

## WIOSAP Project Regional Task Force (RTF) members meeting

Date: Tuesday 01 September 2020

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

### Report of the Meeting

#### Regional Task Force members

1. Dr. Blandina Lugendo
2. Mr. Chiranjiwa N. Paupiah
3. Dr. Marcos Pereira
4. Prof. Salomao Bandeira
5. Mr. Ahmed M. Nadjim
6. Dr. James Kairo
7. Mr. Gildas Todinanahary
8. Mr. Ian Charlette
9. Dr. Nirinarisoa Ranivoarivelo
10. Dr. Yves Mong
11. Prof. Mwakio Tole
12. Dr. Motebang Nakin
13. Dr. Daniel Munga
14. Prof. Japhet Kashaigili
15. Dr. Dinis Juizo
16. Dr. Lara van Nierkerk
17. Mr. Sebastiani Ambinintsoa
18. Mr. Solonirinantenaina Rakotondramano
19. Dr. Joseph Maina
20. Dr. Valentine Ochanda

#### Secretariat Staff

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

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### Introduction

The project on Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for protection of the Western Indian ocean from land -based sources and activities' (WIOSAP) established three Regional Task Forces (RTF) as part of its implementation structure to give necessary technical support to the project in different thematic areas relevant to the project. These are the: Sustainable Management of Critical Habitats Task Force, Water Quality Task Force and River Flows Task Force. The tasks forces have been instrumental in supporting the implementation of WIOSAP project through evaluation of concept notes and full proposal for the 20 national demonstrations projects, review and validation of guidelines and outlooks developed and development of outputs to support global processes such as UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 on Oceans.

The meeting for regional taskforce members sought to: (i) share progress that the project has made in terms of implementation, and (ii) highlight the major current and upcoming project activities where the support of the members of the task forces will be needed. 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 RTFs, and (iv) discussion of new opportunities that can bring synergies into the project.

#### **Welcome Remarks.**

- a) Jared Bosire, the WIOSAP project manager, welcomed the regional task force members to the meeting noting that the meeting would share updates on how the WIOSAP has progressed since the last meeting of the RTF. He appreciated the support from the from the members of the three task forces in significantly contributing to the progress of implementation of WIOSAP project.
- 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 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 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 SAPHIRE 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
- 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 asses 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).

##### ***Component B: Improved water quality***

- Regional Training workshop on 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.

***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 - 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 WIOSAP and SAPPHERE projects.
- 11<sup>th</sup> 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- 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 some of the national demo projects for which receipt of funding has been delayed would require extension of timelines. The delays have been occasioned by slow approval of funding agreement and funds disbursement which have resulted from COVID-19 restrictions in place within the UN. The WIOSAP PMU is in discussions with UNEP and GEF on the extension of WIOSAP project and subsequently the extension of the national demonstration projects due to the delays. Official communication will be provided by the PMU once the extension of the WIOSAP project has been approved.
- ii. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat has developed a template to assess the current state of implementation of all national demonstration projects within the context of COVID-19 restrictions in place. The template has been shared with all partner implementing demonstration projects to fill in details on activities planned, what has been implemented, what has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions and the mitigating actions needed to support implementation. The information provided by the implementing partners will be compiled to provide an objective assessment as to the status of implementation of the demonstration project.
- iii. It was noted that the process of development of the Critical Habitats outlook is underway and it is important as it will identify additional areas that would require protection as countries seek to address Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 14.5 on conserving at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information. The first complete draft of the outlook is expected to be ready by September 2020. The external peer review of the outlook was completed and will now proceed to editorial review in which the chapter authors will be contacted for input after which the outlook will proceed to design. WIOMSA, which is coordinating the technical process of development of the outlook will be requested to provide an update on progress to the outlook chapter authors.

#### **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 regional task forces and other technical working groups of Nairobi Convention to ensure that documents are validated and products receive ownership 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 and engagement of the WIOSAP regional task forces highlighted in the table below:

