



The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPPHERE)

QUARTER I PROGRESS REPORT 01 January – 31 March 2020

SECTION ONE: PROJECT OVERVIEW													
Project Number/ID: 00094555 Atlas Award ID: 00087612 Regional Launching: 16 -17 November 2017 Duration: 2017-2023	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Total resources required</td> <td>USD 326,565,994</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Co-Financing</td> <td>USD 317,799,494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEF</td> <td>USD 8,766,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governments</td> <td>USD 311,040,044</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-kind</td> <td>USD 6,759,450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Year Budget</td> <td>USD 1,467,599</td> </tr> </table>	Total resources required	USD 326,565,994	Total Co-Financing	USD 317,799,494	GEF	USD 8,766,500	Governments	USD 311,040,044	In-kind	USD 6,759,450	Current Year Budget	USD 1,467,599
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Project Name	The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPPHERE)												
Project Implementing Agency	UNDP												
Project Executing Agency	Nairobi Convention Secretariat -UN Environment												
Participating Countries	The Governments of Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania												
Report Prepared by	Sinkinesh Beyene Jimma, Project Manager/Coordinator												
Report Cleared by	Dixon Waruinge, Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat												
Reporting Period	Quarter I, 01 January – 31 March 2020												

SECTION TWO: SUMMARY

The UN Decade of Ocean Science Regional Consultation Workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was held from 27- 29 January 2020 and gathered ocean-related leaders, champions and key stakeholders, thereby facilitating regional, interdisciplinary discussions across sectors. Discussions centered around ocean science and technology; ocean policy and sustainable development; business and industry; NGOs and civil society; and donors and foundations in order to identify concrete deliverables and strengthen partnerships to meet the Decade's outcomes. Representatives of Parties to the Nairobi Convention and the SAPPHIRE project focal points were among the key participants of the consultations.

All participating countries have launched the Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA) updating process at the national level. Several countries have conducted consultation meetings, assigned National Coordinator and Chapter authors, and conducted gap analyses on the existing MEDA. MEDAs will provide each country with an updated assessment of their ecosystems within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and will be a baseline document upon which they can base their National Action Plans (NAP) for the sustainable management of marine resources.

A regional workshop on cooperation on preparedness and response to marine spills held in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 03 - 05 March 2020 is another major accomplishment of the reporting quarter. The workshop built on the progress previously made in the region with the conclusion of a regional mutual assistance agreement for cooperation and response during a spill incident and the development of a draft regional plan to implement this agreement, coordinated by the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention.

Madagascar and Seychelles organized National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC) meetings and conducted productive discussions on the MEDA update process, coordination between sectors as well as the development of demonstration projects and agreed-upon action points. In addition, IMS and KMFRI have launched their projects for oceanographic data collection and research in the Pemba channel and North Kenyan Bank, respectively, and the research work is in progress.

