

Briefing Note to Nairobi Convention Stakeholders Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

A. Background and Current Situation

The global COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all countries of the world and severely impacting all aspects of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)'s work. Globally, most UNEP staff have been instructed to work remotely to prevent the spread of the virus, including at the global headquarters in Nairobi, where the Nairobi Convention Secretariat is situated. Secretariat staff have been working from home since Monday, 16th March 2020. The member states of the Convention are all in various stages of responding to this global crisis, with South Africa in total lock-down and Seychelles, Mozambique, Mauritius, Tanzania and Kenya in partial lock-down. Other countries have also instituted measures to contain the spread of the virus. These measures will affect implementation of both regional and national level activities in 2020. UNEP and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat are almost exclusively making use of virtual means for communications, with face-to-face meetings and international travel on hold until at least 31 May 2020. This is resulting in delays in implementation and difficulty in planning activities and events for this period and beyond.

The purpose of the Briefing Note is to alert our partners and stakeholders to the likely impacts that the current slow-down will have on the activities and processes of the Nairobi Convention and present the anticipated scenario with regard to our work in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region for the rest of 2020 and beyond. In addition, impacts on specific activities related to the projects executed by the Nairobi Convention are presented.

B. Implications for the Nairobi Convention Work Programme

The workplan of the Nairobi Convention is largely addressed through projects and programmes that are executed by the Convention Secretariat, working with signatory states and other partners in respective countries. The following projects and programmes are currently being implemented:

WIOSAP¹ Project, whose goal is to reduce impacts from land-based sources of pollution on the WIO and sustainably manage coastal and river ecosystems. Major outputs to date include the start of 15 national level demonstration projects on managing critical habitats, improving water quality, or managing environmental river flows; ecosystem guidelines and toolkits on seagrass restoration, mangrove restoration, and environmental flows; Outlooks on Marine Protected Areas and Critical Habitats; and capacity building on marine spatial planning, leadership, and good governance.

2016-2021. Financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF): USD 10,867,000

SAPPHIRE² Project, whose goal is to achieve effective, long-term ecosystem management in the WIO Large Marine Ecosystems. Major outputs to date include national project inception and scoping workshops, convening of science to policy forums; calls for proposals for demonstration projects on a)

¹ Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities.

² The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonisation and Institutional Reforms Project

policy harmonization and institutional reform and b) community engagement in sustainable resources management; strengthening partnerships for oceanographic research in the North Kenya bank and Pemba channel of Tanzania, and strengthening of a regional network of data managers to coordinate partnerships on oceanographic data and research; assessment reports on the state of oceanographic data and ocean governance in the region; support to countries to begin the updating of their Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses; regional consultations on ocean governance and enhancing the leadership capacity of Marine Scientists and Officials; and national capacity strengthening on MSP for improved ocean governance in the WIO.

2017-2023. Financed by GEF: \$8,766,500; Governments: \$311,040,044; In-kind: \$6,759,450

Partnership Project on African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Countries Capacity Building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), whose goal is to improve international environmental governance and better management of coasts and oceans through support to four Regional Seas Programmes (Nairobi, Cartagena, Abidjan, and Noumea Conventions) 2020-2023. Financed by European Union: \$2,022,310 (to NC). Major project activities expected to begin in 2020.

Partnership Project for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth in the WIO (NCS-SWIOFC), whose goal is to improve coordination between fisheries and environmental management to maintain the health of the WIO's fisheries resources and ecosystems. 2019-2023. Financed by the Swedish International Development Agency; \$8.6M (between NC and FAO/SWIOFC). Major project activities expected to begin in 2020.

Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel Project (NoCaMo), whose goal is to sustainably manage marine and coastal resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel. 2020-2024. Financed by FFEM €1,500,000; Total Co-Financing: €4,200,000; (Between NC, Wildlife Conservation Society, CORDIO, WWF-Madagascar). Major project activities expected to begin in 2020.

Contracting Parties and partners are already experiencing significant challenges with even routine administrative tasks related to project implementation and coordination at the national level. The following are examples of some of the difficulties faced by project focal points, focal institutions and partners as communicated to the Secretariat shortly after countries implemented restrictions:

“Just to let you know that TRASS has started some work on the project although we expect that the Covid-19 will slow down progress in these coming months” from Dr. Elvina Henriette from the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles (WIOSAP Project).

