SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects cross cutting interventions, approach, structures, draft TOR for National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC) and way forward. After the presentation wide discussion took place on the NICC TOR and its establishment. The points discussed are:

Mr. Jan Robinson (SWIOFISH3) – what is the modality for receiving grant for demonstration projects, who will involve? Are all components of the project budgeted?

PC Answer: The demonstration projects will be on specific components of the project and countries will develop the proposal and submit to the Secretariat, the NICC with the leadership of the National Focal Point can invite local NGOs to submit proposals. There is a guideline and selection criteria for project proposals to fulfil for funding.

Mr. Ian Charlette (Consultant and WIOSAP Regional Technical Taskforce member) – has explained that Seychelles has limited capacity- instead of just naming organization, he advised to request for the nomination of relevant officials/ experts.

DG Marie-May; Institutions comes with a level of responsibility, hence that is why we will stick to it rather than individual.

Ms. Helena Sims (MSP)- suggested to have an institution but selecting individuals will be more useful and time effective. She also proposed SAPPHIRE to use the MSP steering committee rather than establishing new one.

After wider discussion, the participants propose the following organizations to be added in to the NICC in addition to what is presented as the key institutions on the TOR.

- Blue economy
- NGOs
- Marine Park
- Maritime and Port Authorities
- Ministry of Trade
- Research will be represented by UNISEY/ BERI/ NISTI
- Shipping- Hunt Dentel
- Industry- there's a department of industry in Seychelles
- SFA

Ms. Helena Sims- How to balance the membership between government, NGOs and private sector representation? She proposed to adopt the MSP Steering committee, it has 25 members and the Executive Board has 15 members. She agreed to share the list with DG Marie-May.

	<p><u>DG Marie-May</u>: highlighted to review the MSP Steering Committee members list and decide on the way forward.</p> <p><u>Mr. Roland Alcindor (PM-UNDP)</u> proposed to have one national committee for both SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP</p> <p><u>Mr. Ian Charlette (Consultant and WIOSAP Regional Technical Taskforce member)</u> – highlighted that the committee should co-exist rather than separate. He emphasized to have equal representatives between government, NGOs and private sector.</p> <p><u>DG Marie-May</u>- summarized the discussion by taking note to use the representatives/ members of the MSP steering Committee but not hosting joint the meetings with MSP. It will be same pool of persons but with different agenda’s and meetings.</p>
5	<p><u>Presentation on SAPPHIRE Draft Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2019</u></p> <p>Mrs. Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma presented the AWP 2019 for the awareness and discussion of the participants and followed by plenary discussion.</p> <p><u>Ms. Helena Sims</u>: commented that the AWP is very ambitious.</p> <p><u>PC Answer</u>; The AWP is ambitious but implementable the Secretariat is accelerating project implementation as it was delayed for a year. Encouraging progress has been made at regional and national level activities implementation. The national Focal Points are committed to lead the implementation in their respective country.</p> <p><u>Mr. James Mougai</u> – What is the progress on WIOSAP? So as not to complicate and duplicate work.</p> <p><u>DG Nanette Laure (MEECC/ Focal point NC and WIOSAP Project)</u> – responded that national implementation committee for WIOSAP Project will be established soon and agreed to have a joint committee for two projects. Regarding WIOSAP project progress she added that calls for proposal in different thematic areas was released and participating countries submitted for funding.</p>
6	<p><u>Way forward and closure</u></p> <p><u>Action Points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The office of the Director General will be sending out letters to the identified institutions by next week for nominations of member of NICC. • Presentations and minute of the workshop will be shared with all stakeholders’ end of next week. <p>The closure was done by DG Marie-May and she thanked the participants for sharing ideas and for active participation throughout the day.</p> <p>Since there was no more A.O.B the workshop was closed at 04:00pm.</p>

Annexes:

Annex 1. Workshop Agenda

**National Inception and Scoping Workshop
Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems, Strategic Action Programme Policy
Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE Project)**

