

Consultation Meeting with Kenya and Tanzania on the TBCA GEF PIF

Date: 11th March 2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Introduction

It is proposed in this project to establish a partnership aimed at promoting sustainable natural resource use and conservation in the transboundary marine conservation area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania. The partnership will operationalize newly proclaimed marine reserves in the TBCA and encourage community-based conservation efforts in the areas between existing marine protected areas.

The TBCA partnership will tackle threats to marine biodiversity, assist in meeting international marine protected area targets, strengthen blue economy opportunities, promote tourism, and contribute to poverty reduction. The impetus for the collaborative approach is driven by the high ecological value of the TBCA, presence of vulnerable marine ecosystems and habitats, and the need to conserve ecosystem services which support local and national economies of the two countries.

Managing the proposed TBCA together would allow Tanzania and Kenya to mitigate the increasing threats, minimize resource use conflicts and continue enjoying the ecological services and economic benefits that the TBCA provides. The Joint Management Area between Seychelles and Mauritius provides a good example of the essence and practice of managing shared resources.

In Attendance

NCS	
1. Dixon Wairunge	Mohamed Omar-KWS
2. Jared Bosire	Judith Nyuja _KWS
3. Jane Ndungu	Alice Bet -KWS
4. Timothy Andrew	Mercy Amai- NEMA
5. Theuri Mwangi	John David Komakoma -Tanzania
6. Bonface Mutisya	

Min 01/21: Opening

Mr. Dixon opened the meeting by welcoming all members present. He requested all in attendance to introduce themselves. He mentioned that the TBCA between Kenya and Tanzania is an important issue and a concept note had been developed 4 years ago. He added that the project is to benefit Kenya and Tanzania hence the importance of the meeting.

Min 02/21: TBCA Background and PIF

Dr. Omar presented on the background of TBCA and PIF.

- The presentation mentioned that the proposed site of the project was from the Northern boundary of Diani-Chale in Kenya to Southern boundary of Mkinga District in Tanzania, north of the Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park. It mentioned that the area had been recognized by international agencies such as WWF and CBD as a biologically significant area deserving special conservation attention. It added that the area comprised critical habitats including terrestrial coastal forests, mangrove, seagrass and coral reefs which are home to endemic, migratory, endangered and threatened species making it a significant local, regional and global conservation area. The area also falls within the east Africa shipping lanes which poses threats to the biodiversity from oil spills, noise pollution and accidental hits of large marine mammals. It added that the area is facing coastal development such as the expansion of Shimoni Port and construction of Tanga port.
- The project was mentioned to be coordinated by Tanzania Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (MRPU) and Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS).
- It mentioned that the main objective is to strengthen transboundary conservation of marine ecosystems for a sustainable blue economy in the Kenya-Tanzania transboundary marine system through a collaborative approach in addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats including the COVID 19 disruptions. The specific objectives of conducting a socio-economic inventory of the natural assets in the area and identify current drivers of change and emerging threats including the impacts of covid 19 on MPA/natura resources management and associated community livelihoods. Strengthening capacity for restoring ecosystem health and conservation biodiversity at the local, national and trans-boundary level to enhance ecological and socio-economic resilience and thus build back better especially after the COVID-19 disruptions. Supporting the Kenya and Tanzania government achieve their protected areas targets. Develop a collaboration management framework for the TBCA and strengthening sustainable blue economy opportunities.
- It highlighted that the project had five components including; supporting policy harmonization and management towards improved governance of marine transboundary resources between Kenya and Tanzania, community and private sector engagement and empowerment, infrastructure development and equipment procurement, socio-ecological research and capacity development.
- The presentation mentioned that the TBCA was anchored in Nairobi Convention COP decisions; 2018 Decision CP.9/5.3; To request the secretariate and the partners responsible to expedite the process of finalization and validation of the status report on sharks and rays, including the regional roadmap, and to report thereon before the tenth meeting of the Conference of parties. And 2018 Decision CP. 9/5.4: To request the secretariate and partners to develop a concept paper on mitigation options to minimize the impacts of development on biodiversity and the natural environment, with recommendations for consideration at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the parties.
- The proposed road map for GEF-7 funding was mentioned as country endorsement of the proposed TBCA in principle (done), preparation and submission of concept for funding(done), letters of commitment needed from respective GEF national focal points in both countries, legal instrument required to establish the TBCA is defined and sensitization and stakeholder engagement had been on for 6 years.
- The proposed direct financing from GEF was USD 11,025,000 for 60 months with co-financing from Go Blue project, KWS, Marine Parks, KEMFSED, Kwale -Tanga Coast-Transboundary Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and marine biodiversity, Kenya, Tanzania and Creating a network of resilient MPAs in globally significant areas of the Western Indian Ocean project.
- It highlighted the next steps as; acquisition of letters of commitment from governments, submission of letters by 15th Jan 2021, internal review by UNEP between 15th and 21st and UNEP GEF submission by 24th march to GEF secretariate.

Min 03/21: Discussion

- John mentioned that there are a lot of development on TBCA and agree on the submission of the proposal. He mentioned that Tanzania was keen to ensure realization of the project. Judith mentioned that under the implementation, there was a new institute that will lead in the supporting KWS in implementation.
- It was mentioned that there was no current from eastern Africa community but this would be done in the following meetings. It was recommended that the East Africa communities be included as part of the partnership.
- It was mentioned that Mercy would include a clear linkage between the SAP and the TBCA and also SAPPHIRE. There was need to strengthen the linkages in the concept note.
- It was mentioned that there need to reframe the co-financing as coming from governments.
- Jared mentioned that that there were documents required by the GEF – one being the Concept Review committee and the safeguards document and were to be submitted on the same day.

Min 04/21: Closing

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.