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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX 17

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2024-2025

Action Document for Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP)

MULTIANNUAL 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 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP) OPSYS number: ACT-62339 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 nine countries in the Western Indian Ocean (Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania).
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027.
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p><i>SSA Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme</i></p> <p><i>Priority Area 3: Green Transition</i></p> <p>Specific objective 4: Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance R.4.4: Partner countries participate effectively in international and regional processes linked to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and improve their implementation.</p> <p>Specific objective 5: Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes</p> <p>R.5.1 : Ocean and water governance is enhanced in terms of regional/international cooperation and coordination on policies, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, research and data sharing for better decision making and sustainable management and inclusive use of ocean and water resources.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>R.5.3 : Conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, wetlands and inland water</p>

	<p>ecosystems are reinforced through regional networks and initiatives promoting nature-based solutions.</p> <p>Priority Area 5: Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs</p> <p>Specific Objective 3: An investment climate in Sub-Saharan Africa conducive to sustainable private sector development and investments, and improved business capacities and access to finance for MSMEs</p> <p>R.3.2: Regional support measures for MSMEs business capacities are enhanced at continental and regional level.</p> <p>R.3.3: Improved access to finance and investment readiness at the regional/continental level.</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>Priority Area 3: Green Transition 313 – Fishing, 410 – General Environment Protection, 430 – Other multi-sectors</p> <p>Priority Area 5: Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs 313 – Fishing, 250 – Business and other services</p>			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: SDG 14 Other significant SDGs: SDG 8, SDG 13</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>31320 - Fishery development (20%) 41010 – Environmental policy and administrative management (30%) 41030 – Biodiversity (25%) 25030 – Business development services (25%)</p>			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	<p>Other (EU agency; EU Member State agency) – 90000 UN agencies – 41000 International NGOs – 21000</p>			
9. Targets	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance</p>			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities @	<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) for year N: 28 000 000 14 02 01 21: 14 000 000 14 02 01 22: 14 000 000 Budget line(s) (article, item) for year N+1: 30 000 000 14 02 01 21: 15 000 000 14 02 01 22: 15 000 000 Total estimated cost: EUR 58 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 58 000 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 28 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for year N and the amount of EUR 30 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for year N+1, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through:			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants - Procurement <p>Indirect management with the entrusted entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in sections: 4.4.3.1; 4.4.3.2; 4.4.3.3; 4.4.3.4; 4.4.3.5.</p>
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1.2 Summary of the Action

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region stretches from the Gulf of Aden to the Mozambique Channel, encompassing a variety of large and small states. Its diverse marine biodiversity supports burgeoning coastal populations and the economy of many coastal states. Despite the wealth of its waters, the biodiversity and resources of the WIO have been increasingly threatened by different (natural and man-made) factors, from rising waters temperatures to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Taken together, these challenges have limited the potential for a sustainable (blue) development and growth in the region.

The EU and WIO countries have a common interest in improving ocean governance including a sustainable, inclusive, climate-resilient Blue Economy¹ (BE) in an approach underpinned by the Global Gateway (GG), as well as international and regional priorities. Taking a regional approach, this Action intends to achieve three interconnected specific objectives (SOs) covering SO1: ocean governance, including fisheries management, SO2: investment in a sustainable blue economy including strengthening the Global Gateway ‘blue’ value chains and infrastructure, and SO3: improve ocean ecosystem resilience and blue carbon capture.

Under SO1, the Action aims to support the development, implementation and enforcement of international and regional agreements and mechanisms, including on policy approaches in the WIO blue economy as well as regional fisheries management (e.g. Regional Fisheries Management Organisations - RFMOs) and the fight against IUU fishing. This will be achieved notably through institutional and human capacity-building, improved regional coordination in shared resource management, and better compliance with international and RFMO agreements.

