

Prepared for the First NOCAMO Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting

December 6th, 2023

Maputo, Mozambique

Concept Note for Session II: Overall project progress

I. Background

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention are implementing the FFEM / OFB funded project on “Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel” (NOCAMO). The NOCAMO project is supporting various interventions across the region to address scenarios for development to maximize the opportunities for sustainable development in the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC), based on preservation of the health of marine ecosystems as a foundation for future prosperity. In this regard, the project uses the holistic approach for Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) and will assist the countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular Goal 14 on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The project covers the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) and the beneficiaries of the project are Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Comoros.

Project goal

By 2030, the Northern Mozambique Channel’s high biodiversity value coral reef and associated ecosystems are maintained and enhanced through effective spatial management of marine uses, in particular the oil & gas sector, to secure a sustainable future for coastal communities and economies.

The NOCAMO Project has 3 main components:

- **Component 1:** By 2026, the institutional and knowledge foundations are laid for the application of multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) across the NMC region.
- **Component 2:** By 2026, effective planning is promoted and best practices in the Oil & Gas sector are adopted by Governments and private sector champions, leading to mitigation of impacts of the sector to the biodiversity and ecosystem services in the NMC.
- **Component 3:** By 2026, community livelihoods and well-being are incrementally secured through the sharing and replication of best practices in community-based marine resource management.

II. Structure for project implementation

The Project has established various structures to support implementation at various levels including:

1. **The Project Management Unit:** Based in Nairobi under the Executing Agency for overall

project coordination represented as NCS for Component 1 and WWF FR based in Paris, France, for Components 2 and 3.

2. **Regional Task Forces and Working Groups:** These are established to give necessary technical support to the project in different thematic areas relevant to the project. They include the: MSP task force group, RECs meetings, Regional Seas global annual meetings, spatial atlas working group, Coral Reef task force, Western Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force, Western Indian Ocean Seagrass Network, Fisheries Transparency Initiative Indian Ocean.
3. **Project Steering Committee:** The Project Steering Committee (PSC) plays 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 PSC is 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. The Steering Committee also provides policy-level liaison to national governments, through Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committees about the implementation of the projects at country level.

III. High level milestone summary

2022: Inception meeting with partners on March 10th 2022.

2023: Follow-up meetings with the partners and donors have been conducted, respectively on February 15th 2023, April 5th 2023, May 11th 2023, and June 23rd 2023.

Organization of a technical dialogue with implementing partner WWF MDCO and the Focal Points, on November 6th, in Dar es Salam Tanzania, followed by a side event on the 9th November at the Marine Regions Forum.

Adoption of ICZM Protocol on September 12th 2023.

IV. Summary of progress at component level

Component 1: By 2026, the institutional and knowledge foundations are laid for the application of multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) across the NMC region

In the component 1, entitled “By 2026, the institutional and knowledge foundations are laid for a multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process for the NMC”, the achievements of activities led by NCS, WWF Madagascar, CI and TNC, are described hereafter. NCS and WWF Madagascar have completed contractual procedures for the small-scale funding agreement (SSFA) in May 2023. As such, the call for funds from WWF Madagascar to NCS has been submitted in June 2023. The funds were received by WWF Madagascar on 20th July 2023.

A face-to-face meeting between the representatives of FFEM, NCS and WWF Madagascar was held in June 2023, with the virtual presence of all NOCAMO implementing partners. The draft workshop report is available.

Outcome 1.1. The institutional bases are laid; the countries are engaged in the MSP process

and share the same vision for the region's future

1.1.1. Support the national consultations, as appropriate, in Madagascar, Mozambique, Comoros and Tanzania to build commitment for a regionally and nationally aligned MSP processes, and which is aligned with the regional voluntary commitments to SDG14 (implemented by WWF Madagascar)

Parties to the Nairobi Convention and partners meeting in Dar es Salaam in March 2019 requested the NCS to work with partners to develop a regional MSP strategy. Such a regional strategy has then been developed during 2020 and 2021, and identified strategic priorities that would contextualise the global blue economy narrative for the WIO region, provide for harmonisation of legal instruments for blue economy practices, and improve mapping of biophysical environment and human activities. A Western Indian Ocean Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group (MSP TWG) was established and a first meeting was organized in July 2020.

