

REGIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE SWIOFC-NAIROBI CONVENTION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

*A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management
for Sustainable Blue Growth*

Online meeting, 4-5 May, 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The SWIOFC-Nairobi Convention partnership project "A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth" aims to support countries in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) to develop structures and ways of working for coordinated approaches to the management and sustainable use of fisheries and associated coastal ecosystems.

Maintaining the health and sustainability of the WIO ecosystems and fishery resources requires strong coordination between fisheries and environmental management, both between regional bodies and national agencies and ministries. Countries in the WIO region have committed to cooperating on the protection of the coastal and marine environment (through the Nairobi Convention) and on fisheries management (through the SWIOFC). The commitment of the member countries to cooperation creates the conditions for working towards a more integrated management of the coastal and marine environment, its resources, fisheries and other uses. The project, through a collaboration of the two regional bodies, will support member countries of the SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention in this commitment.

The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) until 2023 and is implemented jointly by FAO/SWIOFC Secretariat and UNEP/Nairobi Convention Secretariat together with the governments of the participating countries Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen. All are members of the SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention, except for Yemen and Maldives which are members of SWIOFC only.

The project's main area of focus is the area of concern for both fisheries and environment that can benefit directly from coordinated and mutually-reinforcing interventions on the areas of common concern. The impact of the project will be to improve food security, increase resilience, and reduce poverty of poor fisheries-dependent coastal communities. The project will aim to improve the uptake and application of management concepts such as Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), Rights Based Management (RBM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) at national levels.

The project has three main components and outcomes:

Component	Outcome
1. Environmental Management:	Resilience of livelihoods based on WIO marine and coastal ecosystem and habitats enhanced
2. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries:	Coastal fisheries are sustainably managed using the ecosystem approach to fisheries
3. Coordination, Knowledge Management:	Coordination between fisheries and environmental management institutions enhanced at national and regional levels

The project will include region wide capacity building activities, analysis and exchange, as well as demonstration activities in pilot sites, supporting all the participating countries in developing and applying best practice for linking management of fisheries and related coastal ecosystems. Further detail on the project aims and activities are outlined in the project document.

Three pilot countries have been selected for implementation of national level demonstration activities, namely Madagascar, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania. The selection was made in 2019 in consultation between FAO and UNEP on the basis of a consultant report applying agreed selection criteria. The selection of countries for the implementation of pilot interventions was presented to participating countries at the 10th session the SWIOFC and has also been communicated to Sida as part of the project report for 2019.

Project activities are geared towards building partnership and synergies with related initiatives, contributing to relevant ongoing policy and planning processes, and demonstrating effective stakeholder and community engagement in management processes.

During 2020 and early 2021, as part of the inception of the project and while facing impacts the of COVID 19 pandemic, the executing agencies have focussed their efforts on completing the recruitment project staff and working together with the lead national agencies in the pilot countries to develop project implementation arrangements, selecting project demonstration sites and detailing operational plans for project demonstration activities.

As designated in the project document a regional project inception workshop will be held with the participating countries, project partners and other interested actors in the region to present and inform the proposed operational work plans and implementation arrangements. The inception workshop will be followed by a first meeting of the Project Steering Committee with the two regional project executing agencies (SWIOFC/FAO and Nairobi Convention Secretariat/UNEP) and Sida.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The objectives of the meeting are:

- To introduce the project and present project operational work plans and implementation arrangements to participating countries and project partners,
- To engage with participants to share knowledge and identify further potential for synergies or collaboration,

with the aim of maximising the potential of achieving project objectives while aligning with national and regional priorities.

The expected outcomes of the workshop are:

- A shared understanding of the objectives, activities and implementation arrangements for the project, with clarity on roles and responsibilities of all implementing partners,
- Participants contextual information and suggestions of relevance to project implementation shared and highlighted in meeting report.

TIME AND FORMAT

The meeting will be held online using zoom from 08:30-12:00 Central African Time (CAT = GMT +2) on Tuesday 4 May and Wednesday 5 May 2021. The meeting will be held in English and interpretation in French will be available.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting is directed at the following participants:

- Nominated Project Focal Points and related representatives from National Fisheries and Environment Management Authorities of the countries participating in the project (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen), including National Focal Points for the SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention as appropriate.
- Members and observers to the SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention.
- Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the project area of implementation.
- Representatives from organizations and initiatives partnering with or related to the project.
- Officers from the executing agencies (FAO and UNEP) involved in the implementation of the project or related initiatives.
- Representatives from the funding agency.

Invitations to participating countries and RECs will be distributed through the FAO. An announcement to members and observers will also be issued by the SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention Secretariats. **All participants are requested to register online** through the following link:

<https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoc-qtqjItH9MLE3leq6w02K0rxhWJOc0G>

and will consequently receive a booking with links to the meeting and related documents.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Time (CAT ¹)	Session	Presenters
Day 1	Tuesday 4 May 2021	
08:30-09:00	Opening ceremony Welcome remarks Opening remarks Opening statement	SWIOFC Secretariat Nairobi Convention Secretariat FAO
09:00-09:20	Meeting aims and programme Meeting arrangements and introductions	Regional Project Manager
09:20-09:40	Introduction to the project Context, aims, overarching approach	Regional Project Manager
09:40-10:50	Project work plans Presentation of project work plans Questions and contributions from participants	Regional Project Management Unit Participants
10:50-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:50	Workshop session I: Fisheries-Environment Dialogue Facilitated discussions to underpin project activities related to enhancing Fisheries-Environment policy dialogue and management collaboration	Project Team, and the SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention Secretariats together with workshop participants
11:50-12:00	Closure of day 1	
Day 2	Wednesday 5 May 2021	
08:30-08:40	Welcome and introduction to day 2 of the meeting	Regional Project Manager
08:40-10:30	National demonstration activities Introduction Presentation of project demonstration activities in project pilot countries Mozambique, Madagascar and Tanzania Q&A	Regional Project Manager, National Project Coordinators and National Implementation Partners Participants
10:30-10:40	Break	
10:40-11:30	Workshop session II: Sharing knowledge and experiences Facilitated discussions on knowledge and experience sharing related to the national demonstration activities	Project Team, and the SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention Secretariats together with workshop participants
11:30-11:40	Summary of workshop and next steps	Project Team
11:40-12:00	Closure of the meeting Closing remarks Closing remarks Closure of the meeting	SWIOFC Nairobi Convention FAO

¹ CAT = Central African Time or GMT +2 please consider the time difference for your time zone