“With the lockdown in Mauritius due to COVID-19 outbreak and no work performed from 20th March to, at the earliest, 4th May 2020. We will mitigate the lost time by hiring more labour for field activities; the larger team will mean we can aim to cover the man days budgeted and cover the work in the project” from Dr Vikash Tatayah of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (WIOSAP Project).

“Due to sudden closure of the University (including all school systems in Mozambique, effective from Today Monday 23rd), our Kick-Off project workshop which was supposed to be centered at the PMG (Project Management Group) meeting is postponed sine die. Decision was prompted given also underlining risks with ferry travel, accommodation shortcoming at Inhaca, working in the sea and meetings with community members. Once the measures taken by the Government are relaxed we will re-schedule the Inhaca PMG meeting” from Prof Salomao Bandeira from Eduardo Mondlane University (WIOSAP Project).

“Currently, South Africa is on the lockdown. We are unable to action anything since these will require signature of the DDG Judy Beaumont.” From Yamkela Mngxe, Alternate SAPPHIRE Focal Point, South Africa (SAPPHIRE Project).

“Thank you very much for this email and sorry for this late reply because we are in COVID19 confinement in Madagascar. Our General Secretary has changed so I am obliged to update the signatories of the SAPPHIRE project at the bank level. Also, for the continuity of the administration, I think that the new secretary general will sign the SSFA on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. I take care of this signature when I return at the office. Wishing you good reception and good health.” From Nicolas Andriamboavonjy, SAPPHIRE Focal Point, Madagascar (SAPPHIRE Project).

“The IT are looking to provide my Skype address and as sooner as possible I'll share with you. However, we are facing problems with Internet connections. As you know, right now I am using my cell at my costs”. From Alexandre Bartolomeu, Nairobi Convention Focal Point, Mozambique (Nairobi Convention).

These anecdotal accounts were corroborated by Focal Points from eight countries during online meetings with the Secretariat held on the 22nd and 24th April 2020. The status in each country as reported by Focal Points was as follows:

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- i. Somalia – The pandemic has resulted in restriction of movement which has affected business as usual in the country. As a result, the implementation of activities on the ground has been halted and it has not been possible to convene meetings. A new Focal Point for the Nairobi Convention and the focal points for WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE projects have been nominated. The lead for the Marine Environment Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA) update process under SAPPHIRE project has also been nominated. Activities on the ground are expected to resume when the situation normalizes.
- ii. Mauritius - The country has been on lockdown since 20 March 2020 due to the pandemic and all offices are closed except for essential services. The lockdown is expected to last tentatively until 04 May 2020. The lockdown has affected implementation of on-the-ground activities and approval processes. The country will be implementing three demonstration projects under the WIOSAP project, which are at different stages of approval and implementation and may be delayed with the current lockdown. The National Intersectoral Coordination Committee (NICC) under the SAPPHIRE project has been set up and is functional. The MEDA update process is expected to be delayed by three-four months, since the approval of the Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFAs) has been affected by the

