

Main Activities and Outputs

Project Objective 1: Reduce stress to the ecosystem by improving water and sediment quality

Work Package	Expected project outputs
Assessing water & sediment quality	Common methods for assessing water & sediment developed Gaps in knowledge of priority pollutants & their sources filled Carrying capacity of major ecotones identified Major hotspots of pollution identified Regional environmental quality standards for water and sediment quality established Long-term monitoring protocols developed
Managing municipal waste water (MWW)	Demonstration projects on MWW management implemented Guidelines for MWW management developed
Managing physical alteration and destruction of habitats (PADH)	Demonstration projects on PADH management implemented Guidelines for PADH management developed

Project Objective 2: Strengthen regional legal basis for preventing land based (LB) sources of pollution

Work Package	Expected project outputs
Legal framework	National legislation/regulatory frameworks reviewed Status of ratification of international conventions reviewed Protocol on LB sources developed & adopted
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Guidelines for regional EIA's developed
National Programme's of Action (NPA)	NPA's for land based activities developed by countries
Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM)	ICARM principles promoted and enhanced Demonstration project on ICARM implemented

Project Objective 3: Develop regional capacity for sustainable, less polluting development

Work Package	Expected project outputs
Regional coordination	Strengthened Nairobi Convention Secretariat and EAF/RCU A regional International waters coordinating mechanism established An East African node of the GPA Clearinghouse Mechanism created
Training & education	Training needs for LB sources & activities addressed Educational programs on LB sources & activities developed and implemented
Stakeholder participation	Private and public sector partnerships established Stakeholder participation in LBS management strengthened Small grants programme designed and implemented
Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis & Strategic Action Plan	An updated, scientifically relevant and geographically focused TDA and SAP developed

Project organization

Implementing agency:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Executing agencies:

- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Nairobi Convention Secretariat

Project Financing:

Global Environment Facility - US\$4,511,140
Government of Norway - US\$3,395,650
United Nations Environment Programme - US\$375,000 (cash and in-kind)
Participating countries - US\$3,131,675 (cash and in-kind)

Key regional and international partners:

- UNEP/GEF (www.unep.org/GEF)
- UNEP/GPA (www.gpa.unep.org)
- Government of Norway
- Nairobi Convention Secretariat (www.unep.org/easternafrika)
- New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (www.nepad.org)
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA) (www.wiomsa.org)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (www.wwf.org)
- World Conservation Union (IUCN) (www.iucn.org)

