



**The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPPHIRE)**

**QUARTER I PROGRESS REPORT**

**01 January 2021 – 31 March 2021**

Expected Outcome	Planned Activities	Progress	Remarks
<b>Component 1: Supporting Policy Harmonization and Management Reforms towards improved ocean governance</b>	<b>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). Coordination and management mechanism are strengthened at both national and regional levels</b>		
	1.1.1. Support organization of national level coordination and consultation meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to travel restrictions caused by COVID -19, Focal points and other stakeholders have been encouraged to participate in or organize virtual consultation meetings</li> </ul>	No face to face meetings held in Q1
	1.1.2. Organize annual Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Project Focal Points participated in an Ad-hoc Third SAPPHIRE Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 16 March 2021. The meeting had been requested during the second PSC meeting held on 26 November 2020. The main objective of the third PSC meeting was to: i) review the project progress from the fourth quarter of 2020, ii) discuss and approve the workplan and budget for 2021, iii) discuss the overall project timelines, and iv) discuss the timing of the mid-term review.</li> </ul>	Due to the prevailing COVID -19 restrictions, the meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams

	<p>1.1.3. Support annual WIO Regional Science to Policy forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The SAPPHIRE project, in collaboration with other Nairobi Convention projects, organized the Regional Science to Policy Dialogue from 23 – 25 March 2021. The theme of the meeting was ‘Transition to a Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Blue Economy: Addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities’. The objective of the meeting was to: (i) discuss papers on topical emerging scientific findings with potential policy implications for the management of coastal and marine resources in the region, and (ii) promote engagement and networking among stakeholders engaged in the protection, management and development of marine and coastal resources in the WIO.</li> <li>- The meeting attracted approximately 130 participants who discussed 33 papers covering a range of topics on conservation and management of the WIO resources.</li> <li>- The outputs of the meeting will be discussed at a Focal Points meeting before they are formulated into decisions to be presented for adoption at the Conference of Parties scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021</li> </ul>	<p>This activity is a joint initiative by the countries supported by several of the projects of the Nairobi Convention.</p>
	<p>1.1.4. Support the countries in revising the national MEDAs and incorporating their findings into National Action Plans as appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The process of updating the Marine Ecosystems Diagnostic Analysis is ongoing in all project countries except Somalia, where a small-scale funding agreement is being formulated to support the process.</li> <li>- Several countries, including Kenya, Madagascar (French), Mauritius and Seychelles have submitted the first draft of the MEDA for review.</li> <li>- The draft MEDA reports will be reviewed by regional experts under the Nairobi Convention’s Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI), the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C, “the Consortium”) and other technical experts.</li> <li>- Other countries, including Comoros, South Africa and Tanzania have reported good progress, while the progress in Mozambique is quite slow.</li> <li>- The Project Management Unit worked with the National MEDA Coordinators to extend the timelines for delivery of the MEDA reports since most of the activities, especially hosting stakeholder consultation meetings, were delayed due to the restrictions imposed to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.</li> </ul>	<p>MEDA updates are ongoing with most expected to be completed by mid-2021</p>
	<p>1.1.5. Support the update of ASCLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The update and merger of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities and ASCLME/SWIOFP TDA and development of a single SAP for WIO region is in progress</li> </ul>	<p>This activity is a joint initiative by the countries</p>