With respect to the activity 1.1.1, the efforts undertaken by WWF Madagascar under the assessment of the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools (cf. Activity.1.3.1), which focus on Madagascar and Tanzania, have provided an opportunity to the Malagasy government to continue its national consultation with the MSP stakeholders. Such consultation has been started through a collaboration of the government with USAID in 2020 and 2021. The activity assessing the management tools (above mentioned) has equally offered an opportunity for the Tanzanian government to revive its discussion around MSP, through a national-level consultation as well. The assessment of the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools (act. 1.3.1) has been completed in December 2021 for Madagascar and February 2022 for Tanzania. In Madagascar, 3 ministries (Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ministry in charge of Territory Planning and Land Services) agreed with WWF that the follow-up of the process with One Ocean Hub (OOH) should be the exploration of the development of MSP in one region. The DIANA region (which is a part of the NMC area, located in the Northern part of Madagascar) was chosen to be such a region and the assignment was completed by a consultancy firm (BE X2Z) in April 2023 under co-funding with SIDA (Leading the Change). BE X2Z was assigned to conduct a maritime diagnosis and prospective analysis as part of the development of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) tool for the Diana Region, the main outcomes¹ of this assignment are the following:

- **Mapping of stakeholders and their respective interventions across the Diana region** (Diego, Ambilobe, Nosy Be and Ambanja). The mapping enlists the different stakeholders in the framework of the development of MSP in the DIANA Region, the organizations with which they collaborate and a ranking in descending order of the importance of the nature of their collaboration. Approximately 100 stakeholders were identified and consulted including governmental institutions, members of the private sector, NGOs and CSOs. The stakeholders were also assessed based on their leadership capacity and their convening power. The latter demonstrates that local administrations have the most power, followed by development project owners, and CSOs holding the least power;

¹ Final deliverables are available [here](#)

- **Compatibility chart between maritime activities in the region**, with an analysis of the interactions between resources and their uses. The chart presents the compatibility between different activities including ecosystems and natural resources, conservation and management, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, maritime transport, maritime infrastructure, oil and mining as well as environmental risks. The main outcome is the identification of potential conflicts between users;
- **SWOT analysis of different sectors and themes** including natural resources and environment, maritime infrastructure and maritime equipment, governance as well as social and economic development;
- **A report of the diagnostic analysis and the regional maritime atlas** as well as updated information for each thematic area of the maritime atlas. Deliverables are available [here](#).

In Tanzania, WWF Tanzania (WWF TCO) in collaboration with CSIRO Australia and TNC Tanzania, organized an inaugural meeting for the technical committee on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for Tanzania in March 2022. The technical document (available [here](#)) was approved through a national validation workshop held in March 2023.

Through this process, WWF started to support the MSP stakeholder platforms in these countries to mainstream sustainability principles in their respective MSP process, while raising awareness on the importance of ensuring coherence of national approaches on MSP and contributing and linking to the regional MSP process by the Nairobi Convention (cf. Activity.1.1.2).

More recently, WWF Madagascar co-organized a side event with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, pertaining to the NOCAMO project at the Marine Regions Forum in November 2023. The event built on the importance of the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) region and to explore ways to move toward a regional and nationally aligned MSP processes, with the aim to deliver long-term optimisation and increased protection of the valuable goods and services provided by a healthy ocean. The participants included representatives from the African Union, OFB (Office Français de la Biodiversité), as well as other partner NGOs such as FFI (Fauna & Flora) and GIZ.

1.1.2. Guide and support national multi-sectoral and multi-actor platforms to mainstream sustainability principles in their respective MSP process; and support the future regional MSP platform to ensure coherence of national approaches on MSP (implemented by WWF Madagascar)

Except the activities co-funded by Sida Leading the change and Norad SWIO SBE Programme, this activity has not been undertaken due to unavailability of funds just yet and will be implemented mainly in 2024, in conjunction with Activities 1.1.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.

