



WIO Stocktaking Meeting

*Towards an Ecosystem-Based Management Programme
For the western Indian Ocean Region*



ROAD MAP TOWARDS A SYNERGISTIC ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

CONTEXT:

The Western Indian Ocean region is currently hosting a portfolio of different projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), notably¹:

- the project “Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean” (WIO-LaB);
- the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP); and
- the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (ASCLMEs).

The three Projects are intended to jointly contribute towards a single objective: the sustainable management of the WIO environmental resources for the benefits of the people inhabiting the region. To achieve this objective, the ASCLMEs, SWIOFP and WIO-LaB Projects have agreed on a common coordination framework, leading to the joint development of a comprehensive Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the region. The SAP will provide an important step forward towards a comprehensive and synergistic programme of intervention for the WIO region, based upon the principles of ecosystem-based management. The intention is that GEF-support would be sought for the implementation of such a programme, but further financing would be sourced from other financial partners as well.

In pursuit of this general objective, the GEF and its implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and World Bank) are in the process of developing a roadmap and work-plan towards delivering an ecosystem-based management framework for the WIO region that is in accord with the LME approach. The roadmap and work-plan will provide the necessary mechanism for ensuring harmony between the work-plans of the individual projects as well as cooperation in delivering a product (TDA and SAP) that is appropriate to country, regional and indeed global requirements.

¹ It should be noted that there are a number of other important global, regional and national GEF and non-GEF projects that are active in the region. Among these are the project “Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa”, the project “Reduction of Environmental Impact from Coastal Tourism”, the Marine Highway Development and Coastal and Marine Contamination Prevention Project, as well as large-scale country programmes such as the Marine and Coastal Environment Management Programme (MACEMP) in Tanzania, the replication of which is currently being scheduled in Kenya and Mozambique. Apart from these GEF-supported Projects, a number of large-scale non-GEF projects with similar focus and objectives are ongoing, such as the Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Indian Ocean Countries (ReCoMaP) implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission.



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Definitions:

Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) - A management approach that:

- Integrates ecological, social, and economic goals and recognizes humans as key components of the ecosystem.
- Considers ecological- not just political- boundaries.
- Addresses the complexity of natural processes and social systems and uses an adaptive management approach in the face of resulting uncertainties.
- Engages multiple stakeholders in a collaborative process to define problems and find solutions.
- Incorporates understanding of ecosystem processes and how ecosystems respond to environmental perturbations.
- Is concerned with the ecological integrity of coastal-marine systems and the sustainability of both human and ecological systems.

Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) - regions of the world's oceans, encompassing coastal areas from river basins and estuaries to the seaward boundaries of continental shelves and the outer margins of the major ocean current systems. They are relatively large regions on the order of 200,000 km² or greater, characterized by distinct bathymetry, hydrography, productivity, and trophically dependent population. Development of a TDA and SAP for LMEs requires a 'modular' approach focusing on 5 modules (i.e. Fish and Fisheries; Productivity; Ecosystem Health and Pollution, Socioeconomics; Governance)

Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) – a scientific and technical fact-finding analysis of the relative importance of sources, causes and impacts of transboundary waters problems.

Strategic Action Programme (SAP) – a negotiated policy document that identifies actions in terms of policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments needed to address priority transboundary problems.

1. First Western Indian Ocean LMEs Stocktaking Meeting

The First Regional Stocktaking Meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 29th March 2010, back-to-back with the Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention. The purpose of this Meeting will be (i) to discuss the objectives and benefits of an Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach for the LMEs based on the TDA/SAP approach; (ii) to review the current status of development of such approach; and (iii) to reach consensus on the roadmap for the WIO EBM Programme, at the highest policy maker's level. The Target audience for this stocktaking meeting is high-level policy makers representing the Ministries of Environment, Tourism and Fisheries in each of the ten countries sharing the Western Indian Ocean: Comoros, France (La Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. Furthermore, a selected number of representatives in inter-governmental organizations (AU, COMESA, EAC, IOC and IOTC) as well as observers from several key development partners (FAO/Nansen, IUCN, NOAA, WIOMSA, WWF). It is intended that this meeting will



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form the foundation for an on-going Policy Advisory Committee to assist and guide in the SAP development and implementation process.