development of the next SAP for WIO region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussions have been held with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to lead the process of reviewing the MEDAs, and drawing on these to inform the process of TDA and SAP development.</li> <li>- National updated MEDAs will be the main input to the TDA update process</li> </ul>	supported by several of the projects of the Nairobi Convention.
1.1.6. <b>Demonstration Projects:</b> on review of national policy, legislative and institutional reforms and facilitate realignment in support of SAP implementation	<b>South Africa:</b> The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) has developed and submitted a project entitled <i>Support for a coordinated ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach in South Africa</i> . The project was reviewed and a project cooperation agreement (PCA) developed. Discussions are ongoing on the how the PCA will be managed to ensure smooth implementation.	This activity is shared between Component 1 and Component 4.
<b>Outcome 1.2: Technical and institutional capacity developed to deliver Knowledge-Based Governance approaches by delivering scientific results to management and policy makers for adaptive management decision-making</b>		
1.2.1. Conduct assessment and develop regional Ecosystem Monitoring indicators and framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of a Regional Ecosystem Monitoring Framework is in progress in collaboration with WIOMSA and Rhodes University of South Africa. The first draft of the Regional ecosystem monitoring framework was presented at the regional science – policy dialogue for review and comments. The partner is expected to address comments arising from the science to policy dialogue before submitting the final draft, after which a final round of regional inputs will be invited as part of the process of endorsement.</li> </ul>	Joint initiative between several NC projects.
1.2.2. Develop Regional Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Strategy for WIO region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of a Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Strategy for the WIO region is in progress led by Nelson Mandela University with active involvement of the regional MSP Technical Working Group</li> <li>- The draft MSP Strategy was presented at the regional science – policy dialogue for further review and comments. The partner will update the draft strategy with inputs from the science – policy dialogue and submit a final draft, after which a final round of regional inputs will be invited as part of the process of endorsement.</li> <li>- The partner is working on a policy brief to inform discussion on MSP at the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties due end April 2021</li> </ul>	Joint initiative between several NC projects.

	1.2.3. Support pilot studies on ecosystem goods and services and deliver cost-benefit analyses at both national and regional level (including relevant financial mechanisms such as PES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects executed by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, including the SAPPHIRE project, are supporting an ‘Economic valuation and development of potential investment opportunities for the Trans-Boundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania’, to be led by Prime Africa Institute and Lloyd Capital Limited</li> <li>- The small-scale funding agreements to support the activity are being developed.</li> </ul>	Joint initiative between several NC projects
<b>Outcome 1.3. Collaborative and cooperative mechanisms agreed and strengthened between national, regional and global partners and stakeholders</b>			
	1.3.1. Support countries to participate at different appropriate coordination meetings in the interests of SAP implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to travel restriction caused by COVID, Focal points have been encouraged/invited to participate in various virtual workshops and meetings</li> </ul>	Several regional meetings are planned for 2021
	1.3.2. Organize a consultation workshop with IGOs (RECs and AU and others) on ocean governance and blue economy to support the implementation of SAP in the WIO region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A meeting of the AU, RECs and key partners has been scheduled for 26 April 2021 to further the discussion on developing a Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO)</li> <li>- In addition to Ocean Governance, SAPPHIRE will engage with RECs and support the RECs initiatives on blue economy, climate change adaptation, etc.</li> </ul>	Further engagement of the RECS will occur during 2021 to prepare Ocean Governance Strategy by 2022.
	1.3.3. Knowledge and communication products prepared and disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Led by our communication team, various communication materials were prepared and shared to promote the activities listed here, including newsletters and news bites on social media.</li> </ul>	
<b>Outcome 2.1. Integrating the Ecosystem-based Management approach into existing Local Economic Development Plans at selected communities Pilot level and stress reduction demonstrated and captured for replication</b>			
<b>Component 2</b>	2.1.1. Communities sensitized about the values of LME goods and services	Technical support has been provided to participating countries to develop <b>demonstration project</b> proposals that strengthen communities and artisanal fisheries engagement in ecosystem-based management (EBM) through sensitizing the communities about the	