Date: 11th April 2019

SAVOY Resort and Spa, Beau Vallon, Mahe, Seychelles

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Responsible
08:30am -09:00am	Registration	PCU
09:00am - 09:15am	Welcoming and Opening Remarks	Director General Marie-May
09:15am - 09:20am	Quick Round of Introduction	All
09:20am -10:00am	Overall presentation on SAPPHIRE Project and plenary discussion	PC and All
10:00am - 10:30am	Coffee Break	
10:30am - 11:00am	Plenary Discussion (General Q and A session on project)	All
11:00am -12:00	Breakout Session Identification of Country Priorities	All
12:00 -12:30pm	Group Presentation and Discussion	Group Representatives
12:30pm - 01:30pm	Lunch Break	
01:30pm – 02:00pm	Presentation on Implementation structure and Modality for SAPPHIRE (Draft TOR for NICC)	PC
02:00pm - 02:30pm	Plenary discussion	Facilitated by DG Marie-May
02.30pm -03.00pm	Presentation on SAPPHIRE draft Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2019	Facilitated by DG Marie-May
03:00pm -0315pm	Coffee Break	
03:15pm -0345pm	Plenary discussion	All
03:45pm – 04:00pm	Way forward and closure	Director General Marie-May

Annex 2. List of participants



SAPPHIRE Inception
and Scoping Works

Annex 3. Group work

Group 1


Policy harmonization and institutional reforms towards improved ocean governance.


Key Successes:

- MSP policy – under development
- Governance framework for the MSP, the Ocean Authority, cabinet approved to look at options for the authority
- Blue Economy Roadmap
- SWIOFish3 – assessment for valuation of the ecosystem good and services, valuation; and a valuation of a marine tourism.
- SeyCCAT – Blue Grants Fund and Blue Bonds
- Coastal management plan developed.
- Stock assessment for fisheries by SFA.

Gaps: How do they link?

- Many sectors developing different parts but not speaking to each other.
- Blue Economy Department – roadmap
- Finance – Swiofish3
- MEECC + SeyCCAT: Environment – MSP
- Tourism: legal revisions and BioFin – related to business taxes, not targeting charter operators.
- MSP – policies – find the policy for the MSP, regulations for the sustainable use. Will there be the regulatory framework? Then there are limits –


 The missing the regulatory framework for the Blue Economy Roadmap and the MSP of these strategies. The ocean authority – looking for a budget – technical support that should be going on, put extra technical support in there so that this might be able to help improve.

 Ocean authority – overarching management framework of how to manage all the MPAs, every MPA is going to have a management plan, going to have permit systems, agreement, implementation, all have regulations. Implementation that have to start happening to trickle down.

- how do the different management plans speak to each other, so we see it holistically?

What will be the primary role of the Ocean Authority? What about non-MPAs
MSP falls under the Blue Economy

BE – policy; Minimum standards + support and information required into the
supporting that decision-making process,
Capacity-building is a priority.

 Roadmap – at the top but then we require the following:

1. ownership
 2. leadership – coordination
 3. strategic plan + an action plan – more tangible, with SMART indicators of the planning.
 4. inclusion – who are partners?
- MSP workshops, but not been able to agree is whether supposed to be Blue Economy (because of lack capacity).
 - Developed → what is the next step? Modalities, who am I reporting to? Resources? Limited capacity?

Ocean Authority: Purely coordination role

Review of the existing policies – completed. It requires its Act and its mandate so that is not stepping over.

The document has revised but not being revised in line with the lens of the Blue Economy.

“How do we get there?” →

Avenue support towards enforcement

Avenue support towards authority

Avenue support towards on-ground initiatives.

Action: we need something in the project that helps us fully implement blue economy roadmap.

Recommendations:

- Developing and identifying national projects.
 - How can we make it work?
 - Stands to benefit and learn from (given that Seychelles is leading of developing Africa Blue Economy Roadmap).
- Promotion of blue economy sectors – financing options, incentives, micro-scale projects, promote businesses promoting BE, take ideas and ground them – how do you improve that you are a BE business.
- Setting up of framework to do the marine management, the synergies, ecosystem level monitoring, surveillance (if you cannot protect the zones, them MSP collapses), and coordination.
- Fund of the protocol – Blue Economy (ongoing possible revision)
- Capacity and resources for the institutions that are implementation.
- Co-financing – SFA annual budget,
- Identify the gaps- capacity assessment, what are the resources, how can you make the resources.
- Demonstration – 50000 USD minimum

Group 2
Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management

1. Definition of community (Seychelles context)-
 - direct intervention with resources and includes users

Context

Financial resources - substantial mobilisation of fund app US\$ 3 Mill – Blue Bonds, Seyccat, UNDP/SGP