- current lockdown. Follow-up on the official communication from the cabinet on approval of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Outlook for the Mauritius chapter is also expected to be delayed.
- iii. Tanzania – A lockdown has not been instituted, but there are partial restrictions in place such as a ban on mass gatherings and voluntary stay-at-home measures. Staff working in offices has been limited to essential services. This has resulted in a slowing down of implementation of activities with some remaining dormant until the current pandemic is averted, and thus a general delay in implementation of activities is expected.
 - iv. Madagascar – There is a partial lockdown with offices open for half the day which has affected implementation of activities on-the-ground. The demonstration project activities are not yet fully operational under the current situation and thus delays are expected. The 10th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP 10) is scheduled to be held in Madagascar. A letter to this effect has already been prepared and discussions with the Secretary General at the Ministry of Environment are ongoing. Due to the current pandemic, it has been proposed that the COP 10 be postponed to either April 2021 or May 2021 to provide adequate time for the necessary preparations by countries and also to allow for progress in implementation of demonstration projects to be presented by the host country.
 - v. Seychelles – There is a partial lockdown with movement limited only to those who work in essential services and most people working from home. The restrictions have affected the progress in implementation of demonstration project activities on the ground and resulted in the postponement of meetings. The partial lockdown is expected to end by 04 May 2020 after which feedback could be provided on what measures could be undertaken to support implementation.
 - vi. Kenya - There has been a lockdown in the urban areas with restricted movement. Physical meetings with stakeholders have been postponed and implementation of activities on the ground has been affected. Some of the activities being undertaken during this period include taking steps to clear arrears to the Nairobi Convention Trust Fund and approval and ratification of the LBSA protocol, which is at an advanced stage. The Minister, as Chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau, is keen on ensuring the ratification process is finalized by the COP 10. There are three demonstration projects approved under the WIOSAP project, whose SSFAs have been finalized. Implementation of activities is expected to commence soon. The National Implementation Committee under WIOSAP (NIC) and NICC under SAPPHIRE are established and functional. The NIC and NICC will have physical meetings post-COVID to discuss on the way forward on expediting implementation of project activities.
 - vii. South Africa – The country has been in a strict lockdown since late March 2020 and this has severely impacted all activities related to the Nairobi Convention (e.g. two WIOSAP demonstration projects and the MEDA update process). A partial lockdown is expected until at least the end of May with a phased relaxation of restrictions thereafter. In the interim, the Focal Point will attempt to finalize the signing of the SFFA for the MEDA update as a priority.
 - viii. France - France has been on lockdown since 15 March 2020, which is expected to last until 11 May 2020. After this date, an analysis of the situation will be conducted and implementation of various activities may resume.

It should be noted that all countries are expected to relax restrictions in a phased manner and that activities will be affected for several months. As a result of these challenges and limitations on face-to-face activities and travel, one of the major impacts on the work programme of the Nairobi Convention has been the rescheduling of some activities and events from March 2020 and those planned for the 2nd quarter of 2020 (April to June). Furthermore, internal processes within the Convention Secretariat and

UNEP as a whole are expected to take more time during this period. Work requiring travel or meetings, in addition to on-the-ground interventions at a national level, are expected to be delayed by three to four months in many instances, provided that the COVID-19 situation stabilizes by June 2020.

All aspects of the Convention's work programme will be achieved through adjusted timelines. Most immediately, second quarter activities will be shifted to the third quarter, with a consequential cascade of activities to the 4th quarter and next year. This will also have budget implications, with flexibility required in both annual and longer-term financial planning, including the possibility of no-cost extensions for GEF-funded projects. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat will continue to operate, although remotely, and will endeavour to ensure that activities that are able to continue through the slow-down period will do so, and that those which have to be re-scheduled will be carried out later in the year or in the first quarter of 2021. It is not anticipated that any key activities will be cancelled.

Importantly, the 10th Conference of Parties of the Nairobi Convention was planned to be held in Madagascar in October/November 2020. Given the various preparatory processes that need to be undertaken leading up to this event, such as science-to-policy dialogues and the finalization of protocols (Fauna and Flora Protocol; LBSA Protocol), all of which require face-to-face regional consultations, the COP will need to be re-scheduled for the second quarter of 2021. Preparatory meetings can then be held in the second half of 2020, subject to the resolution of the current COVID-19 crisis.

Administrative functions within the Secretariat will continue, bearing in mind that there will be some delays as a result of staff within the Secretariat and supporting UNON colleagues working remotely. Video conferencing and other virtual methods will be used as much as possible to expedite those processes that do not require travel or face-to-face meetings.

C. Implications at the specific Project level

Many of the activities supported through projects executed by the Nairobi Convention require regional and national consultations and actions on the ground. As most countries have travel and movement restrictions in place, including social distancing, it is these activities that will be most affected by the slow-down. The table below provides a consolidated view of activities that were originally scheduled for or were underway in the first half of 2020 and some that were scheduled for the second half of the year. The table also provides an indication of measures that will be needed to accomplish both project deliverables and the work plan of the Nairobi Convention. It should be noted that in-country and site-specific activities that are ongoing or under preparation will be reviewed in consultation with project partners, and timeframes will be extended as necessary to allow for project activities to be completed. Further, in light of the expected negative impacts of the slow-down on the socio-economic well-being of communities involved in demo projects, careful thought will need to be given by implementers and stakeholders to addressing some of these challenges as part of the projects once they again become fully operational. This may include elements that contribute to enhancing the ability of communities to bounce back after this global shock.

