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ANNEX 17

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2023-2025

Action Document for Blue Benguela Current - Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) for a Sustainable Blue Economy

MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and an action plan within the meaning of Article 23(2) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Blue Benguela Current - Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) for a Sustainable Blue Economy OPSYS number: ACT-61881 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME), covering the coastal areas and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, from the northern border of Angola to near Port Elizabeth in South Africa.
4. Programming document	Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	Specific objective 5: Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes. R.5.1: Ocean and water governance is enhanced in terms of regional cooperation and coordination on policies, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, research and data sharing. R.5.2: Integrated water resource management, sustainable blue economy including integrated coastal zone management are promoted and developed through green and innovative integrated regional/transboundary approaches as well as through investments. R.5.3: Conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, wetlands and inland water ecosystems are reinforced through regional networks and initiatives promoting nature-based solutions.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 3: Green Transition (sub-area Waters and Oceans) DAC codes: 313 Fishing; 332 Tourism; 410 General Environment Protection; 41030 Biodiversity; 430 Other multi-sectors (inclusive of: 43060 Disaster risk reduction; 43073 food safety and quality; 43082 research/scientific institutions)

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): Life below Water (SDG 14) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8); Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12); No Poverty (SDG 1); Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10); Climate action (SDG 13); Peace, Justice and strong Institutions (SDG 16); Partnership for the Goals (SDG 17).			
8 a) DAC code(s)	313 Fishing – 5% 332 Tourism – 5% 410 General Environment Protection – 40% 430 Other multi-sectors – 40% 600 Action relating to debt – 10%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	GIZ - 52			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tag:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal

				objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BUDGET INFORMATION			
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020122 Total estimated cost: EUR 12 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 11 000 000 This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (BMUV) for an amount of EUR 1 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) is situated along the coast of south-western Africa, stretching from east of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa along the Namibian coast towards the Angola Front, near the northern geopolitical boundary of Angola. It encompasses one of the world's four major coastal upwelling ecosystems. These systems, fuelling high growth rates of phytoplankton, have very high marine productivity and are therefore key centres of marine biodiversity. The estimated mean annual primary production of the BCLME ranges from 331-441 grams carbon per meter squared per year (Cm^2y^{-1}) (O'Reilly and Sherman, 2016), which is at least ten times higher than in the open ocean.

Climate change and the numerous economic activities taking place in the area pose a challenge to the sustainable management of the BCLME. Both factors increase the risk of losing the high levels of biodiversity characteristic of the BCLME. The most recent Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) report from 2021 identifies unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, loss of ecosystem health and biodiversity and climate change as major threats; other more localised threats have also been identified. Despite the sustainability ambitions of the 3 BCC countries, the BCLME's

ability to continue to provide the goods and ecosystem services on which the well-being and socio-economic development of millions of people in the region is increasingly being compromised. As such, the situation calls for better ocean governance across the BCC region and for taking effective mitigating measures that halt or reverse the loss of biodiversity and threats on the living aquatic resources both nationally and transnationally.

Various projects have supported the BCC's efforts towards improved ocean governance in the BCLME. Of note is the recent 'MARISMA' project, supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the German Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI). The project fosters an ecosystem-based approach to managing ocean resources and the development of a sustainable blue economy across the BCC region. MARISMA has a particular focus on ocean biodiversity and area-based management, building on the recognition that integrating Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the emerging practice of marine spatial planning is key for sustainable blue growth both nationally and regionally. This approach has also been recognised in the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Goals, targets 1-3 (reducing threats to biodiversity). However, more efforts are now required to ensure the ecosystem-based ocean management is anchored within existing governance systems and can be institutionalised for the long term by means of designing and implementing suitable multi-level governance structures, processes and competences.

This Action aims at contributing to an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) that embraces the integrated conservation and sustainable use of the region's marine and coastal biodiversity and the associated ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of diverse social groups. (Overall objective). This will be done by promoting the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as enhancing the sustainable use of living aquatic resources; reduction of air, water and soil pollution; promotion of a circular economy; improvement of waste management; and ensuring the sustainability of the blue economy sectors, including fisheries. A sustainable and inclusive blue economy will also be based on promoting the creation of decent jobs and improved livelihood opportunities in the fisheries/mariculture and eco-tourism sectors, with special attention on women and youth.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are to

1. Enhance the national and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods.
2. Leverage financial resources for the sustainable management of key marine biodiversity areas.