To date, the SWIO/ NMCi Coordination Unit conducted a workshop in November 2022 to deliver capacity strengthening of national CSO coalitions around MSP, integrated ocean management and governance. The main outcome of this workshop is that CSOs and WWF have strengthened their knowledge on WWF's social policies, environmental and social safeguards principles, and social cross-cutting issues (gender, HRBA, Conflict). This was mainly achieved through a sharing session during which CSOs expressed their understanding of cross-cutting issues as well as the challenges and needs for their successful implementation. An exchange on best practices from each country also enabled

CSOs to learn from each other, in particular in terms of principles, policies and tools for the implementation of cross-cutting issues. Workshop report available [here](#).

1.1.3 Establish links with relevant regional bodies, including Regional Economic Commissions (IOC, SADC, EAC, COMESA, RFMOs) (implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat)

A meeting with the RECs will be organized by the SAPPHIRE project manager on the 4th of December 2023, back-to-back with the science to policy meeting, in Maputo Mozambique.

The RECs are all partners to the NCS, they are all represented on the regional ocean governance taskforce.

The Head of Nairobi Convention and SAPPHIRE project manager will attend this meeting to represent all NCS projects and strengthen partnerships with RECs. The main purpose of engaging with the RECs is to discuss regional issues. But also discuss ocean governance, blue economy development, which are major activities for NCS projects including NOCAMO, notably Marine Spatial Planning. In another aspect, convening the RECs is also a great opportunity to link all the other activities that NCS has been implementing around MSP.

Presentation and discussion of the regional ocean governance strategy will be made to representatives of the RECs to agree on implementation modalities, and also the meeting will be an opportunity for the RECs to share the progress made towards blue economy development in the WIO.

Generally, NOCAMO could contribute to the ongoing partnership between the NCS and the RECs, which will help to achieve the long-term goals that all NCS projects are trying to achieve.

The expected outcomes of the meeting:

To agree upon implementation plan for the WIO regional ocean governance strategy. Alignment of work around blue economy development in the WIO.

To agree upon policy directions on key issues in the Nairobi Convention Area to inform the Convention's workplan and COP decisions.

1.1.4 Facilitate experience exchanges with relevant regional conventions (e.g. HELCOM, Barcelona conv.) as well as other ongoing regional IOM processes (Regional Seas, Oceanscapes, etc) (implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat)

NCS is working with the Regional Seas Coordinator at global level (Ecosystems Integration Branch). This activity is undertaken with the guidance of the coordinator of Regional Seas. The Last important meeting during which the Regional Seas Secretariats were convened was during the Marine Region Forum in Dar Es Salam on 5 to 7 of November 2023. A side event for NOCAMO, was an opportunity for NCS and implementing partners to showcase the project to stakeholders and interested parties such as other Regional Seas Conventions that were convened. Another meeting convening all the Regional Seas Secretariats had taken place in Barbados, the Global Annual Meeting for the Regional Seas (20 to 23 November 2023).

Lastly, communication has been initiated via the Regional Seas Unit weekly newsletter, providing updates for the NOCAMO project (i.e. partner meeting of June 23rd) to all the Regional Seas Conventions.

1.1.5 Support additional capacity in the NCS for a regional coordinating role in support of project implementation and guiding the MSP process (implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat)

Terms of Agreement have been established and advertised in November to recruit a technical consultant to join the NOCAMO project.

The consultant will take part in the ongoing capacity building of which each NMC country is part of, relying on the national coordinators for MSP.

The NOCAMO consultant will be engaged in regional meetings, technical working groups and trainings. The consultant will also be linking with WWF MDCO to coordinate and support the establishment of an MSP roadmap for the NMC region, and could also back up the NMC countries in the internal consultations.