Activities in the table below are separated into ongoing and re-scheduled activities to assist in focusing efforts of the Secretariat, partners, and stakeholders for the next few months. Activities in project work plans for 2020 that are not included in the table below will be re-scheduled to 2021, or as appropriate depending on the impacts of COVID-19, national level resources and best available advice. Due to these

changes, it is probable that a no-cost extension of at least six to eight months on existing project terms will need to be requested for all projects in order to complete planned deliverables.

Joint activities between two or more projects are shaded in blue in the table below, with the relevant projects indicated in parenthesis.

Activities	Status	Notes
Nairobi Convention Core Processes		
<i>Ongoing activities</i>		
Communications	Ongoing	Launch of various products could be carried out virtually prior to travel and meeting bans being lifted, with physical launching carried out later in 2020. It will be critical to continue with regular communications activities during the slow down to keep stakeholders informed and momentum going.
Recruitment	Ongoing	Recruitment will continue, with onboarding of new staff delayed until the slow-down is over.
Financial Management	Ongoing	Budgets for some activities scheduled for 2020 will be rolled over to 2021.
GIZ Ocean Governance Support	Ongoing	The slow-down provides a good opportunity to finalise this partnership
STRONG High Seas Project workshop	Planning ongoing	This joint workshop with IDDRI could be linked with a science to policy meeting in 4 th quarter of 2020.
MSP Capacity Development with SWaM	Planning ongoing	Potential regional capacity building in second half of 2020.
<i>Re-scheduled activities</i>		
COP 10	Re-schedule for April-May 2021	This will allow preparatory activities such as science-to-policy dialogues and finalisation of the Fauna and Flora, and LBSA Protocols to be completed well in advance of the COP.
WIOSAP Project		
<i>Ongoing activities</i>		
Stakeholders meeting on the economic valuation of the TBCA between Kenya and Tanzania	Planning ongoing	Virtual meeting for planning purposes to be held with key partners in April/May 2020.
MPA Outlook Publication and launch	Finalisation and publication ongoing	Potential virtual launch once products are ready with physical launch in 3 rd or 4 th Quarter 2020.
Restoration Guidelines Publications and launch	Finalisation and publication ongoing	Launch planned for 3 rd Quarter of 2020.
Critical Habitats Outlook (WIOSAP, MEAs)	Ongoing	As the development of this product is desk-top, review process is ongoing during the slow down.
Establishment of MSP TWG and development of regional MSP Strategy (WIOSAP, SAPPHERE, NCS-SWIOFC, MEAs, NoCaMo)	Ongoing	The process of inviting nominations from countries for the TWG and establishment will continue, with the first meeting of the TWG to be held virtually. A physical meeting will follow in 3 rd Quarter of 2020. The development of the regional strategy will continue, with physical consultations being held in the second half of 2020 and finalisation and validation by the end of 2020.
Feedback from countries on information needed for SSFA development	Slowed	Slowed communication and feedback. We will continue to engage with partners virtually and provide any necessary information required for this process. This will slow fund disbursements and project start-up and implementation in some countries.
Regional Marine Litter Assessment by Marine Litter Working Group (WIOSAP, MEAs)	Slowed	The process of finalizing ToRs and virtual engagement of the Working Group on this task will continue during the slow-down.
<i>Re-scheduled activities</i>		
Mauritius NIC and demo projects launch slated for 15 – 16 April 2020	Re-schedule	Postponed until 3 rd quarter. This will assist in aligning the timeframes with those demo-projects already underway as described in the next row.
Seychelles NIC and demo projects launch slated for 8 - 9 April 2020	Re-schedule	