Finally, this Action will ensure coordination and complementarities with the other regional ocean programmes and Actions, namely 'Scientific and technological support to regional Centres of Excellence related to green transition', 'Global Ocean Programme on ocean governance, conservation and sustainable use' and 'Safe Seas'.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Oceans cover 71% of the surface area of the planet and provide innumerable benefits and services to society and to the entire planet. The ocean plays a major role in regulating the global climate system and produces more than 50% of the oxygen that we breathe. Coasts and seas support global trade and commerce and an enormous range of livelihoods, arising from new and emerging sectors of the blue economy as well as traditional uses, including small-scale sectors of particular importance to women. Coasts and seas are a critical source of social and cultural well-being, providing food and various medicinal products, hosting a range of recreational activities and providing spiritual value for many civilisations throughout history. Coastal ecosystem services, including tourism and protection from storms, have been valued at nearly US\$ 26 billion annually. (CBD.int, 2022)

Despite their critical importance, marine and coastal biodiversity is subject to increasing cumulative pressures from human activities which often compete with each other for space and resources. The many threats marine and coastal ecosystems face include unsustainable fishing, loss of critical marine habitats (e.g. seagrasses, shallow water habitats, reef structures), loss of space (e.g. leading to fragmentation of habitats, affecting e.g. migrating species), pollution (debris, sound, alien species, oil spills), and eutrophication. These pressures are exacerbated by global climate change which causes ocean warming, increased ocean acidity, sea-level rise and enhanced sea wave strength. The latter also affect coastal areas and with this communities, not least through erosion, flooding and saltwater intrusion.

Acknowledging both the critical importance of marine and coastal biodiversity and the many threats it faces, the EU's Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme (RMIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) prioritised 'Waters and Oceans' under its Green Transition support area, aiming to promote a more sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes in the region. The present action is designed to contribute to this goal and specifically targets the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME). Although this Action targets the different Marine Exclusive Economic Zones of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, it will also promote and incorporate elements of the new International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The BCLME is situated along the coast of south-western Africa, stretching from east of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa along the Namibian coast towards the Angola Front, near the northern geopolitical boundary of Angola. It encompasses one of the world's four major coastal upwelling ecosystems. These systems, fuelling high growth rates of phytoplankton, have very high marine productivity and are therefore key centres of marine biodiversity. The estimated mean annual primary production of the BCLME ranges from 331-441 grams carbon per meter squared per year (Cm^2y^{-1}) (O'Reilly and Sherman, 2016), which is at least ten times higher than in the open ocean.

The BCLME is a transboundary ecosystem requiring ditto governance. Recognising this, South Africa, Namibia and Angola have established the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) as an intergovernmental multi-sectoral institution with a secretariat in Swakopmund, Namibia, and a ratified agreement between the three Parties. The BCC's mission is to promote, coordinate and implement the sustainable development of the BCLME. This is implemented through an iterative process of conducting Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA) and the development and implementation of 5-year Strategic Action Programmes (SAP) and associated Implementation Plans (IP). To date, TDAs have taken place in 1999, 2013 and 2021 and two SAP-IPs were developed (2010-2014 and 2015-2019). A third SAP-IP (2023-2033) is currently in the process of being approved and adopted.

Ocean resources are very important for the BCC region in terms of human wellbeing and socio-economic development. Within the three countries, the key ocean economic sectors (fisheries; minerals, oil and gas extraction; shipping; and coastal tourism) provide employment to hundreds of thousands of people. They alleviate poverty and provide nutritional and food security for millions, and boost government revenues. Furthermore, the BCLME supports recreational, educational, aesthetic and spiritual activities for the people of the region and beyond. The table below provides some figures to illustrate the socio-economic importance of the BCLME for the three BCC Member States. (TDA, 2021)

Blue economy sector	Angola	Namibia	South Africa
MARINE CAPTURE FISHERIES:			
Fisheries contribution to GDP (2017)	3.7 %	3.6 %	< 1.0%
Employment (2017)	>100,000 ^c	16,800	28,000
Per capita supply (kg) (2016)	19.5	11.3	6.1
TOURISM:			
% total contribution to GDP	3.1 %	14.7 %	7 %
% contribution to total employment	3.2 %	15.4 %	9.1 %
MARINE TRANSPORT/SHIPPING:			
Annual container port traffic (Twenty-foot equivalent units-TEUs)	778,000	360,214	4,892,400
OFFSHORE OIL/PETROLEUM:			
Production	1.4 million bpd	n/a	1,800 bpd
% contribution to GDP	70%	n/a	Extremely small
Value of export	USD 46.6 billion	n/a	About 10 % of domestic needs
Employment	4,320	n/a	
MARINE MINERALS/DIAMOND:			
% contribution to GDP	n/a	>15 %	
Employment	n/a	>1,444	>2,200

Despite intergovernmental and national efforts to sustainably manage the BCLME, human-induced pressures are increasing. Unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, loss of ecosystem health and biodiversity and climate change were identified as major threats in the most recent TDA (2021). In addition, all three BCC countries are looking to expand blue sectors to fuel economic growth and to contribute towards sustainability transitions, e.g. by expanding

renewable energy generation. Despite their sustainability ambitions, the multiple impacts of these various activities have the potential to compromise the BCLME's ability to continue to provide the goods and ecosystem services on which the well-being and socio-economic development of millions of people in the region depend. As such, the situation calls for better ocean governance across the BCC region and for taking effective mitigating measures both nationally and transnationally.

