

Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel

(Gestion concertée des ressources marines et côtières du Nord du Canal du Mozambique)

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Context and challenges

The Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) area is under the jurisdiction of Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, France, Seychelles and the Comoros, covering an area of approximately 700,000 km². It is among the world's richest regions for biodiversity. It serves as a biological reservoir for the entire Eastern African coast, in particular for coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and is an important breeding and foraging areas for flagship marine and migratory species. The human coastal population of the NMC is currently 10 million (expected to grow to 22-25 million in 2050) and is largely dependent on healthy and productive ecosystems through fishing, coastal agriculture, and tourism. Prior documents submitted in the Nairobi Convention COPs have detailed the importance of the region in terms of its biodiversity, value of its ecosystems, population needs, and future development prospects, including of natural gas, which have precipitated past Decisions acknowledging the importance of transboundary approaches to maintain the health and vitality of the region for its people to prosper (Decisions from Conferences of Parties of the Nairobi Convention have facilitated the development of activities and consultations including the formulation of this project, including Decision CP7/1 (work programme) and Decision CP8/6 (Support to Implementation of Projects)).

The project, its goal and objectives

On the basis of these prior decisions, NMCi partners have worked closely with country Focal Points and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to develop a regional project for funding by the FFEM:

Project Goal: By 2030, the Northern Mozambique Channel's ecosystems and biodiversity are preserved through effective spatial management of marine uses, in particular the oil and gas sector, to secure a sustainable future for coastal communities and economies.

Objectives: (1) By 2021, the institutional and knowledge foundations are laid for the application of multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) across the NMC region; (2) By 2021, effective planning is promoted and best practices in the oil and gas sector are adopted by Governments and private sector champions, leading to mitigation of impacts of the sector to the natural assets and local communities in the NMC; (3) By 2021, community livelihoods and well-being are incrementally secured through the sharing and replication of best practices in community-based marine resource management and population-health-environment.

Key information: The Project will work with the following countries: Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania. Its overall budget is around 6.5 Million Euros with a contribution of 1.5 Million Euros from the FFEM. The other co-financiers are: the UNEP/NCS, the Sida, members of the WIO-C, and the French Biodiversity Agency. The project will be implemented during 4 years starting

from January 2019. Beneficiaries are: Nairobi Convention Secretariat (via UNEP) in partnership with the WIO-C. Final Beneficiaries are: Governments of the NMC area, Regional Organisations, local authorities, civil society, MPAs, economic operators/sectors, and local communities. Building on the foundations of strong regional cooperation and partnerships, the NMC region is well-placed to implement the aspirations and commitments made under the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with particular relevance to SDG 14 on Oceans.

Three main components will operationalize the above:

Component 1: *Laying the institutional and knowledge foundations for the application of multi-stakeholder based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) across the NMC region* -- The overall aim is to build capacity within the participating countries, and at a coordination level in the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, to enable the implementation of an integrated approach to marine governance that will lead towards comprehensive spatial planning of marine uses in the future. In this context, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral fora, as well as links with relevant regional and global bodies will be established to assure coordination and involvement of relevant parties in the implementation of MSP and SDG14.

Component 2: *Planning and adoption of environmental and social best practices in the oil and gas sector to mitigate impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the NMC* -- This component will reinforce and build capacity of key stakeholders (governments, the oil and gas (O&G) industry, local experts, and civil society organizations) through three main activities:

- Identify key gaps in measures and identify opportunities to harmonize legal, policy and technical tools across the NMC;
- Put in place for planning and evaluation of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) related to oil and gas initiatives; and
- Build capacity of staff of national governments, regional bodies and CSO/NGOs, on use and implementation of the best-practice guidance.

Component 3: *Replication and upscaling of successful models for community-based resource management and improved livelihoods and welfare* -- This component targets the strengthening of local communities' resilience in 4 seascapes, particularly with regards to current and potential pressures linked to the development of the oil and gas. It will support "learning networks" for local communities in order to promote effective practices in Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), and Population-Health-Environment (PHE) interventions to secure the livelihoods and well-being of coastal communities.

The project in the region's institutional landscape

The project is being developed in the context of broader regional initiatives established by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat that build on prior regional projects.