Gaps

Engagement of communities is narrow and partially successful, very often linked to project cycle

Community mobilisation is linked to empowerment in terms of responsibilities/ decision making, giving them a voice etc. council

Constitutional right for individuals and communities to engage in public affairs exists – the mechanism to do so are poorly developed (CEPS)

Recommendations

Strengthen the mechanisms to engage communities and review empowerment of communities in decision making

Strengthen existing community groupings
e.g. FBOA's and other associations

Group 3

The roles and operations of the private sector/industry in sustainable resource management: improved practices for ecosystem protection and conservation.

Key Successes:

- Certain tourism establishment and other sectors (through CSR) are supporting conservation practices (at a relatively small-scale)
- Co-management of fisheries and protected areas is starting, but not at a level where it can be called a “success”. People are now being empowered to undertake these practices.
- MSP – the biggest co-operative that is happening at the moment

Gaps:

- Largest gap in terms of ocean governance is data: large amounts of data have been collected – but, where are they? Often there is no access to these data.
- Implementation/enforcement is a challenge. There is often legislation in place for certain things, but it is not enforced.
- A lot of legislation is outdated and doesn’t always overlap or contradicts other legislation – needs to be harmonized.
- Large industries still need to change their business practise to become “eco-friendlier” and reduce carbon footprint, including even the tourism industries

Recommendations:

- Sensitise and incentivise private sector to play a bigger role in ecosystem protection and conservation
- Incentives need to be short-term and not institutionalised / expected.
- Waste is an issue in Seychelles and needs to be addressed – tourism sector (including maritime sector – cruise ships, fisheries e.g. bycatch)
- A need for more/better enforcement – in many sectors, including fisheries.
- Preparedness for ecological disaster (e.g. oil spill) – revive the networks, make sure task/response teams are able and ready to deal with a disaster.

Group 4;

Partnership, Co-ordination and collaboration for innovative ocean governance and management of ABNJ (Areas beyond national jurisdiction)

Key success/ best practice;

1. MSP
2. DEBT SWAP (INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR MARINE AREA IN THE WORLD)
3. TRUST FUNDS (EG SEYCAT)
4. BLUE ECONOMY DECLARATION
5. BLUE ECONOMY DEPARTMENT/ ROAD MAP (BUT NO STRATEGY)

GASP/ CHALLENGES;

1. Capacity (lack/limited) brain drained due to poor salaries and work conditions.
2. Funding (insufficient) populating trust funds
3. National co-ordination/ governance
4. Good law but poor enforcement
5. Bottle neck at AG'S office

Recommendations;

1. Develop strategy to build and retain capacity in relevant sectors.
2. Implement national development strategy and focus on efficiency and delivery.
3. Set up efficient governance structure with clear description, responsibilities and mandates.
4. Build capacity and allocate funding to enforcement of laws.
5. Populate funds and investigate other funding sources.

National Capacity to realize improved Ocean Governance and Mainstreaming of Ecosystem Based Management Approach (EBMA) into National Development Planning and Implementation

Key Successes

1. Blue Economy- Blue Economy Department/ Blue Economy road map (Top country priority/High political engagement)
2. MSP- Well on targets to achieve set objectives by 2020/ stakeholder engagement/ committee setups /1st Debt swap in the region/When completed will be the 2nd largest in the world
3. JMA- Seychelles/Mauritius – Co Management of shared resources
4. WIOLAB 2005-2010 – Regional collaborations, Data Collection and creations of maps on water quality
5. Mangroves for the Future /EBA projects – Community Engagement/ Participation

Gaps/Challenges

1. Lack/Poor implementation due to capacity gaps i.e. human, science etc
2. Finance
3. Multiple projects running/ duplication of projects – Sometimes lack of coordination/involvement of some key stakeholders
4. Data Management

Recommendations

1. Capacity building across and beyond sectors Involvement of all key stakeholders in process (Maximum participation/engagement)
2. Encourage co-Management/ public-private partnerships to ensure sustainability and continuity of projects
3. Set clear roles and responsibilities to facilitate coordination of activities/Avoid creating/duplicating committees- Stick to the timeframe- Set realistic objectives/goals
4. Recover, share data. Digitize data and have a national repository f