2. Implementation of Land-Based Activities Protocol and related SAP

The TDA/SAP process for the Western Indian Ocean LMEs is a shared effort by three projects run through 3 implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank). While the SWIOFP and ASCLME Project are recently begun and half-way completed respectively, the WIO-LaB Project is nearing its completion. The WIO-LaB Project has resulted in a new regional legal agreement to address the adverse impacts of land-based sources and activities, in the form of a Protocol to the Nairobi Convention. The Protocol is furthermore accompanied by a comprehensive TDA and SAP on land-based sources and activities.

The Protocol, TDA and SAP on Land-based Sources and Activities are considered major milestones on the road towards an EBM approach for the WIO Region. It is critical, therefore, that in order not to lose the momentum gained through the WIO-LaB Project, the advanced implementation of priority actions as defined in the SAP would be crucial. The SAP, in this regard, will form the basis for the development of specific follow-up Projects, targeting the GEF and other donors, building strongly upon the partnerships with organisations and institutions developed during its development process.

At the national level, furthermore, an important priority will be to mainstream the priorities of the SAP into national policy and legal frameworks, development plans and budgets. In this regard, most countries have developed or are currently in the process of developing National Action Plans, or are integrating relevant elements of the SAP into appropriate policy instruments such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans or Environmental Management Plans.

3. Joint development of a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

The WIO-LaB Project has already finalised a comprehensive TDA for Land-Based Sources and Activities which will form an important component of a final LME-wide TDA. This final TDA will combine the LBA component with other major components captured through the ASCLME and SWIOFP project as part of the LME modular approach (See 'definitions'). The ASCLME Project has been tasked with coordinating this process of finalising an LME-wide TDA and SAP.

As part of its commitment to supporting national needs and capacity building within the overall regional EBM context, the ASCLME project has designed a national Marine



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Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA) approach which will result in specific national-level Policy Briefs relating to EBM. These MEDA will form the foundation for the ASCLME component of the overall regional TDA. It is also expected that the national MEDA approach will ensure that country priorities are fully taken into consideration in the TDA-SAP process.

In the meantime, SWIOFP will provide the requisite information on commercial fisheries issues to the TDA-SAP process. In this regard, the two projects have agreed to cooperate closely at the national level to populate the national MEDAs and then coordinate closely at the regional level to evolve a comprehensive single and combined TDA, scheduled for June 2011.

It should, of course, be recognised that the TDA is not a stand-alone, one-off exercise but should be seen as a 'rolling' process which will require regular review as part of the delivery of a long-term monitoring and early warning strategy within the region.

4. Policy & Governance Assessment

As part of its TDA process, the WIO-LaB Project has already undertaken a detailed assessment of national and regional governance (legal, policy and institutional) frameworks to identify the causes of coastal and marine environmental degradation from a governance standpoint and to define areas and strategies for strengthening of national and regional governance frameworks. This analysis was undertaken within the framework of the three main transboundary priorities identified in the TDA of Land-based Sources and Activities, being (i) Water and sediment quality degeneration from land-based pollution; (ii) Physical alteration and habitat destruction; and (iii) Alteration of freshwater flows and sediment loads from rivers. This assessment, based on dedicated national and regional status reports undertaken by legal and governance experts from the region, has culminated in a chapter on Governance in the WIO-LaB TDA.

The ASCLME Project has a major component dealing with Policy and Governance Assessment which was a substantial addition to the Project requested by the countries at Project Inception in order to cover what was seen to be a massive gap in information and activities leading to an effective LME-wide TDA and SAP. This Policy and Governance Assessment is intended to undertake an in-depth assessment and analysis of policy and governance mechanisms at both the national and regional level in terms of identifying what will be the requirements for implementing an LME approach within the EBM context. The process is intended to be interactive and will inform the policy and decision makers so as to legitimize the approach and empower the decision-making process. There is a very real need for an interplay of all the stakeholders concerned with marine and coastal resources and this can be achieved through this policy and governance assessment. The Policy and Governance Assessment must also address the high-seas issues in terms of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction which also fall within the LMEs.



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This, in itself, is a huge undertaking and will require very close coordination with SWIOFP.

The final Policy and Governance Assessment will therefore aim to encompass the full spectrum of EBM. The Projects have agreed to undertake this assessment as a joint exercise in 2010. The Report from the Policy and Governance Assessment is expected to be completed by September 2010 and is intended to serve as a foundation document for the development of a harmonised approach to Governance and Policy within the overall SAP.