Outcome 1.2: Knowledge elements and decision support tools are available for well-informed decisions

1.2.1 Establish a dedicated interactive/online atlas that harmonizes, collects and shares data across natural, social, economic, and governance capitals (implemented by Nairobi Convention Secretariat)

Currently we are going through a procurement process to select a GIS specialist. ESRI is a candidate to be considered. Need to select a few companies specializing in geographic information system (GIS) software, location intelligence, and mapping, to put them in competition (full-profit organisations). The Corporate Services Division of UNEP will select the vendor upon competitive quotation.

1.2.2 Map and value coastal and marine goods and services of the NMC, and link with the national Natural Capital accounts and processes.

Terms of Reference were drafted to recruit a consultant, and it is expected that the Steering Committee will provide guidance and give clearance on whether NCS could hire a consultant, since CI pulled out.

To be noted: according to specialists in economic valuation from The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), the budget is insufficient to complete the activity for the whole NMC region (4 countries). Therefore, a decision will have to be made during the next steering committee meeting on whether this activity could receive additional funds or if the scope of work should be reduced to one country.

Due to the very low budget to cover the whole NMC region, the experts advised that we might have to choose only one ecosystem to assess, for one country only.

1.2.3 Develop a set of scenarios for the NMC with respect to future developments in key economic sectors, demographics and climate change patterns (implemented by WWF)

Madagascar)

This activity was completed around 2017-2018. At that time, CORDIO, Reos Partners and WWF jointly developed the “Scenarios for the future of the Northern Mozambique Channel” in a participatory way in the region. The Scenarios took a year to be finalized and the discussions amongst regional stakeholders have mainly occurred over three regional workshops (organized by WWF in different WIO countries in May and November 2017, March 2018). The Scenarios form an important tool to support decision-making by governments and aim at facilitating the prioritization and implementation of the SDG 14.

The related process and outputs (booklet, videos, etc.) can be found at: <https://cordioea.net/nmc/scenarios/> and <https://www.wiofutures.net/>

In order to share and promote the Scenarios approach and outcomes to support regional cross-sectoral dialogues around sustainable ocean governance in the WIO, CORDIO and WWF have developed a policy paper recommending the use of the Scenarios with regards to efforts for achieving SDG 14 goals and related country and regional Voluntary Commitments. This paper has been presented at the Nairobi Convention Science to Policy Forum (as a preparatory meeting to the COP9) in South Africa in July 2018. During that forum, the WWF also presented a white paper on the future multi-partner FFEM project that aims at promoting MSP and sustainable community management in the NMC area (the NoCaMo project).

As the activity was completed in 2018, no more action was made under this activity, which was co-funded by WWF. The follow-up continued under act. 1.2.4 described hereafter.

1.2.4 Assess the specific implications for each scenario in terms of blue economy potential, of risks and of contribution to the SDG-14 targets (implemented by TNC)

In synergy with the Conservation International (CI), who led the completion of activity 1.2.2, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) contributed to achieve the Objective 1 of the NoCaMo project in leading this activity 1.2.4.

TNC aimed at assessing the effects of 4 conceptual future Scenarios (from the “Scenarios for the future of the Northern Mozambique Channel”) on ecosystem services and at evaluating broader implications for blue economy and sustainable development targets. To accomplish this, TNC used existing data sets, adapted global models of ecosystem services as well as information gathered from stakeholder meetings with scientists and others in the wider NMC area. Regional discussions were held for TNC to understand the specific linkages between the Scenarios, drivers of change to coastal ecosystems and

resulting value of ecosystem goods and services. Following this, they developed a series of scenario-adjusted models to illustrate a range of ecological and social conditions represented in the scenarios. Reports are available upon request².

The above cited final findings and outputs were presented by TNC to the regional stakeholders in December 2021. CORDIO and WWF have supported TNC in this endeavor, which was made possible through WWF's co-funding.

TNC is no longer in capacity to provide an expert to work on the extension of the activity. The budget provided by FFEM is therefore unused. A decision should be made by the Steering Committee on whether this activity should be pursued or not.

