

WIOSAP Project Focal Points members meeting

Date: Tuesday 08 September 2020

Venue: Microsoft Teams (10h00 – 11h30 EAT)

Report of the Meeting

WIOSAP Focal Points

1. Mr. Ismael Bachirou (Comoros)
2. Mr. Ambadi Issouf (Comoros)
3. Mr. Stephen Katua (Kenya)
4. Mr. Jacques Rasoanaina (Madagascar)
5. Mr. Alexandre Bartolomeu (Mozambique)
6. Ms. Sidonia Muhorro (Mozambique)
7. Ms. Nanette Laure (Seychelles)
8. Mr. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed (Somalia)
9. Dr. Aboud Jumbe (Tanzania)

Secretariat Staff

1. Mr. Jared Bosire
2. Mr. Timothy Andrew
3. Ms. Angela Patnode
4. Mr. Theuri Mwangi
5. Ms. Marlyn Omondi
6. Ms. Caroline Bii
7. Mr. Bonface Mutisya
8. Mr. William Obote

Introduction

The project on Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for protection of the Western Indian ocean from land -based sources and activities' (WIOSAP) is implemented by governments of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region through national Project Focal Points who chair their National Implementation Committees (NIC) in the respective countries who are also members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which give approval for all project activities, deliverables, workplans and budgets.

The meeting of WIOSAP project focal points sought to: (i) share progress that the project has made in terms of implementation, (ii) highlight the launch of major project outputs where the support of the focal points will be needed, and (iii) discussion on co-financing commitments. The expected outcomes of the meeting were to: (i) appreciate progress in project implementation made so far, (ii) appreciate the next steps in implementation, (iii) highlight key project deliverables requiring technical support of the project focal points, and (iv) undertaking by Project FPs to submit documentation of co-financing commitments in the project.

Welcome Remarks.

- a) Jared Bosire, the WIOSAP Project Manager, welcomed the WIOSAP national Project Focal Points to the meeting noting with appreciation the great support provided by the Focal Points in implementation of the project activities at national and regional level.

- b) The agenda for the meeting was presented and adopted with no changes.

WIOSAP Project Progress in Implementation

- a) The presentation on WIOSAP project progress since September 2019 highlighted to the following:

Component A: Sustainable management of critical habitats

- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) training for delegates from the government of Somalia held in November 2019. The major outcome of the training: the government of Somalia seeks to develop a common roadmap on MSP and carry out stock taking of current state and river basin management of the Jubba-Shebelle river basin. The work will be supported by WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE project of the Nairobi Convention.
- Development of Marine Protected Areas Outlook (being development by the Nairobi Convention in collaboration with Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and is expected to be launched in November 2020) and Critical habitats outlook whose development is in progress.
- Development of Ecosystem restoration guidelines - Mangrove restoration guidelines which were launched and Seagrass restoration guidelines which have been completed. the two guidelines are expected to contribute to the UN Decade of Ecosystem restoration. Other guidelines that have been developed include the guidelines on Economic Valuation for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region which shall be applied in the undertaking of economic valuation for the Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania, and the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) toolkit being used to assess vulnerability of mangroves to climate change in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar.
- 11 national demonstration projects approved by the WIOSAP Project Steering Committee (PSC) looking at various thematic areas including spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, development of management plans, alternative livelihoods, assessment of blue carbon potential, and demonstration of Integrated coastal Zone management (ICZM). The demos are at various stages of implementation.

Component B: Improved water quality

- Regional Training workshop on the use of Constructed Wetland Technology for wastewater treatment held in October 2019 - Recommendations from the training include the review of regional manuals on constructed wetlands, development of case studies publication on constructed wetlands for shared learning, and technical exchange in the implementation of demonstration projects on constructed wetlands.
- 6 Demonstration project approved by WIOSAP PSC focusing on the following thematic areas: constructed wetlands for water quality improvement, strengthening of regulatory frameworks for water quality, and marine litter management. The demos are at various stages of implementation.

Component C: Sustainable management of river flows

- Development of guideline on Environment Flows Assessment (EFA) – the guidelines are completed and will soon be launched in readiness for adoption and implementation. The EFA guidelines will be hosted by Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).
- EFA training for senior managers from water management authorities in the WIO region held in Nov 2019 and hosted by the government of the Republic of South Africa- Recommendations from the training were: the need for extended capacity development beyond the workshop, the need for establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) on EFA, and the need to produce a regional case studies report on EFA for shared learning.