SECTION THREE: ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

Planned Activities for the Reporting Period	Progress on Planned Activities in the Reporting Period (01 October– 31 December 2019)	Outputs and Deliverables	Remarks (Sustainability, Delays, Additional Undertakings, Key Observations)
Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance			
<p>Outcome 1.1. Policy, legislative and institutional reforms and realignment in support of the SAP are implemented at national and regional level as appropriate, with emphasis given to strengthening and supporting existing processes and mechanisms including regional bodies (such as Conventions, Commissions, and Regional Scientific Bodies)</p> <p>1.1.1. Support organization of national level coordination and consultation meetings</p> <p>1.1.4. Support the countries in revising the national MEDAs and TDA and incorporating their findings into National Action Plans as appropriate</p>	<p>Madagascar hosted a meeting to launch the process of updating its MEDA on 11 February 2020 with key stakeholders. L'Office National pour l'Environnement de Madagascar (ONE), the lead institution of the MEDA update, presented its action plan while lead chapter authors presented a gap analysis on the existing MEDA and the required data and information. In addition, the Madagascar NICC met on 12 February to discuss progress, national initiatives related to the project such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), the design of a blue economy strategy, coastal ecosystem management, etc. The NICC highlighted the importance of the MEDA update and committed to providing the needed support to ONE for its successful completion.</p>	<p>The NICC meetings will strengthen national level coordination among partners and sectors who have the mandate and responsibility in the managements of coastal and marine ecosystems. The NICC recommendations also guide the project interventions at the national level within the project's scope and result framework.</p> <p>Additionally, Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya, Seychelles and Tanzania have advanced their MEDA update process. Accordingly, action plans, lists of Chapter Authors and gap analysis reports have been submitted.</p>	<p>There is an encouraging amount of effort at the national level in terms of improving coordination and collaboration among stakeholders and partners to address the challenges of sustainable management of ecosystem and ocean governance through policy, legislation and strategy harmonization. However, the current COVID 19 pandemic is expected to significantly affect the progress of such initiatives. The need for countries to focus on emergency and recovery activities means that implementation of various planned activities will be slowed.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, the Seychelles NICC met on 18 February 2020 and discussed project progress as well as the launching of the MEDA update process, listing key sectors and potential Chapter authors. Accordingly, the NICC tasked the National Coordinator the MEDA to lead the process with the support of the national focal point. The NICC also discussed on how to scale up existing best practices and enhance coordination between different sectors to harmonize the ongoing initiatives in marine and coastal ecosystem management.</p>		
<p>Outcome 1.3. Collaborative and cooperative mechanisms agreed and strengthened between national, regional and global partners and stakeholders 1.3.1. Support countries to participate at different appropriate coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation 1.3.2. Support consultative meetings on policy, legislative and institutional reforms and realignment in support of SAP</p>	<p>SAPPHIRE supported the participation of project focal points to participate in the UN Decade of Ocean Science Regional Consultation Workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, held from 27- 29 January 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya. The consultation focused on regional needs and priorities in terms of transforming knowledge systems; accelerating transfer of technology; enabling training and education; and fostering science-policy dialogues and thus ensure consideration of these needs in</p>	<p>The national focal points are taking leadership in coordinating and facilitating national level intersectoral coordination and dialogue for better synergy and harmonization of policies, legislations, strategies and interventions for effective and sustainable management of resources and improved ocean governance. The project is playing a vital role in catalyzing the process, both at the national and regional levels.</p>	<p>Ocean governance in the WIO region requires strong coordination and partnership. Thus, SAPPHIRE will work closely with partners and stakeholders and collaborate in the implementation of joint activities for the sustainable management of the LME.</p>

implementation at national and (regional level as appropriate)	the overall Decade preparation process. In addition, the consultations provided an opportunity to understand the regional context in ocean governance and the experience and knowledge available to support national efforts in harmonizing policies, legislations and programmes.		
Component 2. Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management			
<p>Outcome 2.1. Integrating the Ecosystem-based Management approach into existing Local Economic Development Plans (LED) at selected communities Pilot level and stress reduction demonstrated and captured for replication</p> <p>2.1.1. Technical support to communities and artisanal fisheries engagement in EBM</p> <p>2.1.2. Communities sensitized about the values of LME goods and Services</p>	<p>The demonstration project will be implemented in selected sites focusing on the integration of an ecosystem-based management approach into the local communities' economic activities, mainly the fisher communities and artisanal fisheries.</p> <p>SAPPHIRE will work in collaboration with the SWIOFC and NOCAMO projects to develop community/site selection criteria and harmonize interventions across projects.</p>	<p>Community sensitization on the value of LME goods and services will be one of the key activities of the demonstration projects. In addition, integrated artisanal fisheries management plans will be prepared for selected sites to strengthen the mainstreaming of sustainable management of artisanal and subsistence fisheries into local and national development plans</p>	<p>The demonstration projects are expected to enhance the integration of ecosystem-based management into economic activities of communities to reduce excessive exploitation of fish and other biodiversity and strengthen alternative means of livelihood. Outcomes will be used to share lessons and replicate best practices at the national and regional levels.</p>
Component 3. Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices			
<p>Outcome 3.1. Stress reduction within the LME through more effective and 'hands-on' Private Sector engagement and participation in SAP</p>	<p>In partnership with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), a private sector engagement strategy in the sustainable management of the WIO LME is under</p>	<p>SAIIA has identified the key private sectors (small to large) in the region and is preparing a survey, given that conducting consultations with stakeholders</p>	<p>The private sector/industry is one of the key actors in the management of coastal and marine resources. Thus, the private sector engagement</p>

