

Nairobi Convention Focal Points Meeting

Date: Wednesday 22 April 2020

Venue: Skype Call

Report of the Meeting

In Attendance

National Focal Point

Mr. Stephen Katua (Kenya)
Mr. Jacquis Rasoanaina (Madagascar)
Mr. Ramchurn Seenauth (Mauritius)
Ms. Nanette Laure (Seychelles)
Mr. Ahmed Y. Ahmed (Somalia)
Mr. Aboud Jumbe (Tanzania)

Secretariat staff

Mr. Dixon Waruinge
Ms. Sinkinesh Jimma
Mr. Jared Bosire
Mr. Timothy Andrew
Ms. Angela Patnode
Mr. Mwangi Theuri
Mr. Bonface Mutisya
Ms. Marlyn Omondi
Mr. Bernard Inzilia
Mr. William Dekker

Status in the countries due to COVID 19 pandemic and impact on implementation of project activities under the Nairobi Convention

- a) A summary of the country status due to COVID 19 pandemic was presented for Somalia, Mauritius, Tanzania, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Kenya:
- i. **Somalia** – The pandemic has resulted in restriction of movement which has affected business-as-usual in the country. As a result, the implementation of activities on the ground has been halted and it has not been possible to convene physical meetings. There has been nomination of a new Focal Point for the Nairobi Convention and the focal points for WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects. The lead for the Marine Environment Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA) update process under SAPPHIRE project has also been nominated. Activities on the ground are expected to resume when the situation normalizes.
 - ii. **Mauritius** - The country has been on lockdown due to covid-19 pandemic since 20 March 2020 and all offices are closed except for essential services. The lockdown is expected to last tentatively until 04 May 2020 although it is expected to be extended. The lockdown has affected implementation of activities on the ground and approval processes. The country will be implementing three demonstration projects under

WIOSAP project and these are at different stages of approval and implementation and may be delayed with the current lockdown. The National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC) under SAPPHIRE project has been set up and is functional. The MEDA update process is expected to be delayed by 3 to 4 months since approval of the Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) has been affected by the lockdown. Follow up on the official communication from the Cabinet on the approval of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) outlook for Mauritius is also expected to delay.

- iii. **Tanzania** – A lockdown has not been instituted but there are partial restrictions in place, such as ban on mass gatherings and voluntary stay-at-home measures. There has been a limitation of staff working in offices except for essential services. This has resulted in slowing down of implementation of activities with some remaining dormant until the current pandemic is averted and thus a general delay in implementation of activities is expected.
- iv. **Madagascar** – There is a partial lockdown with offices open for only half day which has affected implementation of activities on the ground. The demonstration activities are not yet fully operational under the current situation and thus delays are expected. The 10th Conference of parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP 10) is scheduled to be held in Madagascar. A letter to this effect has already been prepared and discussions with Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment are on-going. Due to the current pandemic, it has been proposed that COP10 be postponed to either April or May 2021 to provide adequate time for the necessary preparations by countries and also have results to present on progress in implementation of demonstration projects.
- v. **Seychelles** – There is a partial lockdown with movement limited only to those who work in essential services and most people are working from home. The restrictions have affected the progress in implementation of demonstration activities on the ground and resulted in the postponement of meetings. The partial lockdown is expected to end by 04 May 2020 after which feedback could be provided on what measures could be undertaken to support implementation.
- vi. **Kenya** – There has been a partial lockdown in the urban areas identified as covid-19 hotspots and a countrywide 7pm to 5am curfew. Physical meetings with stakeholders have been postponed and implementation of activities on the ground have been affected. Some of the activities being undertaken during this period include taking steps to clear arrears to Nairobi Convention Trust Fund, approval and ratification of the LBSA protocol which is at an advanced stage, and the Minister, as Chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau is keen on ensuring the ratification process is finalized by the time of the next Conference of Parties (COP10). There are three demonstration projects approved under WIOSAP project and the SSFAs have been finalized and implementation of activities is expected to commence soon. The National Implementation Committee under WIOSAP project and NICC under SAPPHIRE project have been established and functional. The NIC and NICC will have physical meeting post Covid-19 to discuss the way forward on expediting implementation of project activities.

