

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OCEAN GOVERNANCE STRATEGY FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

Step	Description	Proposed timing	Supporting actions
1.	Initial virtual meeting with RECS (SADC, EAC, IGAD, COMESA), IOC and AU to discuss the draft action plan and receive feedback on proposed details of implementation.	Monday 26 April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NC Secretariat to contact RECS to set up a two-hour meeting sharing a concept note based on previous Ocean Governance dialogues in advance as the basis for discussion at the meeting. Feedback from participants on status of Ocean Governance and Blue Economy processes within their organisations. Discussion of proposed actions in the process, and the feasibility and composition of an informal Core Group led by the RECS to drive the process. Supporting projects include SAPPHIRE, WIOGI, EU-MEAS, SWIOFC/NC. - SAPPHIRE to recruit a long-term consultant from May 2021 to coordinate the entire process of developing the regional Ocean Governance Strategy - WIOGI to develop TORs for a Consultant to support the process of identification and engagement with stakeholders including capacity development around ocean governance issues.
2.	Preparation of a proposed broad outline including the components of the strategy.	May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NCS to lead on developing a proposed annotated outline to be presented to the Core Group at a second virtual meeting once completed, for consideration and further input.
3.	Link the development of the Ocean Governance Strategy to the process of establishing a multi-stakeholder initiative around sustainable Blue Economy and improved Ocean Governance in the WIO.	May 2021 – February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This multi-stakeholder initiative is planned to engage stakeholders from the WIO region in discussions around sustainable Blue Economy and improved Ocean Governance in the WIO, and potentially lead to a structure or platform to bring stakeholders together. Potentially a mechanism to include stakeholders in the Strategy development process. Direct support from WIOGI and SAPPHIRE.
4.	Participate in the next AMCEN/UNEP virtual meeting on Africa Ocean Governance.	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to ensure that the WIO Strategy aligns with the African process of developing a continental Ocean Governance Strategy.
5.	Virtual meeting with RECS and invited MSP specialists on integrating MSP into regional Ocean Governance	June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAPPHIRE to recruit consultant in May 2021 to prepare a background paper on links between the MSP Strategy and Ocean Governance to be presented at this meeting as the basis for discussion.
6.	Virtual meeting with RECS and invited experts on integrating ABNJ and BBNJ issues into regional Ocean Governance	July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAPPHIRE/ EU-MEAS Projects to recruit a consultant to prepare a background paper on ABNJ/BBNJ issues in the WIO, using the JMA

			experience between Seychelles and Mauritius as a starting point to be presented at this meeting as the basis for discussion.
7.	Ocean Governance training for 24 key persons involved in the strategy development process. Virtual training over 1 month provided by International Ocean Institute, Cape Town, South Africa	August 2021	- RECS and Commissions to nominate candidates to attend. Proposed that key persons involved in development of the Ocean Governance Strategy are included. Other key stakeholders and representatives from 9 WIO countries to be invited to attend.
8.	Virtual meeting with RECS and invited experts on integrating fisheries management issues into regional Ocean Governance	September 2021	- SWIOFC/NC to recruit a consultant to prepare a background document on regional fisheries management and mechanisms to bring fisheries and environment sectors closer together in regional ocean governance to be presented at this meeting as the basis for discussion.
9.	Virtual meeting with RECS and invited experts on integrating Oil Spill Response mechanisms into regional Ocean Governance	September 2021	- SAPPHIRE to work with IOC to assess national contingency plans and prepare a comprehensive roadmap towards a regional oil spill response mechanism based on the recommendations from the 2020 Zanzibar workshop on Oil Spill Response to be presented at this meeting as the basis for discussion.
10.	Virtual meeting with RECS and invited experts on integrating the private sector into regional Ocean Governance	October 2021	- WIOGI/SAPPHIRE to recruit a consultant to prepare an implementation plan for private sector engagement based on the Framework for Private Sector Engagement already developed to be presented at this meeting as the basis for discussion. Support the development of the potential WIO-BEP (linked to the MSI described under 3 above).
11.	Preparation of Draft Ocean Governance Strategy	April – November 2021	- SAPPHIRE long-term consultant to finalise the draft strategy based on all consultations and inputs received so far.
12.	Regional meeting for key stakeholders to present and discuss a draft Ocean Governance Strategy	November 2021	- Propose a regional in-person meeting with key multi-sector stakeholders to discuss the draft integrated regional Ocean Governance Strategy
13.	Final draft of regional Ocean Governance Strategy	February 2022	- Long-term SAPPHIRE Consultant to integrate inputs from regional workshop into final Strategy.
14.	Validation and endorsement of Strategy at a WIO regional level	March 2022	- Once the final draft is prepared, a process of adoption of the Strategy at WIO regional level needs to be undertaken.