Outcome 1.3. A regional framework for MSP in the NMC region has been developed and validated through a multi-stakeholder process

1.3.1. Assessing the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools and institutional arrangements, their potential gaps and points of conflicts (implemented by WWF Madagascar)

For this work, WWF Madagascar commissioned a consultancy firm called One Ocean Hub (or OOH) from August 2021. The consultancy team is composed of experts from the University of Nelson Mandela (South Africa) and University of Strathclyde (UK), and is the same one which has developed the regional MSP strategy for the Nairobi Convention (under final comments by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat).

In Madagascar, WWF agreed with the government departments (leading the MSP process) and consultants to first conduct a scoping phase for the above work (i.e. assessing the appropriateness of existing spatial and temporal management tools (or STMTs)). It consisted of a study to assess the feasibility of developing a methodological tool that will enhance the contribution of existing STMTs³ in the future national MSP process of two selected NMC countries. Based on the available project resource, the NoCaMo partners agreed to focus this work on two countries only. Some criteria were developed to select the countries, and the selection result was: Madagascar and Mozambique. However, due to the complex nature of the institutional setup in Mozambique at the time of selection, the NoCaMo partners decided to conduct the work in Tanzania instead.

² Albert, D. (2021). *Assessing the implications of future scenarios on ecosystem services in the Northern Mozambique Channel, and contribution to blue economy and sustainable development targets: Draft Scenario Adjustment Tables*. Juneau Alaska, USA: The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

³ Spatial and Temporal Management Tools

For Madagascar and Tanzania, the key results of the scoping study respectively include:

1. A snapshot of the relevant governance context in the country:
 - a. Ecological, socio-economic and political contexts;
 - b. Presentation of current STMTs and related legal framework;
 - c. Identification of constraints and enablers to STMTs.
2. The identification of how STMTs can contribute to the development of MSP:
 - a. Emphasize the connectivity and linkages between different STMTs;
 - b. Contribution to socio-economic objectives;
 - c. Mitigation of the effects of climate change;
 - d. Coordinated MSP legislation;
 - e. Cross-sectoral and cross-ministerial MSP collaboration;
 - f. Guidelines for blue economy activities and investment portfolios

For Tanzania, the members of the first working group of stakeholders (approx. 50 participants) have been identified. Similar to the Madagascar case, this small working group was gathered during a workshop in Dodoma, Tanzania on 14th – 16th December 2021. The different stakeholders convened to review and validate the situational report prepared by the OOH consultants, but also to discuss modalities to kick start the national MSP process in Tanzania.

1.3.2 Based on the assessment of the specific implications for each scenario and the content of the future regional MSP strategy (and guidelines), develop and propose a more technical guideline designed to support the development and implementation of MSP by the NMC countries (implemented by WWF Madagascar)

Activity to be undertaken in 2024, please refer to the work plan for more details.

1.3.3 Support national and regional level consultative processes to validate the regional MSP technical guideline, with a particular focus on integration with national level (MSP/ICZM) decision processes.

Activity to be undertaken in 2024, please refer to the work plan for more details.

Component 2: By 2026, effective planning is promoted and best practices in the Oil & Gas sector are adopted by Governments and private sector champions, leading to mitigation of impacts of the sector to the biodiversity and ecosystem services in the NMC.

Outcome 2.1. Policy and application of law are strengthened to implement regulation of the oil and gas sector in countries in the NMC region (implemented by WCS)

2.1.1 Development of an online Marine Biodiversity Atlas that can support decision-makers (relevant Ministries) to adequately implement the environmental and Oil & Gas regulations (implemented by WCS Mozambique)

WCS released the Mozambique Marine Biodiversity Atlas, which is available online [here](#). The atlas was meant to be launched in late 2023, but owing to the difficulty in arranging a date when the appropriate government representatives will be available, the launch will have to be postponed to the first half of 2024. Following the launch the Marine Biodiversity Atlas will be made available to government, private sector, and CSOs.

2.1.2 Undertake a national policy gap analysis related to development of marine infrastructure and industry (implemented by WCS Madagascar)

In Madagascar, WCS developed the terms of reference (available [here](#)) for updating the national policy gap analysis (conducted in 2017) on environmental and social safeguards for project development of built infrastructure and industry. This update will focus on new laws and regulations that concern development in marine and coastal ecosystems, since these are directly relevant for NoCaMo. A company, “RESOLVE consulting” (<https://www.resolve.mg/>) was hired in October 2023 to undertake the consultancy, and indeed they were responsible for the 2017 national policy gap analysis. The consultancy is ongoing, a draft report is anticipated by the end of 2023 and a final report by the end of January 2024.