<p><b>Stress Reduction through Community Engagement and Empowerment in Sustainable Resources Management</b></p>	<p>2.1.2. Support demonstration projects on community led Ecosystem Based Management integrated in local economic activities and coastal and marine resources management</p>	<p>values of ecosystem goods and services and enhancing their engagement in livelihood-improving initiatives</p> <p><b>Comoros</b>  <b>Strengthen sectoral policy and co-management of natural resources for better conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Union of the Comoros</b>  C-1. supports fisheries sector policy and C-2 community engagement in conservation and protection of marine resources (fisheries) as well as alternative economic activities. The small-scale funding agreement (SSFA) to support implementation of the project was developed and the first instalment of USD 60,000 disbursed to the Directorate General of Fisheries Resources – Comoros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The partner has submitted the first set of progress reports (French version) on activities towards improving fisheries governance, sustainable fishing, and introduction of income generating activities.</li> <li>- The partner highlighted that the project has been delayed by restrictions imposed to control spread of the COVID – 19 virus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kenya</b>  <b>Kenya Wildlife Service: Climate-Smart Design for Diani-Chale Marine Ecosystem management and Improved Livelihoods of the Coastal Communities</b> – This project focuses on community engagement in the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, innovative fisheries management plans, and co-management structures. The project proposal was presented to the project Focal Points during the third Project Steering Committee meeting. It will be shared with the Focal Points for review and approval.</p> <p><b>Madagascar:</b>  The government requested technical support for the Ministry of Fisheries to develop a full demonstration project proposal. A consultant was thus hired and developed a project entitled '<i>Local governance of fishing resources in ten villages from the Sofia Region, Madagascar: The case of the mangrove crab, Scylla serrata</i>'. The project proposal was presented to the project Focal Points during the third Project Steering Committee meeting. It will be shared with the Focal Points for review and approval.</p>	
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<p><b>Outcome 2.2. Stress reduction through ecosystem-based practices among artisanal and subsistence fisheries</b></p>			
	<p>2.2.1. Support in piloting EBM in small-scale fishing communities  2.2.2. Artisanal Fisheries Management Plans developed and adopted at four small-scale fishing community sites to demonstrate best practices in stress reduction in the small-scale fisheries sector</p>	<p><b>Comoros:</b> Develop legislation and regulations on fisheries and other marine resources management, capacity building on surveillance and implementation of the regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of the project is ongoing. The partner submitted the first set of deliverables, including a report titled ‘Evaluation of the Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Comorian Fisheries’ and a report on the introduction of alternative income-generating activities in fishing communities among others.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kenya: Kenya Wildlife Service:</b> Climate-Smart Design for Diani-Chale Marine Ecosystem management and Improved Livelihoods of the Coastal Communities: This project focuses on community engagement in the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, innovative fisheries management plans, and co-management structures.</p> <p><b>Madagascar:</b> The government requested technical support for the Ministry of Fisheries to develop a full demonstration project proposal. A consultant was thus hired and developed a project entitled ‘<i>Local governance of fishing resources in ten villages from the Sofia Region, Madagascar: The case of the mangrove crab, Scylla serrata</i>’.</p> <p><b>Tanzania</b></p> <p>a) Strengthening community-based EBM approaches in Subsistence and Small-Scale Artisanal Fisheries for Sustainable livelihoods and Management of Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA), Zanzibar, Tanzania: The project was reviewed and approved by the PMU and PSC, giving it a green light to proceed to the small-scale funding agreement development stage. The small-scale funding agreement has been developed and shared with the partner for review.</p> <p>b) Strengthening community participation in management of the fisheries resources in coastal areas of Tanzania - mainland Tanzania Fisheries Department. The partner will submit the proposal to the PMU for review.</p>	<p>These activities are closely linked and contribute to Outcome 2.1 above</p>