Various projects have supported the BCC's efforts towards improved ocean governance in the BCLME. Of note is the recent 'MARISMA' project, supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the German Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI). The project fosters an ecosystem-based approach to managing ocean resources and the development of a sustainable blue economy across the BCC region. MARISMA has a particular focus on ocean biodiversity and area-based management, building on the recognition that integrating Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the emerging practice of marine spatial planning is key for sustainable blue growth both nationally and regionally. More efforts are required to ensure ecosystem-based ocean management can be institutionalised for the long term by means of designing and implementing suitable multi-level governance structures, processes and competences.

The Action falls under the Green Transition priority area of the Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa. This priority area is supported by the EC's Joint Communication 'Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa' (JOIN (2020)4 of 9.3.2020) which defines Green Transition and Energy Access as one out of five strategic partnerships to work and calls for action to maximise the benefits of the green transition and minimise threats to the environment in full compliance with the Paris Agreement. Also the European Green Deal, providing policy guidance at the highest level, highlights 'Oceans and Transboundary Water Cooperation' as a policy area that requires increased attention and specifies the following as priority areas for action. Finally, the Action is in line with the EU International Ocean Governance Agenda¹.

The Action will pursue the agenda of protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in the face of climate change; reduction of air, water and soil pollution; promotion of a circular economy; improvement of waste management; and ensuring the sustainability of blue economy and fisheries sectors. The promotion of the Blue Economy will be pursued by promoting decent jobs creation / improved livelihoods opportunities in the fisheries/mariculture and eco-tourism sectors, with special attention for women and youth.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The formulation of the Action is informed by an assessment of the current context and a stocktaking of priority needs and gaps through literature & internet review, extensive stakeholder consultations in the three BCLME countries and mapping of thematically relevant government and donor-supported programmes.

From the many issues and gaps that were identified, the following have been selected for support under the present Action:

- Lack of capacity and funding for implementation of national and regional targets aligned with international commitments for sustainable development and to address climate change and environmental protection, including through the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) especially regarding the interlinked targets 1 (establishing participatory biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or integrated marine management), 2 (enhancing restoration of degraded coastal and marine ecosystems), 3 (ecosystem conservation of 30% of the marine area), 8 (minimising the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions), 9-13 (meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing) and 14-23 (securing data and information, designing appropriate forms of governance, and strengthen capacity-building and development including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation).
- Increasing pressures on the BCLME resulting from a growing range and intensification of human activities. In this context, the Germany-funded MARISMA project has introduced the concept Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the area and linked MSP to the identification and management of EBSAs. While major achievements have been made, these now need to be consolidated and translated into policy action at national level and tangible action/implementation at local level. In particular, ecosystem-based MSP needs to be linked to other areas of

¹ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/publications/setting-course-sustainable-blue-planet-joint-communication-eus-international-ocean-governance-agenda_en

ocean policy and fully institutionalised (e.g. legislation, dedicated marine spatial planning units) in all three BCC countries to ensure it can deliver on its ambitions.

- Challenges for the BCC in mobilising funds for planning and management of the BCLME, and insufficient reach and capacity to ensure strategic and tangible action for conservation and the sustainable use of the BCLME at the regional level.
- The underutilisation of opportunities provided by BCLME goods and services for development of a sustainable, biodiversity-friendly and inclusive Blue Economy in the area with fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- Lack of capacities and policies at the national level for building on existing achievements (such as MSP and EBSA identification) to design and implement an integrated ocean policy.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the Action:

For the public sector, the main stakeholders will be (1) the BCC as intergovernmental agency mandated to coordinate and promote the sustainable development of the BCLME; (2) the Angolan, Namibian and South African Ministries in charge of marine conservation (MINAMB, MFMR and DFFE respectively) and marine spatial planning (MINPERMAR, MFMR and DFFE respectively); and (3) the Intersectoral MSP and Blue Economy Working Groups in the three countries (mandated to develop marine spatial plans technically and mandated to draft Blue Economy policy, respectively). While taking part in the implementation of the Action, they will all benefit from capacity building support and joint learning, not least the capacity to develop cross-border networks and ensure policy cohesion across the BCC region. For the public sector, stakeholders also include coastal local authorities (municipal or regional governments) with a mandate for spatial planning and regional development, to promote greater ocean literacy and awareness of land-sea interactions.

This Action will also collaborate with other European Commission and its Members States financed Actions, including the Programme on Ocean Governance and the All Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance. Another relevant Action is the UNDP's 'Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem III' funded by the Global Environment Facility which also provides support to the Benguela Current Commission with capacity development and training.

Finally, other important stakeholders coastal and marine NGOs plus civil society organisations (including community-based small enterprises) with an interest in marine and coastal topics, in particular around key areas of marine biodiversity and marine protected areas. Like coastal municipalities, they will be potential beneficiaries of small grants, awarded through a Call for Proposals and to be used for improving and diversifying BE-based livelihoods of vulnerable groups.