Impact of COVID 19 pandemic on implementation of activities by the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects

SAPPHIRE project

- a) Due to the current pandemic, several key meetings and key activities under SAPPHIRE that were scheduled in the 1st and 2nd quarter 2020 have been postponed and rescheduled to the third and fourth quarter 2020. These include:
 - i. capacity building training for national data centers and MEDA coordinators,
 - ii. launching of MEDAs,
 - iii. development of regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis which is expected to contribute to the development of the ridge to reef Strategic Action Programme to be presented at COP10,
 - iv. development of community engagement and empowerment demonstration projects which require consultation with communities,
 - v. convening NICC meetings in countries,
 - vi. regional capacity building trainings such as on Ocean Governance,
 - vii. collection of oceanographic data for strengthening oceanographic research in the region, and
 - viii. meetings with Regional Economic Communities and Commissions (RECs) to develop partnerships for ocean governance.
- b) The activities that can be undertaken during the current restrictions due to Covid-19 pandemic include:
 - i. virtual meetings with SAPPHIRE project focal points (as a group or one-on-one) to discuss activities of priority in the countries and how to fast track the activities post Covid-19
 - ii. development of proposals by the countries for demonstration projects under Component 1 and Component 2 of SAPPHIRE and review of proposals submitted by the countries
 - iii. finalization of the ocean governance background document.

WIOSAP Project

- a) By the end of 2019, the WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) members had approved a total of 15 demonstration projects across the 3 project components (sustainable management of critical habitats, improved water quality and sustainable management of river flows).
- b) In March 2020, the PSC members recommended 5 additional demonstration project proposals submitted by Madagascar, Comoros, Mozambique, and Tanzania. 12 of the approved demonstration projects have already received funds and were progressing with implementation of activities, which because of Covid-19 pandemic have been slowed down or rescheduled.

- c) The activities that can be undertaken during the current restrictions due to Covid-19 include:
- i. financial approvals for the 8 demonstration projects whose SSFAs are still under development and working with partners for approval and processing up to the funds disbursement stage.
 - ii. virtual meetings with WIOSAP project focal points (as a group or one-on-one) to discuss activities of priority to the countries and how to expedite the implementation of activities post Covid-19.
 - iii. development of Terms of Reference for a demonstration project for Somalia on the Juba-Shebelle river basin, and hiring of a consultant to assess status of Juba-Shebelle river basin.
 - iv. Ongoing discussions with the Nairobi Convention focal point for Somalia, WIOSAP project focal point and the Advisor to the prime minister on coastal and marine issue on preparatory work for the activities for the projects to be undertaken on the ground,
 - v. Discussions with the experts in the region on economic valuation assessment for the Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania.
 - vi. Establishment of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Technical Working Group. Nomination requests to the working group will soon be sent to the focal points.
 - vii. Finalization of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) outlook, finalization of critical habitats guidelines (mangrove restoration, seagrass restoration and ecosystem flows assessment guidelines). The consolidated MPA outlook will be shared with the Focal Points prior to its publication. The text provided by the 4 countries (Comoros, France, Mauritius, and Madagascar) on disputed territories will be reflected in the MPA outlook in the respective country chapters as shared by the countries. The MPA outlook as planned to be completed in the next two months.
 - viii. The development of the Critical Habitats Outlook is ongoing, and the completion of the document is expected by July 2020. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd PSC had already recommended project extension to 2022 to ensure the project runs a full 5-year cycle. The current crisis will necessitate further no-cost project extension to ensure adequate demo project implementation. This request will be presented to UNEP as the implementing Agency and eventually to GEF.

