

**Sixth WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting
6th -7th July 2022; 10am (EAT)
Nosy Be, Madagascar**

Concept Note

I. Introduction

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are implementing the GEF funded project on 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities' (WIOSAP). The WIOSAP project implemented by UNEP is supporting various interventions across the region to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and to sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems.

During its implementation, the WIOSAP project has made various achievements ranging from support to on-ground demo projects on various thematic areas (namely: ecosystem restoration, marine spatial planning, MPA management, climate change, ICZM, water quality improvement, river flows assessments and management), development of key regional Guidelines and Toolkits, strengthening science to policy dialogues, capacity building, influencing key policy interventions and enhancing pipeline funding for sustainability. However, the COVID pandemic significantly disrupted especially demo projects implementation due to lock downs and restrictions on travel imposed by governments across the region during 2020 and half of 2021 to contain the spread of the pandemic. Consequently, demo projects lost up to one year of implementation time. With restrictions now eased, implementation of demo projects has now picked up. The Mid-Term Review report captures in detail the progress the project has made since inception, lessons learn and offers recommendations to enhance success and impact in the run up to the end of the project.

The sixth PSC meeting for the WIOSAP project is organized with the aim to: (i) Discuss the just concluded WIOSAP Mid Term Review (MTR) report; (ii) appraising the progress in implementation of the WIOSAP project since the last PSC meeting held in virtually on 9th November 2021; (iii) discussing on the next steps for implementation of project activities scheduled for the coming year 2022, as per proposed workplans and budgets. The MTR report will highlight project performance, lessons learnt and key recommendations to enhance implementation and thus impact of the project during this final phase.

The PSC meeting will be held physically in Nosy Be, Madagascar between the 6th -7th July 2022.

Roles of the Project Steering Committee

The PSC whose membership consists of the representatives of the participating countries (National Focal Points), UNEP/Ecosystems Division and donors, is responsible for providing guidance to the project and making management decisions for the project. In view of its project executing role, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat serves as a Secretariat of the Steering Committee. The Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C), the Indian Ocean Commission (COI) and other regional economic commissions and communities such as Southern African Development Community (SADC) also get invited as observers.

Chairs of Task Forces and Working groups are also observers in the Committee meetings. Additionally, the Project Steering Committee play a critical role in the monitoring and evaluation of the project to make sure that the results of evaluations are used for performance improvement, accountability and learning. The Steering Committee is also responsible for approving strategic decisions and annual work plans, setting project direction, reviewing progress of the project, and identifying additional funding for the implementation of the project. PSC meetings will normally be open to recognized stakeholders on an observer basis, except where personnel or other sensitive matters are under discussion.

The Steering Committee also provide policy-level liaison to national governments, through Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committees about the implementation of the projects at country level. The Steering Committee is chaired by a senior government official for a term not exceeding one year who will be elected by the participating countries. The Project Manager serves as the Secretary to the Steering Committee. The decisions of the Project Steering Committee are reached by consensus by the members of the Committee.

The PSC receives periodic reports on progress made by the project and makes recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan.

Specifically, the PSC has the following responsibilities:

- Provide guidance, as well as overall strategic policy and management direction to the Project;
- Annually, review and assess the progress of the project, based upon a pre-defined Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, including progress made towards making measurable impacts in terms of improvement of environmental status;
- Discuss and review draft strategies for improving sustainability of environmental benefits and replication drafted by the project unit;
- Monitoring and reviewing of co-financing delivered to the project in line with GEF requirements;
- Annually review and approve the work plan and comment on the budgets of the project, and provide strategic direction on the work plan;
- Advice on appropriate mechanisms for interaction with the private sector;

- Seek additional funding to support the outputs and activities of the WIOSAP project;
- Review the extent and effectiveness of stakeholder involvement at the regional and national level particularly among different sectors of government that have an interest or impact in land-based activities, including resolution of potential conflicts;
- Review the quality of outputs produced;
- Review/monitor the implementation of the project's outreach and communication strategy.

II. Format of the 6th Project Steering Committee Meeting

The physical PSC meeting will be held between the **6th -7th July 2022** in Nosy Be Madagascar.

III. Objectives of the 6th PSC meeting

The overall objective of the 6th PSC meeting will be to provide strategic guidance for effective implementation of the activities in the WIOSAP project based on the recent Mid-Term Review (MTR) findings. The specific objectives will include:

1. Review, consideration and approval of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) Report
2. Review, consideration and approval of the revised Project Results Framework (PRF)
3. Approval of MTR report recommendations and action plan to enhance project implementation
Approval of 2021 technical and financial progress reports
4. Approval of 2022 workplan and budget

IV. Expected Outcomes of the PSC meeting

The expected outcomes of the PSC will include:

1. Approved Mid-Term Review (MTR) Report
2. Approved Project Results Framework (PRF)
3. Approved MTR recommendations and action plan
4. Approved 2021 technical and financial progress reports
5. Approved 2022 workplan and budget;