The private sector through local business organisations, will be involved/consulted during the implementation of the Action. Mostly Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (MSMEs) may receive advisory services to adopt sustainable practices and create new quality and green jobs.

As final beneficiaries, the Action targets all inhabitants and users of the BCLME. It will pay special attention to vulnerable groups living in the coastal areas and in the vicinity to MPAs and key marine biodiversity areas and promote gender equality, supporting better women and girls' participation in economic activities and in planning and decision-making processes.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) that embraces the integrated conservation and sustainable use of the region's marine and coastal biodiversity and the associated ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of diverse social groups.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this Action are to:

1. Enhance the national and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods.
2. Leverage financial resources for the sustainable management of key marine biodiversity areas.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):

- 1.1. Strengthened institutional capacities for the BCC, comprising the BCC secretariat, the Commission and the respective national Ministries (environment, fisheries, petroleum, transport).
- 1.2. Diversified income of local communities through sustainable use of marine biodiversity and resources.
- 1.3. Enhanced management of existing key marine biodiversity areas and marine protected areas.
- 1.4. Improved legal and institutional capacity for the implementation of ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in each country.

Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2):

- 2.1 Innovative financing solutions developed to support the creation and sustainable management of existing and new Marine Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1 - Institutional capacities for the BCC; comprising the BCC secretariat, the Commission and the respective national Ministries (environment, fisheries, petroleum, transport), have been strengthened.

One of the key roles of the BCC is to work towards a coherent and consistent approach to marine planning and management across the three countries based on a shared evidence base. A coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME will be supported by creating opportunities for sharing national experiences, discussing planning and management approaches and bringing together national data, information and knowledge. In order to strengthen the institutional capacity of the BCC, dedicated expert-led training will be made available to various BCC staff, experts and national Ministry representatives, e.g. on monitoring and evaluation of MSP and EBSAs, stakeholder involvement or other management tools and approaches. Another key aspect will be to support the continued organisational development of the BCC, enabling it to advance its strategic capacity and to expand its role as a regional platform for knowledge and policy generation and exchange.

Activities related to Output 1.2 - Diversified income of local communities through sustainable use of marine biodiversity and resources, in particular around key areas of marine biodiversity and marine protected areas.

This output will be implemented through a Call for Proposals targeting local NGOs, Community Based Organisations, Community Based Enterprises, and Local Authorities in the coastal zones of Angola, Namibia and South Africa that belong to the Benguela Current. The aim is to support local initiatives related to small-scale and artisanal fisheries, innovative use of marine and coastal resources (e.g. algae, seaweed farming), marketing and sale of marine and coastal products (including new and traditional products); (eco-)tourism; nature-based solutions in adaptation to climate change (coastal protection, using kelp as carbon sinks), sustainable aquaculture, waste management (circular economy, zero pollution), etc. with the potential to improve the livelihoods of coastal communities. There is a particular focus on vulnerable coastal communities in and around key marine biodiversity areas (encompassing existing and new MPAs, EBSAs, OECMs), as well as generally on improving gender equality, with the aim of

fostering equitable access to marine and coastal biodiversity and natural resources. Initiatives designed to promote opportunities for women, including financing, marketing, technology and training, will be encouraged. A typology of beneficiaries will be developed and the geographical flow of benefits assessed to highlight community groups and sectors that benefit from using marine biodiversity and to show how and where the benefits generated from coastal and marine resources flow within the countries (spatial economic benefit analysis). The results of these actions will be shared regionally for potential upscaling within the region and to be considered into the sustainable finance instruments of Output 2.1. Grants will be managed through a facility approach.

Activities related to Output 1.3 - The management of key marine biodiversity areas and marine protected areas is enhanced.

The GIZ-implemented MARISMA project has supported the three BCC countries in identifying and describing Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) as the key marine biodiversity areas in the BCLME. 29 new or updated descriptions of EBSAs have been produced, including for transboundary EBSAs. Taking into consideration the 29 EBSAs, the activities related to output 1.3 will support the identification, planning and designation of Marine Protected Area (MPA) or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) in all three BCLME countries, in line with national biodiversity and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Building on the existing governance frameworks and specific needs in each of the three countries, the Action will support the participatory development and implementation of management plans for protected and conserved areas, including climate refuges and natural carbon sinks, and the streamlining of associated frameworks, competencies, mandates, responsibilities and procedures. It will promote the new International Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and support its ratification and implementation. Advice will be given on assessing funding needs, and on identifying and accessing appropriate funding sources and mechanisms (see Output 2.1).

Activities related to Output 1.4 - Improved legal and institutional capacity exists for the implementation of ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in each country.