Science to Policy platform

- a) The Project Managers and Focal Points will need to prepare for the Science-Policy nexus, identify key areas of consideration and emerging issues in the nexus, including impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be discussed at the next Focal Points meeting on Friday 24 April 2020.

AOB

- a) The Government of Madagascar will provide official communication on the proposed date for the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties (COP10).

- b) The SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP Project Managers will identify activities that can be undertaken through webinar forums and give feedback.
- c) The next Focal Points meeting will be held on Friday 24 April 2020. The SAPPHIRE project focal points and key partners will also be invited to join the call.

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Nairobi Convention Focal Points Meeting

Date: Friday 24 April 2020

Venue: Skype Call

Report of the Meeting

In attendance

National Focal Point

Mr. Ismael Bachirou (Comoros)
Mr. Ambadi Issouf (Comoros)
Mr. Benôit Rodrigues (France)
Mr. Clément Payeur (France)
Mr. Stephen Katua (Kenya)
Mr. Jacques Rasoanaina (Madagascar)
Mr. Ramchurn Seenauth (Mauritius)
Ms. Nashreen Soogun (Mauritius)
Mr Alexandre Bartolomeu (Mozambique)
Ms. Sidonia Muhorro (Mozambique)
Ms. Nanette Laure (Seychelles)
Mr. Ahmed Y. Ahmed (Somalia)
Mr. Lisolomzi Fikizolo (South Africa)
Mr. Aboud Jumbe (Tanzania)

Secretariat staff

Mr. Dixon Waruinge
Ms. Sinkinesh Jimma
Mr. Jared Bosire
Mr. Timothy Andrew
Ms. Angela Patnode
Mr. Mwangi Theuri
Ms. Marlyn Omondi
Mr. Bonface Mutisya
Mr. Bernard Inzilia

Status in the countries due to Covid-19 pandemic and impact on implementation of activities under the Nairobi Convention work programme.

- a) The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries have been in a period of either partial lockdown, complete lockdown or restricted movement following Covid-19 pandemic, with limited implementation of activities on the ground, postponement and rescheduling of meetings with stakeholders, and slow progress in the process of approval of project financial agreement (the Small Scale Funding Agreements, SSFA). The slowdown in the implementation of project activities is expected to continue within the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- b) **France** has been on lockdown since 15 March 2020 and the lockdown is expected to last until 11 May 2020 after which an analysis of the situation will be carried out and implementation of various activities may resume.
- c) **Mauritius** had their first monthly meeting with the authors and stakeholders developing the Marine Environment Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA) on 5 March 2020. Due to the lockdown in the country, the meeting in April could not be convened. The lockdown is expected to end on 4 May 2020 but may be extended. The requisite approval of the Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) for the MEDA process has also been delayed due to the lockdown. In general, a delay of 6 weeks in the MEDA update process is expected.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on implementation of activities by the WIOSAP project, SAPPHIRE project and supporting projects of the Convention

WIOSAP project

- a) 20 national demonstration projects have been approved for implementation in the Western Indian Ocean countries. Component A on sustainable management of critical habitats has 11 demonstration projects, Component B on improved water quality has 6 demonstration projects and Component C on sustainable management of river flows has 3 demonstration projects. 12 of the demonstration projects have received funding and started implementation, but progress in implementation has slowed down due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. There are 8 SSFAs for demonstration projects currently being processed by the Project Management Unit leading to disbursement of grants.
- b) Activities that are ongoing virtually under the current Covid-19 restrictions include:
 - i. Internal approvals by the Secretariat of 8 SSFAs for demonstration projects
 - ii. Planning for the next science to policy meeting,
 - iii. Finalization of MPA outlook which is expected to be completed by July 2020
 - iv. Finalization, by June 2020, of the mangrove ecosystem guidelines, seagrass ecosystem guidelines and Environment Flows Assessment guidelines for the WIO region.
 - v. Ongoing finalization of the Economic Valuation guidelines and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) toolkit. The economic valuation guidelines and CCVA toolkit will be tested at local/site level before adoption,
 - vi. Engagement within UNEP on initiating a process for conducting economic valuation for the Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania as part of addressing the ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) decision 9/7 regarding the establishment of TBCA between Kenya and Tanzania,
 - vii. Strengthening partnerships for implementation of the Convention's work by (i) development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Macquarie University of Australia on capacity building and resource mobilization for WIO region, and (ii) development of partnership with Maritime Technological Cooperation Center (MTCC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for implementation of COP9 decision CP9/13 on green ports development. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd PSC had already recommended project extension to 2022 to ensure that the WIOSAP project runs a full 5-year cycle. The current Covid-19 crisis will necessitate further no-cost project extension to ensure adequate implementation of demonstration projects. This request will be presented to UNEP as implementing Agency and eventually to GEF.