2.1.3 Undertake a national policy gap analysis related to development of marine infrastructure and industry (implemented by WCS Tanzania and FFI)

In Tanzania, the terms of reference (available [here](#)) has been developed to conduct an analysis that will focus on understanding and flagging opportunities to incorporate best practices related to the application of the mitigation hierarchy to achieve NNL/NPI in the oil & gas sector in Tanzania. To date, and based on an initial literature review, the WCS team have defined a sample of legal requirements and institutions that are going to be part of the gap analysis. Additionally, they have also identified a preliminary list of stakeholders to engage and to be consulted as part of the analysis. The aim of these interviews/meetings is first to validate the main gaps identified as part of the process, and also to get their perspectives and feedback on additional elements to incorporate in the report and how these gaps can be superseded based on existing international best practices. The development of this entire activity will be supported by a local consultant in charge of the policy gap analysis and stakeholders' engagement. A draft report has been produced and a final report is expected by the end of 2023.

Outcome 2.2. Tailored guidance of best practices leading to the protection of priority biodiversity

and ecosystem services of the NMC area, are proposed for the development and evaluation of environmental case law for oil and gas exploration and exploitation (baseline, EIA, SEA,...), and for the development of MSP related to oil and gas initiatives

Under this outcome, activities started only in the first quarter of 2023, due to the delay in the signature of the granting agreement between WCS and FFI.

2.2.1 Selection of the biodiversity components for which the guidelines should be developed and support on its development (implemented by FFI)

Regarding the selection of relevant biodiversity components, the team decided to organize three separate workshops in each of the countries, which were conducted during September 2023 (Madagascar and Mozambique and October 2023 (Tanzania). The main challenges in terms of timing were the elections in Madagascar which put pressure on stakeholders' availability to be part of the discussions. Nonetheless, the workshops were well attended, particularly in Mozambique and there was lively small group discussion on how to score the potential biodiversity components across a suite of characteristics. Preliminary results have been obtained, and the final selection of biodiversity components will be completed during December 2023.

2.2.2 Review of international best practices (implemented by FFI)

The review of international best practice is ongoing. This desk exercise will be completed in the first quarter of 2024.

2.2.3 Develop best practice guidance adapted to the context of the NCM for EIAs, SEAs, MSPs and Biodiversity Action Plans for technicians from regulatory bodies, taking into account priorities for the protection of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services (implemented by FFI)

This activity is scheduled for the first half of 2024.

Outcome 2.3: Governments, regional organizations and CSOs/NGOs have increased capacity to implement best-practice policy and guidelines for oil and gas developments in the NMC region

2.3.1. National training of regulatory agencies, project developers, Oil & Gas companies and other sectors on how to apply the mitigation hierarchy to avoid significant impacts of development projects on priority marine and coastal biodiversity, with focus on the guidelines developed under activity 2.2.1. (implemented by WCS Mozambique)

In August 2022, WCS Mozambique provided training to stakeholders in the private sector (especially

project developers in the oil and gas sector) on the implementation of a new ministerial diploma on biodiversity offsets. The training focused on the application of impacts mitigation and offsets. The training also included a specific session on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) mainstreaming, focusing on how the private sector can make a contribution to conserve biodiversity for which KBAs are important, and on how to manage risk on biodiversity in case of implementing projects in or around a KBA according to international guidelines.

2.3.2. Training to the national civil society platform for the extractive industry to increase its capacity on impact mitigation on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Implemented by WCS Mozambique)

In February 2023, WCS Mozambique provided training to CSOs on the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy and the new Ministerial Diploma on Biodiversity offsets. The event was attended by 45 participants belonging to civil society platforms, including: Platform on Natural Resources and Extractive Industry (PIE), Forum of Civil Society Organizations for the Marine and Coastal Area (FOSCAMC), Mozambican Civil Society Organizations Forum for Wildlife (FOFABRAVIA), National Forest Forum (FNF), and Association of Journalists for Biodiversity Conservation (AJOCOM).