The Marine Spatial Planning concept has been successfully introduced in the BCC region by the GIZ-implemented MARISMA project. Through MARISMA, all three countries have developed MSP plans or procedures that have been approved at the technical level. This action will support the consolidation of the results achieved to date. It will specifically ensure the institutionalisation and operationalisation of MSP as a standard procedure in the three countries, interlinking it with existing or emerging ICZM and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) plans and ensuring it is regionally coordinated. Specifically, in Angola, MSP implementation modalities will be developed and the evidence base for MSP will be refined. In Namibia, a legal and institutional framework for MSP implementation will be developed and MSP plans will be expanded to cover the northern and southern sea areas. In South Africa, MSP implementation modalities and marine plans will be developed. In each of the three countries, (1) an MSP Coordination Unit will be established to ensure the continued operation of the respective national MSP working groups (enabling the monitoring of MSP implementation, providing follow-up on emerging challenges and issues and conducting regular reviews and updates of the MSP plans); and (2) a public awareness and information campaign on ocean governance, ocean literacy and MSP will be conducted. At BCLME level, a coordination mechanism will be established under the BCC to ensure cross-border cooperation, coordination, and transfer of capacity and knowledge.

Activities related to Output 2.1 - Innovative financing solutions developed to support the creation and sustainable management of Maritime Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.

This output will be implemented by creating the necessary conditions for enabling sustainable financing solutions (which could be debt-based, such as debt-for-nature (D4N) swaps) or more overarching blue bonds or the creation of a trust fund, with the purpose of supporting the creation and long-term sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures. For this a scoping/feasibility study will be conducted to identify the suitable modalities and identify the country in which the sustainable financing solution will be piloted.

Studies would be coordinated with the existing initiatives being developed by the 'Blue Alliance', 'The Nature Conservancy' and 'Climate Finance Managers'. By coordinating the different initiatives, the Action will leverage its support for one or several sustainable financing solution(s).

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

With an overall objective of improving the governance and sustainable management of an important large marine ecosystem, environmental protection is at the core of the Action. Some concrete examples of support that directly contribute to environmental protection are:

- The consolidation and institutionalisation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) to create and establish a more rational use of marine space and the interactions among its uses, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to deliver social and economic outcomes in an open and planned way.
- Capacity building for the designation and integrated management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and/or identification of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).
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Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening: The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

As mentioned in section 2, global climate change is identified as one of the key threats to the sustainability of the BCLME. While not much can be done at the ecosystem level to reduce the effects of climate change, output 1.2 provides room for initiatives that can be earmarked as climate change adaptation or mitigation measures (e.g. exploitation of marine resources that thrive under the changed conditions, ocean habitats/biodiversity as a carbon sink) or that link up to the international climate finance mechanisms (e.g. blue carbon accounting).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening: The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as G1. This implies that the Action does not include activities that explicitly promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Specific activities will be implemented not only to mainstream gender equality throughout the programme but also to carry out gender-based analysis to understand potential patterns of inequalities in relevant economic sectors or value chains and to address these challenges.

Human Rights

To a certain extent, the Action links up with the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment (article 23.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Furthermore, due to the competing interests over ocean resources, special emphasis will be given to strengthen participatory ocean governance that embraces human rights and gender equality.

The link is established through the development of improved and diversified BE-based livelihoods under output 1.2.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as D0. This implies that the Action does not include activities that specifically aim at the integration of or care for disabled persons.

Nonetheless, throughout the implementation of the Action, due attention can and will be given to opportunities for involving disabled persons.

Democracy and Good Governance

Strengthening capacity of state / intergovernmental actors and institutions is a major objective in this Action. The enhanced capacities should enable them to better comply with their mandates in the areas of ocean governance and sustainable management.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The institutionalisation of MSP as an intersectoral and participatory decision-making process, will contribute to solving conflicts between competing uses of marine space and goods. The envisaged development of improved and diversified BE-based livelihoods under output 2.1. is assumed to enhance resilience of vulnerable coastal communities who are specifically targeted as beneficiaries under the Call for Proposals. Enhanced regional collaboration under the BCC promotes peace in the area.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The improved protection of marine biodiversity and the preservation of ecosystem services contribute to strengthening socio-economic resilience. In addition, the resilience of marine habitats is strengthened and their buffering effect for securing settlements, infrastructure and business locations is increased.

Other considerations if relevant

NA

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
3	Lack of access to relevant partners and stakeholders who may not be in support of the intended action results.	L	H	Building on the previous project implemented by GIZ in the BCLME and the trust this has established ensures multi-level access to the relevant partners in government as well as civil society.
2/5	The innovative options for income-generation and livelihood improvement are not widely adopted / practiced.	M	H	Broad dissemination and replication of promising income-generating options developed under the Call for Proposals.
3	Trained staff does not remain in function.	M	M	Provision of training is made conditional upon declarations by partner institutions or Ministries: - that the staff sent to the training are the relevant persons, - do not change from one training session to another, and - are staying with the institution after the training for a minimum of 12 months. Governments are encouraged to provide incentives for the retention of a trained staff with rare expertise.