<p>implementation and through risk reduction and contingency response mechanisms using public-private sector partnership agreements along with regional partners</p> <p>3.1.1. Develop Private sector engagement strategy</p> <p>3.1.5. Address the potential impacts of the growing oil and gas development in the region through negotiate the identification and implementation of a Regional Response Centre, which can effectively and swiftly coordinate regional responses to emergencies, with a focus on shipping (Search and Rescue) and response to oil and gas and other marine pollution incidents likely to show effects at transboundary scale.</p>	<p>preparation. The strategy will provide a framework to enhance private sector engagement in a sustainable use ecosystem through the mainstreaming of ecosystem-based management (EBM) practices in their operations to reduce stress on the WIO LME.</p> <p>SAPPHIRE, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), organized a regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 03 - 05 March 2020. A total of forty participants composed of government representatives in the sector, Nairobi Convention and project focal points and key partners, including representatives from the Benguela Current Convention(BCC), discussed and shared their experiences in the field.</p>	<p>is impossible at this time due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The workshop addressed the issue of the establishment of a regional centre for spill preparedness and response, an issue which has continued to be raised by Member States as a priority need for the region. In addition, participants enhanced their knowledge and understanding on the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC HNS Protocol and on the benefits of regional cooperation and coordination in preparing for and responding to marine spills. They also made further progress towards a sustainable regional approach in this field.</p>	<p>strategy will help to establish strong partnerships between industries and the various regional players responsible for SAP implementation and stress reduction in WIO LME.</p> <p>SAPPHIRE will support the coordination of the implementation of the Agreement on the Regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness for and Response to major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Western Indian Ocean.</p>
<p>Component 4. Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative ocean governance demonstration</p>			
<p>Outcome 4.1. Identifying innovative management options for High Seas areas within LMEs</p>	<p>KMFRI and IMS have launched their projects on oceanographic data collection and research in the North Kenya Bank and Pemba channel of</p>	<p>The research by IMS and KMFRI will fill the gap in oceanographic data in the Northern Kenya Bank and Pemba channel of Tanzania,</p>	<p>Strengthening national data centers and research institutions to collect, analyze, and inform the formulation of</p>

<p>4.1.1. Strengthening the Science-Policy interface through support to Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in developing an evidence based decision-making process</p> <p>4.1.2. Support countries in the realignment of the sectoral ocean management process to a coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach</p>	<p>Tanzania, respectively. Expeditions have been conducted and data collected. Joint workshop on oceanographic research was planned to be held from 16 - 17 April 2020 with the objective of sharing preliminary reach findings to stakeholders and enhance collaboration between the institutions.</p> <p>Mozambique is planning to organize a national workshop to bring together key stakeholders and partners for the realignment of ocean policy to the existing national processes</p>	<p>which have great relevance in the development of policies and programmes that support the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the larger LME.</p> <p>This will facilitate the realignment of the ocean management process from a sectoral approach to one that is coordinated and sustainable across sectors.</p>	<p>policy and decision-making process will improve ocean governance and enhance the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. It will also improve cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination.</p>
<p>Component 5. Capacity Development to Realize improved ocean governance in the WIO region</p>			
<p>Outcome 5.1. Capacity for improved Ocean Governance strengthened through training and support</p> <p>5.1.1. Capacity building support for update of MEDA/TDA and development of regional SAP including write shops, consultation and validation workshops</p> <p>5.1.2. Support for countries to attend the IOI Ocean Governance training course and leadership renewal workshop</p>	<p>In partnership with CEDARE, national data center managers are working on county profiling and data management. Capacity building training organized for the data managers on data analysis, management and visualization that was planned to take place from 16- 18 March is postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.</p> <p>A partnership has been established with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) to jointly deliver ocean</p>	<p>CEDARE has prepared country profiles for all participating countries, which have been shared with data managers to review and identify the data required for the update of the MEDA.</p> <p>A concept note was developed and shared with IOI and technical discussions were conducted on the logistics, course content, participants and cost sharing details.</p>	<p>The SAPPHERE project recognizes the importance of capacity building to enhance local initiatives as well as take full advantage of women’s unique viewpoints and contributions. Accordingly, the project activities will continue to support countries’ efforts in harmonizing and reforming policies and institutions to advance ocean governance, the blue economy, and beyond.</p>