Component D: Governance and Regional Collaboration

- WIO regional ocean governance workshop held in September 2019 – to initiate the process of development of an ocean governance strategy for the WIO region.
- Meeting of the Consortium of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) held in September 2019 - to strengthen collaboration with non- governmental organizations in the Consortium to address various coastal and marine issues in the WIO region
- Nairobi Convention focal points meeting held in September 2019 – updates were provided to the Focal Points on progress made in implementation of the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects.
- 11th WIOMSA Symposium held in July 2019 – WIOSAP project supported a special session on ocean governance, special session on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and a mini-symposium on regional ecosystem restoration.
- Finalization of the negotiations on the text of the ICZM Protocol for the WIO region in March 2019 – WIOSAP project supported the process and the Protocol is awaiting adoption by the Nairobi Convention contracting parties through a Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
- Establishment and strengthening of partnerships- Under the Convention, the WIOSAP project has established partnerships with various institutions within and outside the WIO region including: Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Maritime Technology Cooperation Center (MTCC), Macquarie University – Australia, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), WIO Mangrove Networks, Sokoine University of Agriculture among others.
- Sustainability of the WIOSAP project through development of two pipeline projects including: (i) Partnership project for marine and coastal governance and fisheries management for sustainable blue growth in the WIO region funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and implemented in collaboration with South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and (ii) Partnership project on Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries capacity building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) funded by European Union. A third project is currently being developed targeting Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding.
- Improvement of the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM) – currently revamping and updating information in the CHM and finalizing the MPA dashboard for the WIO region which will be hosted within the CHM.
- Formalization of the structure of the WIO regional Science-Policy Platform which bring together regional technical experts and policy makers to ensure that management and policy decisions are informed by scientific evidence.

b) The discussions following the presentation were as follows:

- i. It was noted that there is need for amendment of the end dates of national projects under the SSFAs due to the restrictions resulting from COVID which have slowed down implementation of the projects thus necessitating extension of timelines for completion of the project activities.
- ii. A template has been sent to all partners implementing demonstration projects in the countries to document the specific impacts of COVID 19 on project implementation. Official extension of timelines for implementation will be given following approval by the WIOSAP PSC which is expected to be convened towards the end of 2020, and formal approval of the extension by UNEP and GEF.
- iii. The ICZM Protocol whose negotiations were completed in March 2020, will be adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries which will be held before the 10th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention. The text of the Protocol will be circulated to the countries two months before the conference for any comments.

Regional Frameworks and Strategies under development by the Nairobi Convention

- a) Tim Andrew presented on the frameworks and strategies under development by the Nairobi Convention highlighting the following:
 - i. The strategies and guidelines under development to which WIOSAP project is contributing which will require strong engagement of the Focal Points, Regional Task Forces and other technical working groups of the Nairobi Convention to ensure that documents are technically validated and are owned by countries. These include:
 - Regional ecosystem indicator monitoring framework
 - Regional water quality monitoring framework
 - Regional marine spatial planning strategy
 - Regional ocean governance strategy
 - Economic valuation of the Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) between Kenya and Tanzania.
 - ii. Nairobi Convention Work Programme focus areas including: (i) Assessments and capacity development, (ii) management, (iii) coordination and legal aspects, and (iv) information and awareness.
 - iii. Project of the Nairobi Convention supporting the implementation of the Work Programme: WIOSAP project, SAPPHIRE project, SWIOFC/Nairobi Convention partnership project, EU-MEAs project, Northern Mozambique Channel (NoCaMo) project and GIZ/ Nairobi Convention ocean governance project.
 - iv. Broad thematic areas under which the projects under the Convention work: Marine Spatial Planning; data and information management; valuation of ecosystem services; fisheries/ resources management; science to policy interface; ocean governance and blue economy; marine plastics, solid waste management and water quality; and Coordination.
 - v. The process of development of the strategies and frameworks were highlighted as in the table below:

Strategy/ Framework	Lead Institution(s)	Objective(s)	Timeframe for development	Other Nairobi Convention projects	Regional Task Forces Collaboration
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				contributing to the work	
Regional Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Framework	WIOMSA, Rhodes University - South Africa	Review and collate information needed to develop a coastal and marine ecosystem monitoring framework for WIO region – national data feeds into regional processes.	July 2020 – December 2020	SAPPHIRE project	Critical Habitats; Water Quality; River Flows
Regional Water Quality Monitoring Framework	CSIR – South Africa	Review, develop and validate region coastal and marine water quality standards and monitoring programme for WIO region for adoption at by the Contracting parties of the Nairobi Convention. - Building on work on development of water quality guidelines completed by CSIR which did not undergo technical review and validation in the WIO region	September 2020 – May 2021	SAPPHIRE project; EU-MEAs project	Water Quality; River Flows; Group of Experts on Marine Litters and Micro-plastics
Regional Marine Spatial Planning strategy	Institute for Coastal and Marine Research, Nelson Mandela University in collaboration with WIOMSA	Develop a regional MSP strategy for WIO following commitment of the Contracting parties of the Nairobi Convention adoption of MSP for sustainable development	August 2020 – February 2021	SAPPHIRE project; EU-MEAs project; SWIOFC/Nairobi Convention partnership project; NoCaMo project	MSP technical working group; Water Quality; Critical Habitats
Regional Ocean Governance Strategy	To be identified – process of dialogue with the RECs to support in identification of a lead for the process.	To develop an integrated ocean governance strategy to enhance multi-sectoral governance of WIO Large Marine Ecosystems. The work will link to processes under the African Union who are working on a continental wide ocean governance	October 2020 – June 2021	SAPPHIRE project; EU-MEAs project; GIZ/Nairobi Convention Ocean Governance project; NoCaMo project	Water Quality; Critical Habitats; MSP technical working group; Group of Experts on Marine Litters and

		approach and linking to unlocking blue economy potential in the continent.			Micro-plastics
<i>Economic Valuation of the proposed Transboundary Conservation Areas between Tanzania and Kenya</i>	Prime Africa; Ubiquity Consulting	To determine the value of natural assets in the TBCA and develop policy and management scenarios that would ensure ecological sustainability and maximize the value of the TBCA. The work will involve testing of the Ecosystem Valuation guidelines developed by WIOSAP	October 2020 – June 2021	SAPPHIRE project; SWIOFC/ Nairobi Convention partnership project	Critical Habitats; MSP technical working group

b) Discussions following the presentation were as follows

- i. The selection of the chair and vice-chair of the MSP Technical Working Group will be linked to the structure of the Nairobi Convention Bureau to ensure sustainability of these structures beyond the project lifecycle as it is anchored within the framework of the Convention. Other task forces and working groups established within projects would end at the project's lifecycle and if the task forces will be necessary beyond the project timelines, then PSC would approve this for tabling at the COP in order to have a COP decision that anchors these working groups/ task forces within the Convention framework.
- ii. The WIOSAP Project Management Unit (PMU) will provide Information on the lifespan of the task forces and working groups and share with the project focal points and also give clarity on the distinction between regional task forces and technical working groups.
- iii. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which is implementing the MARPLASTICS project is a member of the Group of Experts on marine Litters and Micro-plastics and their engagement in the working group provides opportunity for creating synergies between the Convention and IUCN's activities related to marine litter. One of the proposed activities is undertaking a stock assessment of policy related to marine litter management in the WIO region, interventions related to marine litter that are being implemented in the region, and institutional frameworks supporting marine litter interventions. IUCN will be playing an important role in this activity.
- iv. The testing of the Economic Valuation guidelines will initially focus on the Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania. The lessons learnt from this process are expected to inform the undertaking of economic valuation in other countries of the region.
- v. The engagement of the Science to Policy platform in the development of strategies and frameworks is crucial. Three guidelines developed under WIOSAP project (mangroves restoration, seagrass restoration and environmental-flows assessment guidelines) were validated at the Science to Policy meeting held in 2019. Experts from the Science pillar of the platform such as the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI) have been engaged in peer review of the

- outputs developed. The current strategies and framework being developed will also undergo a validation process by the Science-Policy platform before launching, Members of various working groups and task forces are also actively engaged in the platform.
- vi. It was noted that ocean governance is a broad concept encompassing several aspects and thus the involvement of members of the various working groups and task forces would be necessary to ensure an extensive pool of experts are engaged in the process.
 - vii. It was noted that there is need to manage the numbers of regional task forces and working groups being established considering that the Science-Policy platform provides a framework for countries to send their delegation of experts to validate various outputs and interventions. It is necessary to strengthen the platform to undertake this function effectively. The platform can propose auxiliary structures that can support its functions to ensure it is effective.

Planned Launches of Guidelines/ Outlooks.