Lessons Learnt:

- A transboundary ecosystem requires a transboundary management approach and intergovernmental coordination. However, transboundary approaches require national implementation, meaning that solid national structures, mechanisms, actions and targets are required. Supporting the regional level without strengthening the capacity of the national levels will not lead to significant improvements in governance and management.

- Preliminary stakeholder consultations revealed an abundance of local ideas / needs that are relevant to the objectives of supporting local livelihoods (output 2.1).
- Preliminary stakeholder consultations revealed a general and genuine interest in and support for MSP as a basis for ocean management.
- Preliminary stakeholder consultations revealed a general and genuine interest in further protecting the identified key marine biodiversity areas (EBSAs).
- Lessons from the MARISMA Project are:
 1. Implementing MSP at a national and/or regional scale takes time and resources; generally, much more time (and thus, resources) than is initially anticipated.
 2. The team and institutional setup need to be structured carefully. It is suggested to have a neutral facilitator, technical team, and regional/national working groups that have a straight line of communication to government senior management.
 3. The structure and design of the project and processes are important, and the marine spatial plan must be ecosystem based. Having biodiversity (EBSA or similar; ideally Systematic Conservation Planning based) and MSP workstreams running concurrently for fluent incorporation of the biodiversity zoning and management recommendations into the MSP process is recommended.
 4. Stakeholder engagement is key to success and can be very powerful when combined with iterative improvements in products that incorporate stakeholder feedback and input.
 5. Learning-by-doing is a beneficial approach; international study tours, and intra-regional knowledge exchange within the regional working groups can support this.
 6. Provision should be made for multiple languages in engagements and products (where relevant) and focus deliberately on improving ocean literacy among stakeholders and role players.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action:

The Action aims at contributing to an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) that embraces the integrated conservation and sustainable use of the region's marine and coastal biodiversity and the associated ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of diverse social groups (Overall objective).

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are to enhance the national and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods (SO1), and to leverage financial resources for the sustainable management of key marine biodiversity areas (SO2).

To implement SO1, the Action will focus on four distinct interventions.

It will firstly focus on improving the institutional environment with a view to strengthening the environmental governance of the BCLME. This will focus on the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) and its constituting bodies, including the participating national ministries (Output 1.1). Concrete institutional improvements that the action aims to generate include: 1) Enhanced national and regional capacity through targeted capacity building and training, in order to enable solid environmental governance at the national and regional level; 2) sharing national experiences in marine planning and management (e.g. MSP, MPA management, fisheries management, including fish stocks evaluation and data collection, other approaches to environmental management) and data, information and knowledge at the regional level to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME. This provides coherence and consistency across countries in approaches and the evidence base.

Second, the Action will ensure that local communities can benefit through sustainable use of marine biodiversity and resources, in particular around key areas of marine biodiversity and marine protected areas (Outcome 1.2). Particular focus will be on enhancing the socio-economic benefits that the BCLME countries and their population can reap from the sustainable use of marine ecosystem goods and services, including the benefits of nature-based solutions to climate change. This objective will be achieved through calls for proposals addressing various social groups and actors, supporting initiatives designed to facilitate the sustainable and innovative use of marine biodiversity for the purpose of creating and diversifying 'blue' jobs in support of livelihoods.

Third, the Action will ensure that key marine biodiversity areas of the region are recognised and appropriately managed for conservation (Outcome 1.3). It is envisaged that at least two new Marine Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures per country will be declared by the end of the action (six in total).

Fourth, the BCC and its Contracting States will institutionalise and implement ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) (Outcome 1.4) by means of creating and implementing appropriate national legal frameworks and regional-level coordination of these.

Finally, the Action will promote innovative financing to support the creation of Maritime Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures, which may include the necessary studies and support for the issuance of a 'blue bond' associated or not to a 'debt swap for nature' (Outcome 2.1).

It is assumed that (1) that the targeted beneficiary institutions at the national level will seek active ownership of the Action's results and facilitate their translation into practice, e.g. by creating a conducive policy and regulatory framework at the national level and by supporting regional coordination. It is further assumed (2) that the targeted beneficiary institutions will use their strengthened capacities to implement improved governance of the BCLME and for the development of an inclusive and sustainable BE, and (3) that a good number of viable and diversified local-scale initiatives will provide positive returns and may be scaled and replicated more widely within the region.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

At Action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)).