Activities	Status	Notes
Madagascar project site visit in April 2020	Re-schedule	
Kenyan NIC and launch of demo projects in May 2020	Re-schedule	
Implementation of demo projects in countries which have already received funds i.e. South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles.	Delayed	Slow-down on project implementation expected. This will mean implementation will continue from 3 rd quarter of 2020. This will require a no-cost extension of demo project timeframes. The 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd PSC meetings already had recommended project extension until June 2022 to enable the project to run for a full 5-year cycle. The current disruption may require further extension to December 2022 to facilitate full implementation of all demo projects.
Mid-term Evaluation	Re-scheduled	Mid-term evaluation was planned for the 2 nd Quarter of 2020 and will now take place in the 3 rd of 4 th Quarter of the year.
Joint PSC meeting with SAPPHIRE Project – August 2020 (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE)	Re-schedule for September/October 2020	Planning and organizing activities are on hold for the annual PSC meeting, joint Science to Policy workshop, and the training on enhancing leadership for SAP implementation that had been planned to take place in August 2020.
Merging WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE SAPs (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, MEAs)	Completion rescheduled for mid-2021	The process of updating the MEDAs under the SAPPHIRE Project has been launched in most countries and was scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2020. This will be delayed until September 2020 and in turn will affect the revision of TDAs and merger of the WIOLAB and ASCLME SAPs, the finalization of which had been planned for the end of 2020.
SAPPHIRE Project		New expected end date: December 2023
<i>Ongoing activities</i>		
MEDA update process in all countries	Slowed; completion re-scheduled for September 2020	The process has been launched in most countries and was scheduled to be completed by end June 2020. The slow-down will provide the opportunity for all countries to finalise SSFAs for this activity.
Publication of Ocean Governance Background Paper	Ongoing	The publication could be launched online and physically launched at the re-scheduled RECs Ocean Governance meeting in August 2020.
Development of Private sector engagement strategy	Ongoing	The process has been slowed down but SAIIA will continue with desk top elements of the strategy, with consultation proceeding thereafter. Completion to be re-scheduled from July 2020 to September 2020. This will delay the planned regional workshop on private sector engagement in EBM in the WIO region, which will now be held in October 2020.
Establishment of MSP TWG and development of regional MSP Strategy (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, MEAs, NCS-SWIOFC, NoCaMo)	Ongoing	The process of inviting nominations from countries for the TWG and establishment will continue, with the first meeting of the TWG to be held virtually. A physical meeting will follow in the 3 rd Quarter of 2020. The development of a new partnership to prepare the regional strategy will continue, with physical stakeholder consultations being held in the second half of 2020 and finalisation and validation by the end of 2020.
KE and TZ Blue Economy assessments (SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC, MEAs)	Ongoing	The preparation and desk top elements of this task will continue, with consultation and validation occurring before the end of 2020.
Development of integrated site-specific demonstration projects with countries at 4-5 sites (SAPPHIRE, WIOSAP, NCS-SWIOFC)	Ongoing	Countries need to be engaged and concepts and proposal finalized during the slow-down period. SAPPHIRE will investigate joint site level demo-projects with WIOSAP and SWIOFC.
Development of an Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Framework (SAPPHIRE, MEAs)	Ongoing planning	Work with WIOMSA to initiate this process, bearing in mind that completion will be delayed by several months.
<i>Re-scheduled activities</i>		