2.3.3. Build capacity of government, private sector and civil society personnel on use and implementation of good practice guidance (implemented by WCS Madagascar)

This activity is scheduled to begin in 2024 after the policy gap analysis has been completed.

2.3.4. Build national capacities to adopt best practice guidelines and improved policy (implemented by WCS Tanzania)

This activity is scheduled to begin in 2024 after the policy gap analysis has been completed.

2.3.5. Development of a national roadmap on policy recommendations and adoption of good practice guidance (implemented by WCS Madagascar)

This activity is scheduled to begin in early 2024 after the policy gap analysis has been completed. Terms of reference for this consultancy have been developed and advertised.

2.3.6. Improve regional and global uptake of good practice related to marine infrastructure and industry through public outreach (implemented by WCS East Africa, Madagascar, and Western Indian Ocean Regional Office)

This activity will begin in 2024 when the outputs of other activities will be available to guide messaging.

Component 3: By 2026, community livelihoods and well-being are incrementally secured through the sharing and replication of best practices in community-based marine resource management

Following the approval from the donor, some changes to the work plan were made in terms of rewordings to make it more clearer and pragmatic. Indeed, CORDIO and WWF agreed to bring these changes in order to have a better and common understanding of the objectives and outcomes of the activities. These changes were put in effect in November 2023.

CORDIO has been working with implementing partners in each of the four countries, namely AIDE in Comoros, MIHARI (LMMA Network) in Madagascar, AMA in Mozambique, and Sea Sense in Tanzania. The support for identifying community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) best practices was mainly done through various co-financing (between 2021 and December 2022). Therefore, the progress is not equal across the implementing partners, as some (such as Sea Sense), had related ongoing project feeding into NoCaMo while others (such as AIDE) were only able to start activity implementation upon funds availability in December 2022. Since 2021, a total of 16 workshops at national levels have been conducted to either promote and share good CBNRM practices or directly support the adoption of effective practices identified.

Outcome 3.1. Establish a CBNRM learning network across the SWIO region

3.1.1. Map learning and training institutions and compile identified effective practice models.

This comes as a new proposed activity. Considered as a new approach, this will consist first in compiling identified effective practice models that have been listed by the different implementing partners. Then, analysis/reflection on how to scale up at the regional level will be done. This activity is expected to take place at the beginning of 2024.

To date, various activities from implementing partners will feed into this desktop review, including:

- MIHARI - Inventory and assessment of practical models for the management and governance of marine resources applied at the LMMA level: 30 LMMAs consulted (11% Madagascar's LMMAs including 57% Diana region's ones).
- AMA - 2 Local assessments of different groups in communities were carried out (Mecufe and Metugi).
- Sea Sense – Assessment of reef closures, establishment of other income for funding BMU operations, identification of fisheries bylaws application in Somanga in Kilwa District and identification of best practices in beekeeping Kibiti District.
- AIDE – A matrix of 20 effective practices was established and is being narrowed down and finalized.

3.1.2. Assess capacity building needs of the coastal communities

The targeted communities sites and their respective resource gaps will be identified. Based on this first activity, the partners will be able to develop tailored training materials. This activity will mostly take place over the two first quarters of 2024.

3.1.3. Convene a regional workshop to establish a learning network and share effective practice

models

The workshop will convene national key actors (from the intervention sites of each country) for them to discuss how best to fill gaps in terms of capacity building of coastal communities across the WIO region. Representatives from the most appropriate training institutions are expected to participate in this regional workshop. The representatives of the CSOs at national level are also expected to join the workshop.