It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage, in the logic of 'cascade'. In case baselines and targets are not available for the Action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this Action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the Action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain: Main expected results (max 10)	Indicators: (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) that embraces the integrated conservation and sustainable use of the region's marine and coastal biodiversity and the associated ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of diverse social groups.	1 Number of countries supported by the EU participating and cooperating in international / regional mechanisms on ecosystem-based approaches to ocean and water resources management. (Common Indicator of the SSA programme on Oceans and Water)	1 x in 2023	1 x + 3 in 2028	1 Action Reports	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	National and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods have been enhanced and feed in better global governance (BBNJ).	1.1 Number of institutions that actively participate in BCLME governance and management following support from the Action.	1.1 0 in 2023	1.1 Tbd	1.1 Action progress and monitoring Reports.	The institutions fully use their strengthened capacities and demonstrate a continued interest in the development of an inclusive and sustainable BCLME governance and management.
		1.2 Number of small entrepreneurs / community groups / households reached with EU support interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production and / or access to markets (<i>adapted Indicator 1 EUFR</i>)	1.2 0 in 2023	1.2 Tbd	1.2 Action Reports, Reports of grant beneficiaries (output 1.2).	The Action beneficiaries continue generating benefits and encourage replication within a wider share of the (coastal) population.
		1.3 Number of areas of marine ecosystems (MPAs and OECMs) under protection per country.	1.3 AGO: x in 2023 NAM: x in 2023 RSA: x in 2023	1.3 AGO: x+2 in 2028 NAM: x+2 in 2028 RSA: x+2 in 2028	1.3 Action Reports.	The new MPAs and OECMs have been fully delineated. Management plans have been developed in a participatory process. MPAs and OECMs are integrated in MSP plans.

Outcome 2	Financial solutions to support the creation and sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures have been developed.	2.1 Number of innovative financing solutions.	2.1 0 in 2023	2.1 1 in 2027	2.1	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Institutional capacities for the BCC, comprising the BCC secretariat, the Commission and the respective national Ministries (environment, fisheries, petroleum, transport), have been strengthened.	<p>1.1.1 Targeted action for the continued organisational and strategic development of the BCC is enshrined in a BCC Strategic Development Plan that covers all structures and levels of the BCC.</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of policy makers and other stakeholders trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on BE, MSP, key biodiversity areas, BCLME management issues, climate change impacts, disaggregated by sex and sector (OPSYS indicator).</p> <p>1.1.3 New and/or existing formats for MSP collaboration, cooperation and data and information sharing have been established and/or improved.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Tbd</p> <p>1.1.2 Tbd</p> <p>1.1.3 Tbd</p>	<p>1.1.1 Tbd</p> <p>1.1.2 Tbd</p> <p>1.1.3 Tbd</p>	<p>1.1.1 Action Reports.</p> <p>1.1.2 Action Reports.</p> <p>1.1.3 Action Reports.</p>	The activities funded with the mobilised resources effectively contribute to improved BCLME governance and management.
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2. Diversified income of local communities through sustainable use of marine biodiversity and resources, in particular around key areas of marine biodiversity and marine protected areas.	<p>1.2.1 Number of livelihoods improving initiatives that were supported by the Action in each country.</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of coastal households that effectively increased their income thanks to the initiatives funded by the Action.</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of beneficiaries (by gender, age, income group, type of support received, related-</p>	<p>1.2.1 0 in 2023</p> <p>1.2.2 0 in 2023</p> <p>1.2.3 0 in 2023</p>	<p>1.2.1 35 in 2028</p> <p>1.2.2 Tbd</p> <p>1.2.3 Tbd</p>	1.2.1 / 1.2.2 / 1.2.3 Action reports, Reports of grant beneficiaries (output 2.2), Action monitoring statistics.	The options are economically viable, disseminated, and adopted by an increasing number of households.

		ecosystem, intended benefits, localisation).				
Output 3 related to Outcome 1	1.3 The management of key marine biodiversity areas and marine protected areas is enhanced.	<p>1.3.1 Number of newly declared Marine Protected Area (MPA) or identified Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM) Measure (OECM) based on important sites for biodiversity (EBSAs).</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of management plans for MPAs or OECMs per country, developed in a participatory process, and approved by competent authorities or at advanced stage of approval.</p> <p>1.3.3 Number of EBSAs, MPAs and OECMs that are included in technically approved or adopted MSP plans and are covered by appropriate spatial regulations.</p>	<p>3.1.1 x in 2023</p> <p>3.1.2 x in 2023</p> <p>3.1.3 x in 2023</p>	<p>3.1.1 x+2 per country, 6 in total in 2028</p> <p>3.1.2 x+2 per country, 6 in total in 2025</p> <p>3.1.3 x+3 in 2025</p>	3.1.1	
Output 4 related to Outcome 1	Improved legal and institutional capacity exists for the implementation of ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in each country.	<p>1.4.1 Marine area under MSP-based management with EU support (km²) (<i>adapted Indicator 8 EUFR</i>)</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of technically approved drafts of national or sub-national marine spatial plans for each country.</p> <p>1.4.3 Number of advance draft or adopted legislation on MSP.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Tbd</p> <p>1.4.2 1 in 2023</p> <p>1.4.3 1 in 2023</p>	<p>1.4.1 Tbd</p> <p>1.4.2 2 technically or politically approved sub-national marine spatial plans or a single plan for the respective country, per country in 2027</p> <p>1.4.3 3 in 2028</p>	<p>1.4.1 Collated maps for the region indicating marine spatial planning areas.</p> <p>1.4.2 Marine Spatial Plans and associated documents.</p> <p>1.4.3 MSP legislation.</p>	BE sector stakeholders maintain their interest and willingness to adjust their operations to the jointly developed MSPs.
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Innovative financing solutions developed to support the creation and sustainable management of Maritime Protected Areas and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.	2.1.1 Number of studies that identify suitable and realistic mechanisms and instruments for sustainable financing of the region's Marine Protected Areas.	2.1.1 0 in 2023	<p>2.1.1 1 in 2027</p> <p>2.1.2 1 in 2027</p>	2.1.1	

