



SWIOFC - NAIROBI CONVENTION SECRETARIAT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

A PARTNERSHIP FOR MARINE AND COASTAL GOVERNANCE AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE BLUE GROWTH IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Nairobi Convention, in a project funded by the Swedish International Development Agency, improves coordination between fisheries and environmental management to maintain the health of the WIO's fisheries resources and the ecosystems that support them.

THE PROBLEM

Small-scale and subsistence fisheries are the backbone of many communities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, providing income, food, and jobs to an estimated one million inhabitants. Yet 40% of the fish stocks targeted by these fisheries are being unsustainably exploited—causing risks to the very survival of these fisheries and the environments on which they depend.

Better fisheries management and environmental protection are needed to ensure subsistence fisheries become sustainable. The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Nairobi Convention, in a project funded by the Swedish International Development Agency, to improve coordination between fisheries and environmental management to maintain the health of the WIO's fisheries resources and the ecosystems that support them.



The focus of the SWIOFC – Nairobi Convention partnership project is to improve coordination between fisheries and environmental management on the ground.

Improvements on both fisheries and environmental management in the Western Indian Ocean region are needed and should strengthen each other. As such, the project is organized into **three** main components:

Component 1:

Protection and management of the coastal and marine ecosystems

This component focuses on addressing the link between the health of marine and coastal ecosystems in the WIO region and fisheries productivity.

It also focuses on the impacts of fisheries on the capacity of these ecosystems to provide inherent goods and services.

Component 2 :

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

This component seeks to establish a participatory, science-supported and evidence-based fisheries management system that takes account of the impact of environmental health on fisheries as well as the direct impact of fisheries on the marine and coastal environment.

Component 3:

Coordination and Knowledge Management

This component covers project management and the improvement of the coordination and cooperation between fisheries and environmental management institutions and interventions at the regional and national level.

Capacity Building

Targeted training will be conducted to coordinate the development and implementation of regional, sub-regional and national initiatives to improve job opportunities and livelihoods, especially for Youth and women. The project will collaborate with inter-governmental, non-governmental, universities and other academic institutions.

Ecosystem Management – The proposed Fisheries-Environment framework will strengthen the participation of key coastal fisheries stakeholders and will provide an evidence-based approach for policy reforms. This will help policy-makers understand the impact of their interventions and to track progress towards improved holistic fisheries and ecosystem management outcomes.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) developments: MSP processes will be supported in coastal and marine ecosystems as a key area-based planning tool in WIO countries. The first virtual meeting of the MSP technical working group was held in July 2020. An assessment was performed of the Contribution of Maritime Sectors to Kenya's Blue Economy: Values, Potentials and Governance Frameworks, including as mapped through MSP process, which provided recommendations on the sectors with the highest potential.

Critical Habitats Outlook: Following the launch of the Outlook, the project will conduct case studies in Madagascar, Tanzania and Mozambique. They will also raise awareness of specific case studies in the Outlook on ecosystem services, habitat protection, habitat restoration, fishery resources in critical habitats, mitigation of bycatch, eradication of invasive species, and future scenarios of the habitats.

Ocean Governance

Regionally, the collaboration between SWIOFC and Nairobi Convention Secretariats in this project will promote responsible, and integrated ocean governance and fisheries and environmental management within the blue economy space in favor of the economically challenged population.

Science to policy

The project is coordinating the Nairobi Convention and the SWIOFC processes – integrating relevant scientific evidence and findings into the Nairobi Convention's efforts to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment, and SWIOFC's advice to members on scientific evidence and analyses of relevance to fisheries policy and management decisions.

Project Summary

- Executing Agencies: Nairobi Convention Secretariat, South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission of Food and Agriculture Organization
- Donor: Swedish International Development Agency
- Project Period: 2019-2023
- Total Resource Required: USD 8,600,000
- Country / Region implemented: Comoros, France, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of South Africa, Yemen, Republic of Maldives