Activities	Status	Notes
Capacity building training for national data managers and MEDA coordinators: 15 - 18 March 2020	Re-schedule for June-July 2020	This will delay the MEDA update activities initiated at national level as well as the completion of CEDARE's work on county profiles, capacity building on data management and visualization.
Workshop on oceanographic research on Northern Kenya Bank and Pemba Channel of Tanzania: 16 - 17 April 2020	Re-schedule for June/July 2020	This will significantly affect the field work (expedition for data collection) and stakeholders' consultation which in turn will affect timely completion of the oceanographic research work.
Regional workshop on Blue Economy and ocean governance (RECS), 27- 29 April 2020 (SAPPHIRE, MEAs)	Re-schedule for July/August 2020	The delay of this workshop will impact the planned engagement with RECs in the development of the regional ocean governance strategy, as well as the IGAD and SADC blue economy and climate change strategies.
NICC meeting in Kenya: April 2020	Re-schedule to 3 rd quarter	This will delay the development of demonstration projects. The NICC was expected to discuss and decide on the process and selection of institution/ review of proposals.
NICC meeting in Mauritius: 05 - 06 May 2020	Re-schedule to 3 rd quarter	This will delay the development of demonstration projects. The NICC was expected to discuss and decide on the process and selection of institution.
NICC meeting in Comoros 19 - 20 May 2020	Re-schedule to 3 rd quarter	This will delay the development of demonstration projects. The NICC was expected to discuss and decide on the process and selection of institution.
National ocean policy review meeting, Mozambique April 2020	Re-schedule to 3 rd quarter	This will delay the planned policy revision, establishment of multisectoral working group and capacity building activities.
Joint PSC meeting with WIOSAP Project – August 2020 (SAPPHIRE, WIOSAP)	Re-schedule for September/October 2020	Planning and organizing activities are on hold for the annual PSC meeting, joint Science to Policy workshop, and the training on enhancing leadership for SAP implementation that had been planned to take place in August 2020.
Merging WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE SAPs (SAPPHIRE, WIOSAP)	Completion rescheduled for mid-2021	The process of updating the MEDAs has been launched in most countries and was scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2020. This will be delayed until September 2020 and in turn will affect the revision of TDAs and merger of the WIOLAB and ASCLME SAPs, the finalisation of which had been planned for the end of 2020.
NCS-SWIOFC Project		
<i>Ongoing activities</i>		
Establishment of MSP TWG and development of regional MSP Strategy (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC, NoCaMo)	Ongoing	The process of inviting nominations from countries for the TWG and establishment will continue, with the first meeting of the TWG to be held virtually. A physical meeting will follow in the 3 rd Quarter of 2020. The development of the regional strategy will continue, with physical consultations being held in the second half of 2020 and finalisation and validation by the end of 2020.
KE and TZ Blue Economy assessments (SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC)	Ongoing	The preparation and desk top elements of this task will continue, with consultation and validation occurring before the end of 2020.
Development of integrated site-specific demonstration projects at 4-5 sites in 3 countries (SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC)	Ongoing	Countries need to be engaged and concepts and proposal finalized during the slow-down period.

Activities	Status	Notes
EU MEAs Project	Activities not started by April 2020	
Establishment of MSP TWG and development of regional MSP Strategy (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC, MEAs, NoCaMo)	Joint activity with WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC	The process of inviting nominations from countries for the TWG and establishment will continue, with the first meeting of the TWG to be held virtually. A physical meeting will follow in the 3 rd Quarter of 2020. The development of the regional strategy will continue, with physical consultations being held in the second half of 2020 and finalisation and validation by the end of 2020.
KE and TZ Blue Economy assessments (SAPPHIRE, SWIOFC, MEAs)	Joint activity with SAPPHIRE, NCS-SWIOFC	The preparation and desk top elements of this task will continue, with consultation and validation occurring before the end of 2020.
Development of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region ocean governance strategy. (MEAs, SAPPHIRE)	Joint activity with SAPPHIRE, re-schedule RECS workshop by SAPPHIRE for July/August 2020	The delay of this workshop will impact the planned engagement with RECs in the development of the regional ocean governance strategy, as well as the IGAD and SADC blue economy and climate change strategies.
Support to COP 10	Re-schedule for April-May 2021	This will allow preparatory activities such as science-to-policy dialogues and finalisation of Fauna and Flora, and LBSA Protocols to be completed well in advance of the COP.
Design and development of holistic MPA management plans. (MEAs, WIOSAP, NCS-SWIOFC)	Joint activity with WIOSAP, NCS-SWIOFC	Activity expected after potential virtual launch of MPA Outlook once products are ready with physical launch in 3 rd or 4 th Quarter 2020.
Participation in national and regional negotiations for biodiversity protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction (MEAs, SAPPHIRE)	Joint activity with SAPPHIRE	The process of face-to-face negotiations will be slowed down and commence in the 3 rd quarter of 2020.
NOCAMO Project	Activities not started by April 2020	
Establishment of MSP TWG and development of regional MSP Strategy (WIOSAP, SAPPHIRE, SWIOFC, MEAs, NoCaMo)	Ongoing	The process of inviting nominations from countries for the TWG and establishment will continue, with the first meeting of the TWG to be held virtually. A physical meeting will follow in the 3 rd Quarter of 2020. The development of the regional strategy will continue, with physical consultations being held in the second half of 2020 and finalisation and validation by the end of 2020.