These are the GEF-funded WIOSAP and SAPPHERE projects, World Bank funded SWIOFish; but also: GEF project on Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in deep-sea ABNJ, and two past projects focused on minimizing pollution and impacts from shipping and the energy sector, on which the project will build best practice actions within the NMC – the 'Maritime Highway' project and the WIO Islands Oil Spill Contingency Planning project, funded by the World Bank. They will set an important basis for improved management and governance of the coastal and marine ecosystems and fisheries of the WIO. However, as fully regional programmes under the Nairobi Convention (WIOSAP and SAPPHERE), their actions are necessarily shared across a broad geography and aimed at piloting certain actions in specific locations. With the special nature of the NMC as outlined above – the richest biodiversity and marine ecosystems of the WIO, its particular vulnerability to climate change and

impending hydrocarbon-fuelled development and population boom, these projects may not be able to grapple with the specificity and complexity, and in particular the rate of developments in this hotspot of marine biodiversity.

The project institutional arrangement

The foundation of the Northern Mozambique Channel initiative (NMCi) is engagement with stakeholders through building partnerships across government, civil society and the private sector. The structure of the Initiative will ensure participation of stakeholders both through the active engagement of primary stakeholders in the implementation of activities, and through a multi-sectoral framework of national and regional stakeholder platforms that will facilitate civil society and private sector engagements in the project. The Governments of Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros, Seychelles and France act as the key stakeholders from an institutional point of view.

The institutional set up of the project is as follows:

- a- **Project steering committee:** The Governments of Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania and France will be on the lead seat in overseeing the project strategic orientation through related discussions during the Nairobi Convention COPs, and through their respective Nairobi Convention National Focal Points (NCNFPs) in the project steering committee. The recipient countries are the Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania. The project steering committee will have as members: the NCFPs, and representatives from the NCS, WWF France, WWF Madagascar, CORDIO, the French Biodiversity Agency, and the FFEM. This committee will meet once a year.
- b- **Implementing agencies:** The project will have two Implementing Agencies: the NCS and WWF France.
The **NCS** will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of **Component 1** as it tackles institutional matters and requires strategic involvement of Governments. The NCS will furthermore be responsible for facilitating policy-level engagement for all three Project Components. With the funding from FFEM, the NCS will hire a full-time project coordinator (under UNOPS¹ contract). **WWF France** will be the Implementing Agency for **Components 2 and 3**. In addition, WWF France will be responsible for relations with French institutions and the donor, as well as for providing general oversight over these project Components. WWF France will delegate some of its responsibilities to **WWF Madagascar** to ensure efficient day-to-day supervision of the project through the WWF NMC Coordination Unit based in Antananarivo.
- c- **Project coordination team:** It will be composed of NCS, WWF, CORDIO, WCS, FFI and BV. The Project Coordination Team will have several roles, but will mainly: (i) Supervise and guide the management and implementation of the project, while coordinating activities and results across components; (ii) Ensure the coordination of national-level project activities with relevant national Government Agencies and partners; and (iii) Ensure representativeness and relevance of information towards the steering committee.
- d- **Project executants:** Each of the three main Project Components will be executed by a Component Lead, which will be responsible for the coordination of activities among the participating Government Agencies and other project partners involved.
 - 1. The NCS will be responsible for the execution of **Component 1**, supported in this by WWF Madagascar. Under this Component, NCS will work closely with relevant Government Agencies responsible for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and as such will build on the mechanisms established by Governments for coordinating such work between relevant Government Agencies and other stakeholders

¹UN Office for Projects Support

2. WCS will be responsible for leading the execution of **Component 2**, with FFI as main supporting partner, and the WWF Country Offices in Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania playing a facilitating role at national level. Key Government Agencies to be involved in this Component are the Ministries responsible for oil and gas development, and the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources.
3. CORDIO will be responsible for leading the execution of **Component 3**, in partnership with BV. Key Government Agencies to be involved are the Ministries of Fisheries, Tourism, Oil & Gas, and the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources. The local WWF offices in Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania will play a facilitating role as far as resources allow.

Policy and technical recommendations

- Call on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat assisted by the partners engaged in the institutional structure of the project, to disseminate information about the project and its objectives to gain greatest engagement from relevant government departments and stakeholders, and maximize benefits to beneficiaries.
- Call on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to explore opportunities for carrying out regional cross-sectoral dialogues on SDG 14 and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).
- Call on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to explore opportunities for conducting exchanges with other regions and Regional Seas Conventions to enhance ownership and abilities of Focal Points, other government departments and local communities on SDG14, and to underpin achievement of Voluntary Commitments.
- In terms of implementation of the project components, call on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and Focal Points to help connect institutionally the local, national and regional levels, and across components.
- Call on the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to involve this FFEM project in all MSP, local community-level and oil and gas processes and initiatives where the Convention is closely involved pertaining to the geography of the NMC.