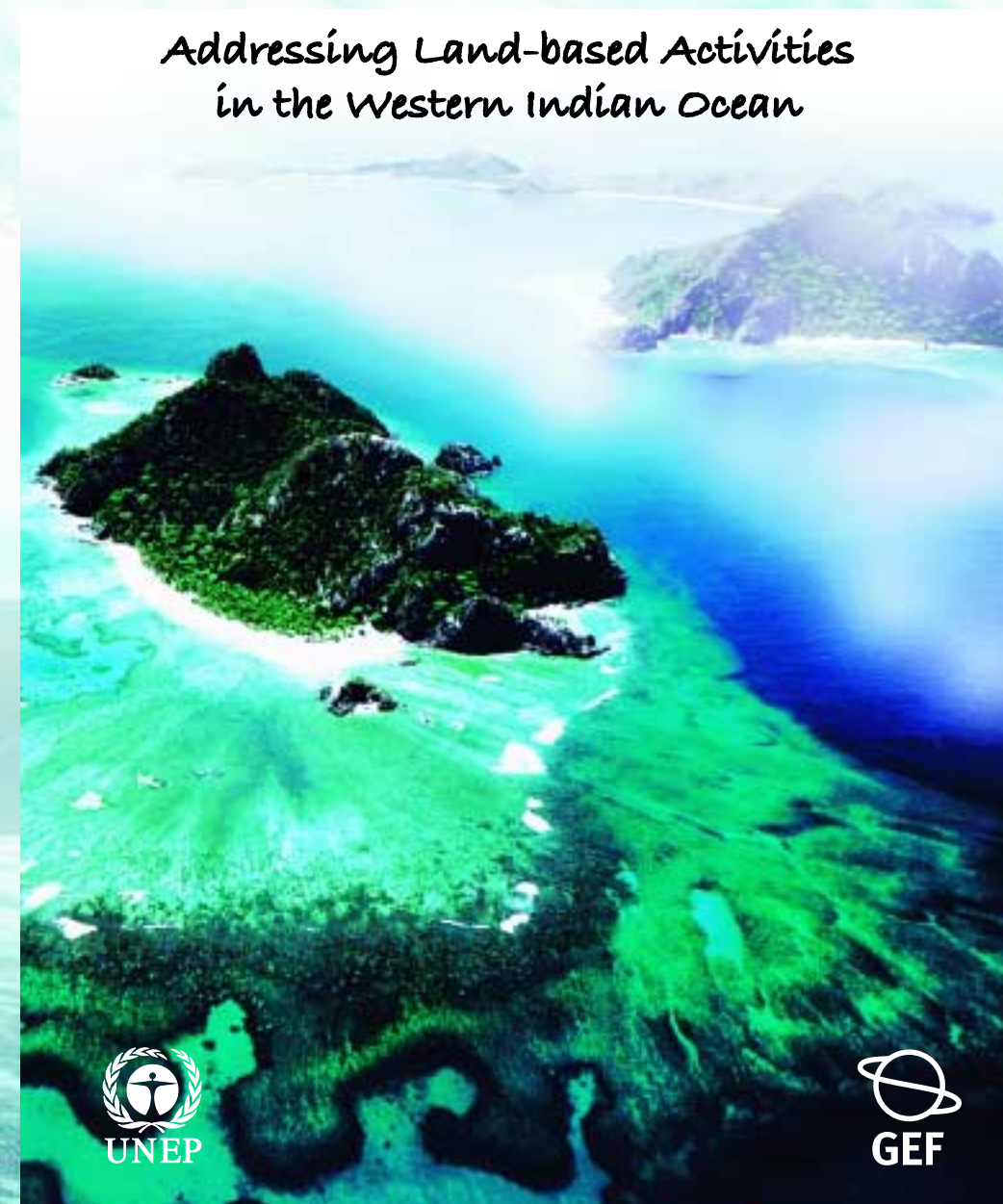


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WIO-LaB

Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean



Context

The importance of the marine and coastal environment

The marine and coastal environment in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) is of high ecological and economic value. Its natural bounties, including beaches, mangroves, coral reefs, plant and animal life are the basis for the growing tourism sector, attracting visitors from over the world. Its marine waters, and in particular its continental shelves, coastal margins, lagoons and estuaries are important fishing grounds. The productive and diverse coastal habitats of the WIO, such as mangroves, sea-grass meadows and coral reefs provide food and shelter for fishes, crustaceans, molluscs and other organisms of ecological and commercial value.



The threats

The coastal zone of the WIO region is the site of most major cities, harbours, industries and other socio-economic infrastructure, which increasingly affect the environment. Pollution from domestic, industrial and agricultural sources causes the degradation of water and sediment quality, resulting in loss of biological diversity, human health problems and a reduction in fish stocks. Human activities also lead to the destruction of critical habitats such as mangrove forests, sea grass beds and coral reefs, and cause physical alteration of the coastal zone, including coastal erosion. Countries in the region currently lack both the capacity and regulatory framework to adequately manage these environmental threats.

A call for action

The Project “Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean” (WIO-LaB) is a deliberate and conscious effort of the people of the WIO region, taken in response to a call from the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention in March 1997. The project is furthermore a direct follow-on to the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the related Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which called for “advanced implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA/LBA)”. The project was officially launched in Madagascar in July 2004 during the Fourth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention. During the course of its four year implementation (2004-2008), the project will address many of the threats identified above.

Project Beneficiaries

The principal beneficiaries of the project are those whose livelihoods depend on the marine and coastal resources of the WIO region. Governmental and non-governmental institutions will play a key role in the implementation of project activities thus enhancing capacity within these institutions as well as complementing and strengthening existing national efforts. At a global level, the project will assist in the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and, in this respect, will assist the countries in complying with their national and regional obligations under various international legal agreements.



Participating Countries

Continental states
Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa

Island states
The Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles

Objectives

The WIO-LaB Project addresses major land-based activities in the WIO region, and in this respect is designed to serve as a demonstration project for the “Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)” of UNEP. The Project has three major objectives:

- Improve the knowledge base and establish and demonstrate regional strategies for the reduction of stress to the marine and coastal ecosystem by improving water and sediment quality;
- Strengthen the regional legal basis for preventing land-based sources of pollution, including through the implementation of the GPA;
- Develop regional capacity and strengthen institutions for sustainable, less polluting development, including through the implementation of the Nairobi Convention and its action plan.

Strategic Action Plan

The final and key output of the project is a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), which will identify and analyse the key transboundary environmental problems of the WIO region. The TDA will provide the baseline for a Strategic Action Plan (SAP), representing a regional, long-term sustainability strategy for implementation for the WIO marine and coastal environment. The SAP is intended to provide the basis for long term cooperation between the countries in the WIO region.