To date, activities conducted related to learning network at national and regional level includes the following:

- MIHARI - Identified of 4 sites (2 MPAs Ankivonjy and Nosy Tany Kely and 2 LMMAs Antanamitarana and Ambatozavavy). 1 workshop conducted in the Diana region, including 3 sites, followed by 3 field visits (1 visit per site)
- CORDIO - A regional learning exchange conducted in Kwale and Kilifi counties (Kenya) for Tanzania and Mozambique teams and in Pangani District (Tanga region in Tanzania) for Kenyan teams, to gain greater understanding of successful approaches to sustainable practices and community-based initiatives in the region.
- Sea Sense - 20 coastal communities in Lindi Region have participated in the learning networks. Dissemination and discussion on good practices for fishing pattern survey in Tanzania with fishing pattern survey results disseminated in 10 villages in Tanzania. An assessment of community compliance with fisheries management plan. A learning exchange to Somanga BMU in Kilwa, Tanzania
- AIDE - 19 sites and independent supporters identified. An exchange visit to a mangrove restoration project site in Wani, Comoros; restoration site, mangrove restoration, sustainable fisheries techniques and ecotourism.
- AMA - 2 Community Coalition Partnerships (in Mecufe and Metugi) and areas for mangrove restoration identified. An exchange visit between communities who are implementing the local initiative for livelihood (i.e Bakery local initiative).

3.1.4. Establish an online portal and platform to enable access to learning material, tool kits, guides, etc. and access to a community of practice

Some implementing partners (i.e. AIDE and MIHARI) have been using their own website and media networks to promote and share CBNRM best practices at local and national levels. In order to scale this sharing platform at the regional level, discussions are ongoing to compare various options. An user-friendly platform that is accessible to community members. Some available options include SSF Hub and Panorama Solutions, though these platforms have technical requirements making them not appropriate for community members. Alternative methods for distributing educational materials include providing graphical designs and videos containing the intended message for sharing. Additionally, designing a user-friendly platform for sending updates to community members, such as through text messages, can enhance communication.

Outcome 3.2. Undertake learning activities to accelerate impact beyond project timeframe

3.2.1. Establish a shared vision of CBNRM through a shared Theory of Change

A shared vision for CBNRM in the region was co-developed by the WWF and CORDIO in 2022 during the WIOMSA Symposium week. A theory of change is being finalized and will be adopted during the planned regional learning network workshop 2024.

3.2.2. Summarise evidence to support the ToC, identify key assumptions and summarise evidence to support these

This activity will take place throughout the regional workshop.

3.2.3. Identify most promising CBNRM models and facilitate learning exchanges to learn together

The identification of the most promising CBNRM models will be conducted through a consultancy during the first quarter 2024. It will be conducted in close collaboration with the implementing partners (Sea Sense, AMA, MIHARI and AIDE). The representatives from local communities will be part of the consultation.

In Malalani Tanzania, Sea Sense conducted a training session on fisheries data collection and management. They have also supported discussions in Lindi and South Kilwa in Tanzania on issues such as illegal fishing practices, fishing licence, port construction, seaweed farming and marketing, and the role of District Fisheries Officers. As such,

- 8 out of 10 BMUs have closed a reef for fisheries management purposes.
- 6/ 9 BMUs have restored an area of mangrove forest.
- 8/10 BMUs have commenced fisheries revenue collection activities
- All 10 BMUs are using fisheries data collection forms.
- 7/10 BMUs have installed beehives.
- 3 CFMAs have been established and have joint work plans and bylaws.

IN Kenya, CORDIO supported the elaboration of a Co-Management Area Plan for Munje BMU submitted to the Kenya Fisheries Service for Munje for approval. A policy brief on enforcement and compliance in SSF is now being drafted to be shared with relevant governments as a result of a regional workshop held in Dar Es Salaam.

Furthermore, CORDIO also supported the establishment of Munje BMU octopus fisheries closure to improve livelihood and increasing areas under effective management.

Further activities will take place in the second half of 2024 based on outcomes from the regional learning network workshop.

3.2.4. Write case studies

This activity will take place in the second half of 2024 based on outcomes from the regional learning network workshop. This would be the full documentation of the case studies.

Expected PSC Decisions

1. Approval of overall progress in implementation of the NOCAMO project for 2023