	governance training for WIO experts and decision makers with the objective of enhancing national and regional capacities that support ocean governance. The training is now planned for September 2020.		
Project Management/Staffing	Following the resignation of the Project Assistant, an advertisement for her replacement has been posted. SAPPHIRE project implementation is supported by the NCS team and through innovative joint planning and delivery that enhance efficiency and cost effectiveness	Collaboration and project coordination will be enhanced through the harmonization of the implementation of joint thematic areas with the WIOSAP and other supporting projects under execution by the Secretariat.	-
Recruitment of additional technical staff	-	-	-

SECTION FOUR: INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT & PROJECT PARTNERSHIP ISSUES

In partnership with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), the SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects have commenced the designing of the WIO ecosystem monitoring framework. In addition, the partnership with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) has been strengthened for collaboration on national level capacity building on MSP and the blue economy. At the Secretariat level, harmonization of crosscutting activities under different projects has been given due emphasis and activities jointly planned and executed to enhance cost effectiveness and deliver substantive results. Furthermore, the project is working to support regional efforts to control marine oil spill and emergency response activities in collaboration with IMO and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). SAPPHIRE is working in collaboration with IOI to enhance national and regional capacity and expertise in ocean governance and the sustainable management of resources. Additionally, partnerships have been strengthened with national stakeholders, NGOs and RECs to enhance the involvement of such stakeholders in the implementation of the SAP and the delivery of their mandates through the provision of capacity building support.

SECTION FIVE: OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The UN Decade of Ocean Science Regional Consultation Workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States provided a stage for various stakeholders to meet and discuss regional priorities and key areas of concern that must be addressed if the Decades' objectives are to be achieved.

The participants of the regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills in Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean, held from 3 - 5 March 2020, agreed on a series of recommendations and actions that should be taken to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement on the *Regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Western Indian Ocean* and strengthen effective regional cooperation.

The launching of MEDA update process in all participating countries has provided an opportunity for different sectors to collaborate and work together. The MEDA gap analysis identified the required data and information to update the MEDAs and note the changes that have occurred in all sectors and coastal and marine ecosystem. In addition, the scope of the MEDAs will be expanded to include assessments of land-based sources of pollution, i.e. issues addressed by SAPPHIRE's sister project, WIOSAP. This will enable countries to have their first-ever "Ridge to Reef" assessment of their marine ecosystems. Accordingly, the findings will be fed into a new regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), which will prioritize areas of concern that can be addressed through a merged Strategic Action Programme (SAP). Above all, the leadership and ownership of the project by the national focal points and institutions is one the major factors that facilitate the smooth implementation of the project and sustainability of results.

SECTION SIX: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Project performance will be monitored regularly at the national and regional levels. Accordingly, at the NICC meetings held in Madagascar and Seychelles in February, project progress was reviewed. Quarterly, annual and PIR reporting—as well as midterm and terminal evaluations—will be conducted to measure periodic project progress and results. The PSC will meet annually to review project progress, provide recommendations, and find joint solutions as problems arise during project implementation.

SECTION SEVEN: COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND ADVOCACY

In the reporting quarter, the project webpage has been updated with recent project progress. An assessment report on oceanographic research and data management in the WIO region was one of the most viewed knowledge products during the reporting period. In addition, quarterly updates and a newsletter on major events have been shared for awareness-raising purposes. Moreover, wider coverage on social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, provided an opportunity to reach the larger public.

SECTION EIGHT: RISKS, ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Below are some of project activities that had been planned to be accomplished in Q1 and Q2, but will be postponed due to the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The postponement will significantly affect the implementation of activities planned for Q3 and Q4, since most of the activities are sequential.