<b>Component 3 Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices</b>	<b>Outcome 3.1. Stress reduction within the LME through more effective and 'hands-on' Private Sector engagement and participation in SAP implementation and through risk reduction and contingency response mechanisms using public-private sector partnership agreements along with regional partners</b>		
	3.1.1. Develop Private-Public Sector Partnerships strategy	- The draft Framework for Private Sector Engagement was submitted to the PMU and presented at the Science – Policy Dialogue for further input and comments before finalization after which it is planned to publish the document through the Secretariat.	
	3.1.2. Support organization of workshop on public private partnership in Ecosystem Based Management	- Planning is in progress to work with partners and in particular the western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) Project (a partnership between GIZ and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat) to hold a series of workshops during 2021 to further the aims of a multi-stakeholder initiative and potentially facilitate the development of a Blue Economy Platform as recommended in the Framework above. This initiative will be an important contributor to private sector engagement in the region.	These activities will be prioritized for 2021
	3.1.3. Address the potential impacts of the growing oil and gas development in the region through negotiation, 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. National plans support this regional activity	- Discussions are ongoing with IOC and IMO to collaborate in the implementation of actions and the way forward agreed to at the regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills, which took place in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 03 - 05 March 2020 - The PMU shared a template with participating countries to share contact persons and addresses for future engagement. Responses have been received from Comoros, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia and Zanzibar. - The first meeting on implementation of the action and way forward agreed to at the Zanzibar regional workshop has been scheduled for 05 May 2021.	This is a key priority for 2021, as it has been held back significantly by the Covid-19 pandemic.
<b>Component 4 Delivering best practices and lessons through innovative</b>	<b>Outcome 4.1. Identifying innovative management options for High Seas areas within LMEs</b>		
	4.1.1. Technical support countries in the realignment of the sectoral ocean management process to a	- Comoros –The Directorate General of Fisheries Resources in Comoros is implementing a demonstration project titled “strengthening sectoral policy and co-management of natural resources for better conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in within	

<p><b>ocean governance demonstration</b></p>	<p>coordinated sectoral ocean and coastal ecosystem management approach</p>	<p>the Union of the Comoros”. The project is aimed at improving management of the Comorian fisheries sector through improved conservation of the marine ecosystem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The partner has undertaken evaluation of the national fishing strategy implemented since 2004 and consultation work is in progress towards developing a new sectoral fisheries policy though the process has been hindered by restriction imposed to control spread of the COVID – 19 virus.</li> <li>- Madagascar – The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Madagascar is implementing a demonstration project entitled “National consultation for Madagascar priorities on ocean governance, sustainable development and management for marine ecosystem” and “Updating the National Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses”. The project is aimed at policy harmonization and institutional reform at national level as well as update the MEDA for Madagascar. The partner has reported that national consultation workshops have been organized with relevant stakeholders to identify priorities for Marine Ecosystem Management and ocean governance in the country. Consultations with local community organizations will be organized upon lifting of COVID – 19 restrictions.</li> <li>- The partner has submitted a draft updated MEDA to the project coordination unit for review.</li> <li>- The project coordination unit has extended the project to 31 August 2021 to allow the partner to accomplish the pending activities</li> <li>- Mozambique – The Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries in Mozambique is implementing a demonstration project on Enhancing National Level Policy Harmonization and Institutional reforms to implement SAPPHIRE and SAP for improved ocean governance. A small scale funding agreement for the project has been signed and the first instalment disbursed to the partner.</li> <li>- South Africa - Demonstration project on <b><i>Coordinated sectoral Ocean and Coastal ecosystem management approach in South Africa</i></b> – the project has been accepted and a PCA developed for its implementation</li> </ul>	<p>Some of these activities are shared between C1 and C4</p>
	<p>4.1.2. Strengthening the Science-Policy interface through support to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support scientific research and capacity building initiatives for improved ocean governance and adaptive management:</li> <li>- Kenya – The work on oceanographic research is led by the Kenya Marine and Fisheries research institute. The partner has undertaken cruises at the North Kenya Banks to collect biotic and abiotic data which will be analysed and a publication developed. The</li> </ul>	