		2.1.2 Number of pilot applications of a proposed financing mechanism implemented in the BCLME region.	2.1.2 0 in 2023			
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the territory.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures².

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with GIZ.

The implementation entails to contribute in achieving specific 1 'Enhance the national and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods' and specific objective 2 'Leverage financial resources for the sustainable management of existing key marine biodiversity areas'.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: (i) financial and operational capacity; (ii) demonstrated technical capacity and experience in the relevant fields concerned (i.e. marine spatial planning, sustainable management of protected areas); (iii) demonstrated operational capacity to deliver projects in alignment with national priorities of Angola, Namibia and South Africa; and (iv) demonstrated ability to lead policy dialogue with national counterparts in the relevant fields concerned.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select another replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

4.4.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the preferred modality mentioned in section 4.4.1 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the action will be implemented in direct management – procurement, contributing to achieve SO1 'Enhance the national and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods' and SO2 'Leverage financial resources for the sustainable management of existing key marine biodiversity areas'.

² www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the carrying out of this Action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4		
Objective/Outputs 1 - Enhance the national and regional governance and integrated management of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem's marine biodiversity and natural resources supporting sustainable livelihoods. Objective/Output 2 - Leverage financial resources for the sustainable management of existing key marine biodiversity areas.		
Indirect management with GIZ - cf. section 4.4.1.	11 000 000	1 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision	
Totals	11 000 000	1 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The entrusted entity with whom European commission will conclude a Contribution Agreement will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the entire Action.

Concretely, this means that the entrusted entity will launch and manage one Call for Proposals (outputs 2.1) and that it will coordinate and manage all technical and financial support, including procurement aspects, to the involved institutions; the main ones being: the BCC Secretariat (outputs 1.1), the Namibian MFMR / NatMIRC (outputs 3.1 and 3.2), the Angolan MINPERMAR / DNAM (outputs 3.1 and 3.2) and MINAMB / INBAC (output 3.1); and a range of other key institutions involved in MSP (output 3.2).

The implementing entity will set up a Project Management Unit (PMU), mainly for coordination purposes and for discussing / solving implementation issues that might arise. Indicatively, this unit will consist of the Team Leader, the full time TAs for Angola and South Africa, the BCC National Coordinators and the TA for administration, finance and procurement. The PMU will meet quarterly and produce meeting minutes that will be shared with the European commission and the BCC Secretariat.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to oversee and to provide overall guidance to the implementation of the Action. The PSC aims to comprise representatives of the EU Delegations to Namibia, Angola and South Africa, the BCC Commission, the MFMR of Namibia, the MINPERMAR of Angola, and the DFFE of South Africa and the Team Leader of the implementing entity. The PMU will provide secretarial services to the PSC and convene yearly meetings, with the possibility to organise additional ad-hoc meetings whenever there is a need or a request.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the Action.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

One TA will assume responsibility for action-wide technical monitoring and reporting. He/She will develop a detailed monitoring framework with clear and measurable indicators and targets, develop protocols for data collection and reporting by the various actors, provide guidance to these actors – and specific training if needed – throughout the implementation, compile and analyse data, produce monitoring reports, brief the Team Leader, the PMU and the PSC at a regular basis and highlight eventual delays in progress as well as quality-related issues. Clear and regular reporting of the findings from the technical monitoring will allow the PMU and the PSC to decide on adequate and timely measures and adjustments, if and where needed.

The TA for administration, finance and procurement will be in charge of the financial monitoring. Activities and processes will be similar to those for technical monitoring as described above.

The Team Leader will be in charge of producing compiled annual reports, which will include an in-depth analysis of both the technical and financial monitoring reports. The reports will provide clear summary tables comparing planning versus actual implementation at activity as well as input (budget) levels. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire implementation period of the Action.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and for assessing the needs for adjustments in budget allocations and in activities. The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability, for learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), and for identifying remaining gaps as well as opportunities for replication and upscaling.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination³. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and

³ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#).

recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Given the nature of the action, provision for Audit and Verifications for this Action or its components is not necessary.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this Action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 '[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)', it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document, and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of ‘Group of actions’ level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of ‘Contract level’, add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 0, Indicative Budget.

Option 1: Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action