- **A capacity building training for national data managers and MEDA coordinators** was planned to take place from 15 - 18 March 2020. The delay will affect the MEDA update activities initiated at the national level as well as the completion of CEDARE's work on the country profile, capacity building on data management, and visualization on the Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM).
- **A workshop on oceanographic research in Northern Kenya Bank and the Pemba channel of Tanzania** was planned to be held from 16 - 17 April 2020. This will significantly affect the field work (i.e. expeditions for data collection) and stakeholder consultations, which in turn affects timely completion of the oceanographic research work.
- **A regional workshop on Blue Economy and ocean governance, 27- 29 April 2020:** the delay of this workshop will impact the planned engagement with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the development of the regional ocean governance strategy and the IGAD and SADC blue economy and climate change strategies.
- **MEDA update process in all participating countries:** the process has been launched in most countries but is currently on hold as a result of the lockdowns related to the pandemic. This will result in the delay of the finalization of the MEDA updates. This in turn affects the revision of the TDA and merger of the two SAPs, which had been planned to be finalized by the end of 2020.
- **NICC meeting in Kenya in April 2020:** this will delay the development of the demonstration project proposals. The NICC was expected to discuss and decide on the proposal review process and the selection of the leading institution.
- **NICC meeting in Mauritius on 05 - 06 May 2020:** this has an impact on the MEDA update process
- **NICC meeting in Comoros on 19 - 20 May 2020:** this will delay the development of the demonstration project and the MEDA update.
- **National ocean policy review meeting in Mozambique in April 2020:** this will delay the planned policy revision, establishment of a multisectoral working group and capacity building activities.
- **Development of a private sector engagement strategy:** the process is being slowed down as stakeholder consultations can't take place at this time. They were originally planned to be completed in July 2020. This will delay the planned regional workshop on private sector engagement in EBM in the WIO region.
- Planning and organizing activities are on hold for the **annual PSC meeting, joint Science to policy workshop as well as the training on enhancing leadership for SAP implementation** that were planned to take place in August 2020.
- In addition, because all UN staff at Nairobi duty station are telecommuting, some activities such as approvals may take time even if all possible mechanisms are put in place. Overall, this will slow down the transfer of funds and utilization of budgets, in addition to the accomplishment of planned activities.

SECTION NINE: COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT

A partnership has been established with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) to develop a private sector engagement strategy for the sustainable management of the WIO LME. The strategy is expected to provide a framework that enhances private sector engagement in LME management and recommendations to promote mainstreaming of EBM practices in their operations to reduce stress on the WIO LMEs.

In addition, in collaboration with the International Ocean Institution (IOI), Cape Town, South Africa, a regional training on ocean governance is under preparation with the objective of building expertise on ocean governance in the WIO region. The course focuses on the WIO region and emphasizes the benefits of harmonizing ocean policies to promote a shared, integrated and common approach for sustainable LME management.

SECTION TEN: NEXT STEPS AND KEY PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR SUBSEQUENT QUARTER

The major focus in the second quarter of 2020 will be:

Component 1. The project will continue to support national level coordination and consultation meetings. Support will also be provided the countries in revising the national MEDAs and incorporating their findings into National Action Plans as appropriate. In addition, support will be provided for the preparation of demonstration projects, the review of national policy, legislative and institutional reforms, and the facilitation of realignment in support of SAP implementation. Support will continue to be provided for the development of the regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Strategy for the WIO region. The project will further support countries to participate at different appropriate coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation. A consultation workshop will be organized with IGOs (RECs and AU and others) on ocean governance and the blue economy to support the implementation of the SAP in the WIO region.

Component 2. The project will support the development of demonstration projects on community-led Ecosystem Based Management integration into local economic activities and coastal and marine resources management. Communities will be sensitized about the value of LME goods and services.

Component 3. The project will continue its partnership with SAIIA to develop the private sector engagement strategy to support the coordination of private sector/industry participation in EBM and the organization of a regional public private partnership (PPP) consultation workshop.

Component 4. Technical support will be provided to countries in the realignment of the ocean management process from a sectoral approach to one that is coordinated and sustainable across sectors. Work to strengthen the Science-Policy interface through support to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in developing an evidence based decision-making process will continue.

Component 5. Capacity building support will be provided for the updating of the MEDA/TDA and the development of a regional SAP, including through write shops, consultations and validation workshops. The project will also support countries to organize trainings on MSP for national experts and develop demonstration projects proposals.