5. Joint development of a single, harmonised Strategic Action Programme

Once the additional information for the LME modular components have been gathered by ASCLME and SWIOFP, these can then be combined with the LBA elements from WIO-LaB into a single SAP.

The single SAP will be circulated to all of the appropriate stakeholders for their final review and feed-back. This document would then form the basis of the expected commitment from the countries to the SAP implementation process. This review would therefore have to focus on this document being formally adopted by each country at the highest level.

Once completed and endorsed, the SAPs will provide the basis for a comprehensive and synergistic programme of intervention for the WIO region, based upon the principles of ecosystem-based management.

6. Second Western Indian Ocean LMEs Stocktaking Meeting

The primary purpose of this Second Stock-Taking Meeting would be the discussion of the commitments highlighted by the SAP and agreement on the adoption process. The meeting would be attended by members of the Policy Advisory Committee that it is hoped will have been formally adopted through a process agreed at the First Stock-Taking Meeting in March 2010. The level of representation on this PAC would, ideally, be at the Permanent Secretary and Director-General level. This would mean that 'in-principle' endorsement of the SAP at this meeting should act as a reliable prelude to formal SAP endorsement at the highest country level.



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7. Roundtable of Stakeholders for Financial Commitment in support of SAP implementation

Once a draft SAP has been agreed then there is a foundation document upon which to base negotiations and discussions regarding financial commitments by partners. It is intended that key Stakeholders will have already reviewed the SAP, and indeed been included in its development process, so the purpose of this Roundtable would be to focus on securing the necessary financial sustainability and the mechanisms to support the long-term SAP implementation.

In this regard, the long-term mechanisms for sustainable ecosystem-based management and for early warning and adaptation related to ecosystem/climate variability will require alliances and partnership to be forged beyond government levels; commitments to sustainability are therefore not just national and regional, but also global.

The Western Indian Ocean as an Ocean-Atmosphere entity is a major driver of the global climate. The complex interaction and linkages between its LMEs and regional/global climate events makes it both unique and vulnerable. In this regard the long-term mechanisms for sustainable ecosystem-based management and for early warning and adaptation related to ecosystem/climate variability will require alliances and partnership to be forged beyond the level of the governments of the regions. Therefore, it will be important to recognise in any LME Strategic Action Programme and subsequent management and governance approach that the responsibility for sustainable LME management are not just national and regional, but also global.

8. Formal Adoption of SAP

It will be important and essential to seek formal endorsement of the SAP at the highest possible political level within the region. This is in view of the complexity of the Western Indian Ocean region itself (politically, demographically, and in terms of the marine ecosystem interactions), but it is also a necessary requirement for long-term sustainability at both the political and financial level if SAP implementation and long-term governance, policy, monitoring and management processes and mechanisms are ever to be successful.

9. Implementation of Single Harmonised SAP for Western Indian Ocean LMEs

Once the SAP has been endorsed and, assuming that finances are immediately available to implement the SAP, along with supportive partnership co-financing, then the implementation process can proceed through a programmatic approach.



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In the meantime, the Land-based Sources and Activities elements of the final SAP have already been identified through the process led by the WIO-LaB Project. The Many of the priority issues identified in the WIO-LaB SAP need to be addressed with some urgency, and as stated earlier (see item 1), it is intended that these components will be given advanced attention, including through early negotiations for funding.

[SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SEQUENTIAL WORK-PLAN](#)

WORK-PLAN FOR A HARMONISED WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME

Western Indian Ocean LMEs Harmonised Work-Plan	2010				2011				2012			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sep	Oct-Dec
First Western Indian Ocean LMEs Stock-Taking Meeting	Mar 2010											
Advanced implementation of the Land-Based Activities Protocol/SAP												
Joint Development of LME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis												
Policy & Governance Assessment Report												
Joint Development of Strategic Action Programme												
Draft SAP for circulation to Stakeholders								Nov 2011				
Second Western Indian Ocean LMEs Stock-Taking Meeting									Feb 2012			
Roundtable of Stakeholders for Financial Commitment and Mobilization in support of the SAP									Feb 2012			
Formal Adoption of SAP by countries and partners										June 2012		
Implementation of Single Harmonised SAP for Western Indian Ocean LMEs												