<b>Strategy/ Framework</b>	<b>Lead Institution(s)</b>	<b>Objective(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe for development</b>	<b>Other Nairobi Convention projects contributing to the work</b>	<b>Regional Task Forces Collaboration</b>
<b><i>Regional Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Framework</i></b>	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
<b><i>Regional Water Quality Monitoring Framework</i></b>	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
<b><i>Regional Marine Spatial Planning strategy</i></b>	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
<b><i>Regional Ocean Governance Strategy</i></b>	To be identified – process of dialogue with the RECs to support in identification	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	October 2020 – June 2021	SAPPHIRE project; EU-MEAs project; GIZ/Nairobi Convention Ocean	Water Quality Critical Habitats MSP technical working group;

	of a lead for the process.	African Union who are working on a continental wide ocean governance approach and linking to unlocking blue economy potential in the continent.		Governance project; NoCaMo project	
<b><i>Economic Valuation of the proposed Transboundary Conservation Areas between Tanzania and Kenya</i></b>	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. It was noted that the regional task force on water quality will be critical in supporting the development of the regional water quality monitoring frameworks. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the development of the framework will be shared with the regional task forces for comments and input on additional areas that may need to be included. Once the framework is developed the regional task force will play an important role in review and quality assurance of the document and also championing the adoption and application of the framework within national contexts.
- ii. The demonstration project on water quality in Madagascar has aspects of development of national water quality monitoring framework and it is envisaged that the regional framework will be completed in good time to inform the national framework.
- iii. It was noted that the regional water quality framework informing national level process will be part of the second phase of implementation of the work and is out of the scope of the current work. The regional framework developed in the initial phase will be broad enough to accommodate national level contexts of development of water quality framework and support will be provided for pilot implementation of the regional framework in national level processes.

**Planned Launches of Guidelines/ Outlooks.**

a) Angela Patnode highlighted the following with regards to the planned launches of guidelines:

- i. Environment Flows 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. The national and regional experts including taskforce members and the leads of WIOSAP national demonstration projects for which the guidelines would be relevant will be contacted to give a summary of how the guidelines would be useful to the project goals. Invitations for subsequent meetings will be sent to the experts and project leads in order to identify key speakers at the webinar.

- 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. The national and regional experts including taskforce members and the leads of WIOSAP national demonstration projects for which the guidelines would be relevant will be contacted to give a summary of how the guidelines would be useful to the project goals. Invitations for subsequent meetings will be sent to the experts and project leads in order to identify key speakers at the webinar.
- iii. The regional task force members were requested to support in widely disseminating the communication materials on the release of the two guidelines, which will be shared by Angela two week before the webinar. The webinars will be open to the public to join. Any material developed by the experts such as educational materials, articles, blogs that would support the launch of the guidelines are welcomed by the Convention.

#### **Discussions on new opportunities**

- a) The current oil spill crisis offshore of Pointe d'Esny, south of Mauritius following the running aground of bulk carrier MV Wakashio on a coral reef on 25 July 2020 was identified as an important issue requiring support to Mauritius in addressing the crisis and impact on coastal and marine ecosystems. The crisis presents a new opportunity to evaluate the preparedness of countries of the WIO region in addressing the impact of oils spill on the ecosystems and ensuring proper oil spill contingency planning in cases of such emergencies.
- b) The Nairobi Convention has been working closely with the national focal point in Mauritius to provide regional response to the crisis. Nairobi Convention has also been closely engaging with UNEP as a whole to develop a position paper on what can be done to support Mauritius. The sensitive areas affected or likely to be affected by the spill have been mapped. Immediate response has been provided by various Nairobi Convention countries who have provided bilateral assistance to Mauritius through provision of technical expertise and equipment. The Nairobi Convention will also pursue other medium-term and long-term measures to support Mauritius such as resource use, habitat mapping, ecosystem monitoring, habitat rehabilitation, economic valuation of habitats affected by the oil spill, in which the guidelines developed under WIOSAP project could be applicable as tools to support in addressing impact on ecosystems by oil spill crises. The government of Mauritius will update the Nairobi Convention on the progress, challenges faced and gaps requiring concerted efforts from the Convention and UNEP to support in managing the crisis.
- c) A document on restoration and development of guidelines on remediation of coastal and marine areas impacted by oil spills has been developed for West Africa and this can be useful in providing insight to management of ecosystems affected by oil spills, learning from the experiences in West Africa.
- d) There is need to develop regional guidelines on addressing management of areas impacted or likely to be impacted by oil spills looking at the case study from Mauritius and learning from the example from West Africa.

#### **Concluding Remarks/ Closing of meeting**

- a) It was noted that the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration starting from 2021- 2030 provides an opportunity for the region to strategically deliver towards the global initiative. The WIO Mangrove Network is working with the Nairobi Convention under the WIOSAP project to produce a case studies publication on

mangrove restoration projects across the WIO region and looking at how the consolidated efforts contribute towards the Decade on ecosystem restoration.

- b) The Nairobi Convention through WIOSAP project is working with WIOMSA on development of a case studies publication on constructed wetland systems across the region to promote low-cost technology in management of wastewater.
- c) Jared thanked the task force members for their continuous and substantial support to the Nairobi Convention in implementation of project activities.
- d) There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.