	developing an evidence based decision-making process	<p>research work will inform a policy brief to inform ocean policy task forces, water management authorities and other national/ environmental and marine policy bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to delays caused by COVID – 19 restrictions, the project will be extended to 30 November 2021 to allow the partner to accomplish the planned activities.</li> <li>- Tanzania - The work on oceanographic research is led by the Institute of Marine Sciences. The partner has analyzed oceanographic data from the Agulhas II cruise as well as data collected between Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar Island during North and South East Monsoon periods. The partner will use the data to develop publications and a policy brief on mainstreaming oceanographic data in management of coastal and marine ecosystems. Due to delays caused by COVID – 19 restrictions, the project will be extended to 31 August 2021 to allow the partner to accomplish the planned activities.</li> <li>- During the Science-to-Policy dialogue held from 23 – 25 March 2021, 33 papers on issues of importance in the WIO region, ranging from Ocean Governance and Ocean Finance to Ecosystem Management and the role of private sector in management of ocean resources, among others, were discussed.</li> </ul>	
	4.1.3. Organize workshop for key stakeholders on ABNJ and Contiguous Adjacent High Seas Areas (CAHSA) on management and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This activity was postponed to 2021 due to COVID 19. This is expected to be supported by a background paper highlighting issues that are relevant to regional Ocean Governance. Scheduled for completion by July 2021.</li> </ul>	This is a key activity for 2021 as it will feed into regional Ocean Governance dialogues.
<b>Outcome 4.2. Demonstrating innovative management options within specific marine space within the WIO LME</b>			
	4.2.1. Demonstrating Marine Spatial Planning within a Blue Economy framework in selected areas within participating countries for further replication and transfer of lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support a Kenya Blue Economy sector study, led by the University of Nairobi, and develop a National Blue Economy Policy</li> <li>- Tanzania - develop a stocktaking sectoral analysis and assessment on integrated Ocean Governance/Blue Economy. This proposal was still under review by the end of the reporting period.</li> </ul>	These activities have been slowed down due to Covid-19 and an extension has been processed for the Kenyan study

	4.2.2. Assist in the development of knowledge products, adaptive management guidelines and policy briefings related to changes in ecosystem balance and climatic variability, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comoros – fisheries sector policy</li> <li>- Madagascar – policies related to environment and ocean</li> <li>- Mozambique – ocean policy</li> <li>- Kenya and Tanzania – blue economy sector assessment</li> </ul>	This activity is closely linked to Activity 4.1.1 above.
<b>Component 5 Capacity Development to Realize improved ocean governance in the WIO region</b>	<b>Outcome 5.1. Capacity for improved Ocean Governance strengthened through training and support</b>		
	5.1.1. Support leadership capacity building in ocean governance and sustainable resources management at national and regional level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phase 3 of the Advanced Leadership Workshop for Senior Leaders, Officials and Policy Makers (Women) in Marine Policy and Ocean Governance has been scheduled for quarter four of 2021. During the reporting period assistance has been provided for the establishment of a WIO Regional Women’s Leaders Network to be launched in April 2021.</li> </ul>	A third follow-up training workshop is planned for late 2021.
	5.1.2. Capacity building support for update of MEDA/TDA and development of regional SAP including write shops, consultation and validation workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Center for Environment and Development for Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) will provide training for National Data Managers on platform administration, management, developing country profiles, change detection and visualization.</li> <li>- Virtual technical support provided.</li> </ul>	Training postponed due to COVID-19 and is prioritized for 2021.
	5.1.3. Support countries to organize training on MSP for national experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be delivered as part of national capacity building following the development and finalization of the Regional MSP Strategy.</li> </ul>	This is expected in the second half of 2021.
	5.1.4. Expert to support countries in developing demonstration projects proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Madagascar, a consultant was hired and delivered a proposal on project entitled ‘Local governance of fishing resources in ten villages from the Sofia Region, Madagascar: The case of the mangrove crab, <i>Scylla serrata</i>’.</li> <li>- Technical support has been offered to Mozambique to further develop the demonstration project proposal under Component 2 on Mussel Aquaculture on the island of Inhaca.</li> </ul>	Draft proposal from Madagascar consultant received for review in December 2020 and has subsequently been approved

			at a national level.
	5.1.5. Support for countries to attend the IOI Ocean Governance training course	- Postponed to 2021 due to COVID 19. Discussions have been held with International Ocean Institute to adapt the virtual training that they have developed to be more relevant to the WIO region.	This is now scheduled for August 2021 to include a maximum of 25 participants.