- a) Angela Patnode highlighted the following with regards to the planned launches of guidelines:
 - i. Environment Flows Assessment guidelines – the guidelines will be released on 25 September 2020 at a webinar organized by Nairobi Convention, ahead of World Rivers day on 27 September 2020. Infographics, briefs, story maps will be shared on social media pages and website of the Nairobi Convention two weeks before the release of the guidelines. A press release and a video will be shared on the day of the release of the guidelines. A ‘Save the Date’ communication will be sent to the project focal points to disseminate widely as the webinars are open to the public. The Focal Points were requested to share the “save date” and invitations with their counterparts from water management Ministries/Agencies as these are ones who will be the primary users of the Guidelines.
 - ii. Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration guidelines – the guidelines will be released on 02 October 2020 at a webinar organized by the Nairobi Convention, in line with the closing of the UN Biodiversity Summit. Infographics, briefs, story maps will be shared on social media pages and website of the Nairobi Convention two weeks before the release of the guidelines. A press release and a video will be shared on the day of the release of the guidelines. Infographics, briefs, story maps will be shared on social media pages and website of the Nairobi Convention two weeks before the release of the guidelines. A press release and a video will be shared on the day of the release of the guidelines. A ‘Save the Date’ communication will be sent to the project focal points to disseminate widely as the webinars are open to the public.
 - iii. The guidelines being launched are expected to have a high utility value in terms of adoption and application in the WIO region and beyond the region.
 - iv. Regional institutions will be the custodians for the guidelines so that these institutions would be responsible for dissemination of the guidelines and future reviews and revisions of the guidelines when necessary. The Environment Flows Assessment guidelines will be hosted by Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania while the Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration guidelines will be under the WIO Seagrass Network which is currently hosted by University of Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique. The respective Focal Points for Tanzania and Mozambique were requested to support in having high level management of the two Universities participate in the product launches.

Co-financing Commitments to the WIOSAP project

- a) Caroline Bii presented on the co-financing commitments made by countries towards implementation of the WIOSAP project. She noted that there is need to have the co-financing commitment made by governments and partners honored and the corresponding documentation submitted to the WIOSAP PMU. Reporting on co-financing is a mandatory requirement by the donor, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and should be done annually.
- b) Co-funding pledges and endorsed by governments in respect to the WIOSAP project were highlighted as follows:
 - i. Comoros – US\$ 5.9 Million
 - ii. Kenya – US\$ 1.175 Million
 - iii. Madagascar – US\$ 1.2 Million
 - iv. Mauritius – US\$ 4.5 Million
 - v. Mozambique – US\$ 19 Million
 - vi. Seychelles – US\$ 4.6 Million
 - vii. Somalia – US\$ 168,400
 - viii. South Africa – US\$ 5,280,400
 - ix. Tanzania – US\$ 14.6 Million
- c) The co-finance reporting template will be shared with the project Focal Points by the end of the week to complete and submit to the WIOSAP PMU. In-kind contribution reported should be solely dedicated to the WIOSAP project and should be accompanied by appropriate documentation for easy monitoring during evaluation and/or project audit at annual, mid-term and terminal evaluation phases of the project.
- d) The focal points were requested to facilitate the co-finance reporting process for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 and submit these reports to the PMU since the co-financing commitments made by governments was a major contributing factor to the approval of the project for funding by GEF.
- e) It was noted that co-finance is not only in cash but in-kind and this should be reported e.g. the resources committed in the respective countries to support management and conservation of critical habitats, river basin management, water quality, MSP, Blue Economy among others.
- f) The focal points were requested to submit the completed co -financing template first. The accompanying documentation will be submitted upon request by the PMU.

Concluding Remarks/ Closing of meeting

- a) Jared concluded the meeting by thanking the focal points for their participation at the meeting. He noted the apologies from the governments of Mauritius and South Africa who were not able to participate in the meeting and that the meeting report will be shared with all the project focal points. He requested the focal points to engage with the national demonstration project implementing partners in their respective countries to understand the challenges they are experiencing with implementation of activities and provide leadership in articulating the challenges and the support that may be required to alleviate some of the challenges, particularly those resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, since the focal points have national oversight of the demonstration projects.
- b) There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11h35 EAT.

Key highlights from the meeting:

- a) Official extension of timelines for implementation of national demonstration projects will be given following approval by the WIOSAP PSC which is expected to be convened towards the end of 2020, and formal approval of the extension by UNEP and GEF.

- b) The ICZM Protocol will be adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries which will be held before the 10th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention which is expected to take place in May 2021. The text of the Protocol will be circulated to the countries two months before the conference for any input
- c) The release of the Environmental Flow Assessment (EFA) guidelines and the Seagrass Restoration guidelines will be on 25 September 2020 and 02 October 2020 respectively. The Focal Points were requested to share the “save date” and invitations to the with their counterparts from water management Ministries/Agencies as these are the ones who will be the primary users of the EFA guidelines. The Focal Points were also requested to disseminate information on release of the guidelines widely as the webinars are open to the public.
- d) The Focal Points were requested to facilitate the process of reporting on the co-financing contribution to the WIOSAP project by their governments. The co-finance for years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 should be provided to the PMU ensuring that identified co-finance items to be reported on are dedicated uniquely to the WIOSAP project and that there is documentation available for evaluation and/or for project audit at the annual, mid-term and terminal evaluation phases of the project.