SAPPHIRE Project

- a) Activities that will be delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions include:
 - i. the MEDA update process and its follow up activities on the development of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a consolidated Source to Sea strategic

- Action Programme (SAP) for the WIO region which was to be completed in 2020 and presented at the 10th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP10),
- ii. National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC) meetings that were scheduled to take place during the 1st and 2nd quarter 2020. The meetings have been rescheduled tentatively to the 3rd and 4th quarter 2020,
 - iii. Launch of approved demonstration projects expected to commence in the first half of 2020,
 - iv. Oceanographic data collection and research work by the Institute of Marine Sciences in Tanzania and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute,
 - v. Supporting national data management systems, developing country profiles and training for national data managers and MEDA coordinators,
- b) Activities that are ongoing virtually under the current Covid-19 restrictions include:
- i. Discussions with Kenya and Tanzania on collecting data for updating of respective country MEDAs,
 - ii. Follow-ups with South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles on completion of SSFAs for approval and thus implementation of demonstration projects,
 - iii. Development of proposals by countries under component 2 of SAPPHIRE project (proposals have been received for Comoros, Madagascar and Mozambique and are undergoing internal review),
 - iv. working with *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD) of France on a proposal for capacity building in ocean governance and identifying the areas of synergy,
 - v. strengthening partnership with Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) on capacity building in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP),
 - vi. Development of SAPPHIRE project awareness and communication materials,
 - vii. Developing a WIO region private sector engagement strategy in partnership with South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA),
 - viii. Discussion with key partners in Kenya and Tanzania to support the development of national blue economy strategy,
 - ix. Development of the ocean governance background paper which is a prerequisite for the development of the ocean governance strategy for the WIO region. The ocean governance background paper requires inputs from France. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat will engage with the Focal points for France (Clément and Benôit) on the process.

Supporting projects addressing the Work Programme of the Nairobi Convention

- a) **The European Union (EU) funded Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions project:** the project focuses on ocean governance in the Nairobi Convention area. The project will commence shortly, in May

2020, and has a funding of US\$ 2 million over the period 2020-2023. The EU had accepted that the workplan be extended at no-cost due to Covid-19 lockdown.

