

SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

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NEW PROJECT “A PARTNERSHIP FOR MARINE AND COASTAL GOVERNANCE AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FOR BLUE GROWTH”

Countries in the WIO region committed to cooperate on Fisheries Management (through the FAO-SWIOFC) and on Environment Protection (through the UNEP-Nairobi Convention (NC)). With the only exception of Maldives and Yemen, SWIOFC and NC, two bodies of two UN Agencies, share the same Member Countries and hence the organizations have commonalities in terms of geographical scope. In order to coordinate interventions, in 2018 the SWIOFC and NC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), under the respective umbrella of FAO and UNEP, to implement joint activities in the following main areas of cooperation:

- Protection of biodiversity from anthropogenic impacts – shark, ray and turtle spp.
- Management of negative environmental impacts that can affect fisheries – pollution, destruction of critical habitats, exploration/extraction of natural resources
- Promotion of application of EAF/EBM – capacity building, monitoring and implementation, and info sharing on best practice and lessons
- Promotion and application of area-based management tools
- Promotion of policy coordination – synergies between sectoral policies – fisheries/environment
- Support in development, promotion and implementation of Blue economy/Blue growth initiative approaches and strategies

As a follow up to the MoU, a project to reconcile fisheries and conservation management objectives was developed. The project “GCP/SFS/005/SWE - A partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Growth” has been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) with a total budget of 8,679,954 USD and will last five years (2019-2023). The project’s main area of focus is the area of concern for both fisheries and environment, that can benefit directly from a coordinated and mutually-reinforcing intervention on these areas beyond what could be obtained by uncoordinated intervention on each field.

The project has three main components:

1. Protection and management of the coastal and marine ecosystems (*NC responsible to implement activities*);
2. Coastal fisheries are sustainably managed using the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) (*SWIOFC responsible to implement activities*)
3. Improvement of coordination between fisheries and environmental management institutions at the regional and national levels (*SWIOFC and NC responsible to implement activities*)

Directly linked to the components are the following outcomes and outputs:

Component 1. Resilience of livelihoods based on Western Indian Ocean (WIO) marine and coastal ecosystem and habitats enhanced

- Output 1.1. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) developed for policy-making and integrated management
- Output 1.2. Management plans developed at national level for conservation of selected critical coastal habitats with a shared concern for fisheries and environmental management
- Output 1.3. Plans for restoration of degraded coastal habitats developed
- Output 1.4. Regional and national capacity on adaptation to climate variability and change enhanced for the coastal fishing communities

Component 2. Coastal fisheries are sustainably managed using the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and livelihoods enhanced

- Output 2.1. Strategies and plans to enhance the livelihoods of poor coastal communities involved in small-scale fishing
- Output 2.2. Management plans and other arrangements for selected fisheries developed and implemented

Component 3. Co-operation and coordination between fisheries and environmental management institutions and field interventions enhanced

- Output 3.1. Establish a dialogue between fisheries management and environment policy institutions at regional and national levels and make it operational
- Output 3.2. Functional knowledge and information sharing mechanism in place
- Output 3.3. The Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) is set up and operational

Arrangements for the implementation of the project include activities at the regional level for all SWIOFC countries (excluding France) to be undertaken by the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), in collaboration with the SWIOFC and NC Secretariats, and pilot studies in three selected countries. Five countries were pre-selected in the Project Document and, according to the selection criteria (see Table 1) set up by an independent consultant, Madagascar, Mozambique and United Republic of Tanzania were selected to implement pilot studies.

Table 1. Countries' selection criteria scoring

Criterion	Scoring		
	1	3	5
Country rank based on its HDI	Country position lower than 100	Country position between 101 and 150	Country position higher than 151
Mangrove extension	Less than 100,000 ha	Between 100,000 ha and 200,000 ha	More than 200,000 ha
Coastal length	Less than 1,000 km	Between 1,000 and 2,000 km	More than 2,000 km
EEZ extension	Less than 100,000 km ²	Between 100,000 and 1,000,000 km ²	More than 1,000,000 km ²
Fisheries laws status	Reviewed in the last 20 year or review process initiated in the last 10 years	Reviewed in the last 10 years	N/A

Safety	Serious attacks have occurred in more than one region in the last 5 years	Serious attacks have occurred in one region in the last 5 years	No major conflicts in the last 5 years
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The project will be fully operational only with the signature of the Project Document by the three countries. After the signature, a consultant will carry out a mission in the three countries to identify two sites in each country where the pilot studies will take place. The criteria to conduct the selection process for the project sites will be based on the following key factors to which percentage points of relative importance were allocated:

- Socio-economic – 28 percent
- Key habitats, targeted fishery species and environmental challenges – 36 percent
- Fisheries and environmental management – 14 percent
- Organizational development and community participation – 10 percent
- Partnerships and national cooperation/coordination – 12 percent

The daily management of the project will be the responsibility of the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU). The RPMU will be staffed with a Chief Technical Adviser, a Fisheries Officer, an Environmental Management Expert, and a Finance and Procurement Officer. The Environmental Management Expert will be recruited by UNEP-NC and based in Nairobi, Kenya, while the remaining staff will be recruited by FAO-SWIOFC and based in Maputo, Mozambique.

At national level, the government institutions responsible for fisheries and environmental management in each SWIOFC country will be the implementing agencies for the project. Each participating country will have to indicate a lead national agency and nominate an officer of that agency as the Project Focal Point (PFP). If in some countries it will not be possible to indicate the lead national agency, the agencies responsible for Fisheries and Environmental management will function as co-lead agencies, each with its PFP. The PFP(s) will be responsible for all contacts with the RPMU and for coordination with and among the national agencies. In the countries selected for pilot field studies, a National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be recruited by the project. The NPC will ensure the technical and operational management and coordination of the project's interventions in the country.

Once the Chief Technical Adviser and the Fisheries Officer will be recruited (interviews took place on 30 July 2019) and the Project Focal Points nominated by the Member Countries, the Project Inception Workshop will take place. Overall strategic guidance and oversight to the project will be provided by a Project Steering Committee (PSC). The Committee will review progress of work, approve work plans, advise on project orientation and implementation. The members of the Committee will be two representatives of the Bureaux of each organization (SWIOFC/FAO and NC/UNEP), one representative from the Donor (Sida), and one representative from FAO and UNEP, respectively. The PSC will first meet at the end of the Project Inception Workshop and thereafter every 12 months.