- b) **The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funded partnership project between the Nairobi Convention and the South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission:** the US\$ 8.6 million project focuses on coordination of ocean governance and fisheries management within the WIO region. The project commenced in October 2019 and expected to run up to December 2023. The secretariat will be directly responsible for US\$ 3 million. The project will have pilot activities in three countries: Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Nairobi Convention is currently revising how activities can be implemented despite this situation. Final sites selection for on-the ground interventions are ongoing, and going forward, on-line meetings will have to be arranged for planned project meetings.
- c) **Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) funded Northern Mozambique Channel project (NMC or NoCaMo project):** the five year €1.5 million partnership project focuses on sustainable management of marine biodiversity in the Northern Mozambique Channel area covering Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Comoros, France, and part of Seychelles. The project is expected to begin in 2020 and the Nairobi Convention will be receiving €421,728 of the funds for project coordination.
- i. The secretariat presented and explained that the delay in commencement of the NMC project was due to a delay in signature of the agreement between UNEP and FFEM occasioned by the financial requirement by UNEP of 13% Programme Support Cost and 1% UN Coordination levy. The NoCaMo project had factored a programme support cost of 7% in line with the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) between the European Union and the United Nations.
 - ii. The secretariat explained the necessity to secure alternative financing for the required 13% Programme Support Costs (PSC), and 1% UN Coordination Levy for the NoCaMo project, and an additional 14% administrative cost for a proposed secondment of a French staff to the Nairobi Convention secretariat.
 - iii. The secretariat has requested for a waiver of the PSC and administrative costs from the New York Budget Controller for UNEP but may never get approval.
 - iv. In the absence of an alternative, the Secretariat asked the focal points to consider how best to address the issue, including whether the Nairobi Convention Trust Fund could be used.
 - v. All the Focal Points were concerned by the delay to take the offer and opportunity presented by the Government of France and advised the Secretariat to immediately take the offer by France and use the Nairobi Convention Trust Fund to meet the required 13% Programme Support Costs, 1% UN coordination levy, and 14% administrative costs for secondment of a French staff to the secretariat.
 - vi. The proposal by the Focal Points for the Trust Fund to meet the required programme support costs and administrative costs was supported by each focal point and severally agreed upon by all the focal points, with no objections.

- vii. Written communication through finalized minutes will be sent to the Nairobi Convention focal points.

AOB

- a) The Secretariat will explore options for having French interpretation during virtual meetings of the Focal Points.
- b) The government of Somalia will send official communication to the Secretariat on the development of a demonstration project for the Juba-Shebelle river basin and discuss on how to proceed with preliminary actions for development of the project and discuss with other stakeholders on how to expedite activities once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in Somalia. Somalia would require support from the Secretariat to implement MEDA update process. The SAPPHIRE project coordinator is already having discussions with Somalia on project implementation in the country.
- c) The Dialogue Science-Decision Makers (DIDEM) project was approved during the FFEM Steering Committee meeting that took place in March 2020. The 3 Million Euros project (of which 1 Million Euros will be funded by which FFEM) will be coordinated by IRD of France. The project seeks to incorporate scientific knowledge into decision making in the management of coastal and marine areas in the WIO region and will include Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, and Tanzania. The goal of the project is to deploy participatory research format in decision support tools and methodology to support decision making.
- d) The ratification process of Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBSA) by the French Government is on course. The translations demanded to be reflected in the French version of the LBSA protocol was sent to the Secretariat for correction. The Secretariat will be required to send an official version of the LBSA protocol to the French Embassy in Kenya for onward transmission to Paris in order to commence legislative processes and ratification. Clément will follow up with the Secretariat to expedite the process. The French version of the amended Nairobi Convention and LBSA Protocol will be shared with all the focal points of the Nairobi Convention and will also be posted online in the Nairobi Convention website.
- e) The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol negotiations was finalized in March 2019 and the agreed text of the protocol will be prepared for presentation to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for adoption. The Conference will be held back to back with COP 10 of the Nairobi Convention in 2021.
- f) Mr. Fikizolo, the Nairobi Convention Focal Point for South Africa will work with Mr. Ashley Naidoo of the Department of Environment, South Africa, to follow up on the signing of the SFFA for MEDA update process for South Africa. The process has been slowed during the current lockdown situation in the country. The approval of the SSFA is being handled as a priority and a report on progress in approval will be shared at the next virtual meeting of the focal points.
- g) The SAPPHIRE project is working with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) to develop a WIO region private sector engagement strategy. SAIIA was planning to have face to face meetings with stakeholders but under the current Covid-19 travel

restrictions, such meetings will not take place. SAIIA is developing a survey targeting key stakeholders including the private sector and the focal points on the strategy. Information on the survey will be sent to the focal points to provides support in collection of the data required in the survey.

- h) Next focal points meeting will be held in the 2nd or 3rd week of May depending on availability of the Focal points. Suggested date for the next meeting will be sent by the Secretariat.

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