With its SO2, the Action aims to foster investments in a sustainable blue economy (SBE), taking into account the specificities of island states. This will be done by supporting the private sector through a mix of capacity-building, and equal access to finance and innovation tools to increase economic resilience and meet regulatory needs. It will target crucial sectors of the regional blue economy value-chains such as wild and farmed seafood production. An investment facility will support the identification and development of bankable projects, and will link businesses to investors, building on regional incubators networks, thus encouraging innovative investment. This is aligned with the Global Gateway investment priorities involving climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, sustainability and resilience, environment and biodiversity, finance, energy and research. Where relevant at the regional level, the Action also proposes to contribute to skills development (e.g., support to training centres).

Finally, under SO3, the Action will also improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and blue carbon capture² by (i) developing transboundary marine ecosystem and habitat management; (ii) supporting their preservation, restoration and rehabilitation; and (iii) strengthening scientific knowledge management. It will also reap new blue carbon finance opportunities and from this, propose future capacity development support as required.

The Action will notably contribute to SO 5 of the Regional MIP (“Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes”), in particular its results 5.1 related to ocean and water governance, 5.2 on integrated water resource management and sustainable blue economy, and 5.3 on conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, transboundary wetlands and inland water ecosystems. By so doing, the Action will also contribute to the achievement of several SDGs, in particular SDG 14 (Life under water) but also to SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts)

¹ Blue economy refers to all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. Blue economy covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors. See https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-03/what-is-the-blue-economy_en.pdf

² Whilst capturing blue carbon is currently a vogue topic globally, for the WIO region there is a need to deliver and strengthen the outcome of nature-based solutions interventions in the first instance and from this, the potential for marine habitats to function as potential blue carbon capture “systems” into the future can be realised at a regional level. The former approach is the one being proposed for this Action.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, out of which all nine are included in the list of ODA recipients.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

With an area of 330 000 km² and a coastline stretching from the Gulf of Aden to the Mozambique Channel, the WIO is one of the largest and most diverse maritime regions in the world. With an estimated economic value of at least EUR 300 billion, the region's rich marine biodiversity supports coastal populations both directly, through the provision of marine resources and ecosystem services, and indirectly, through different economic sectors.

Marine and coastal ecosystems are the economic mainstays of the region: coastal tourism, oil & gas followed by mineral resources, blue carbon and fisheries. The latter remains a key sector in terms of food security and coastal livelihoods, contributing to nearly 17% of the global end value of tropical tuna species. The region hosts as well vital ports and shipping lines connecting global trade routes from Asia into the Red Sea onwards to Europe. Other emerging economic activities likely to develop over time include large-scale aquaculture and offshore renewable energy production. Not surprisingly, the WIO has growing strategic relevance and economic value to its coastal states and a number of global players, such as China, India, Russia and the Gulf States.

The health and wealth of oceans, including the WIO, are increasingly at risk. Threats are diverse and mounting, ranging from climate change related impacts including accelerated ocean warming, acidification and eutrophication, coastal droughts and floods (affecting fisheries) along with non-climate change related impacts such as IUU fishing, biodiversity loss, mangrove deforestation, rising shipping traffic, unsustainable coastal tourism and heavy-sands mining. Exacerbated by rapid population growth and urbanisation, in particular along coastal areas, these challenges limit the prospects for the sustainable development of maritime-based activities. These elements also impact the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) present in the region and the (connected) Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Although all nine countries have identified/declared marine landscapes or MPAs in recent years, their actual safeguard has been limited by the lack of human resources, equipment and/or political / financial commitment.

WIO states have become increasingly aware of the existing and emerging challenges to their blue economic development. Eyeing the prospects of marine-based economic growth and human development, in the last years, most WIO countries have developed their own Blue Economy strategies and/or similar strategic policy documents. Though often lacking implementation/action plans, the existence of these policies/strategies indicates the ambition of WIO states to ensure that their maritime ecosystems are efficiently monitored and protected and that economic activities are sufficiently framed and well regulated. Yet, the transboundary nature of ocean resources often calls for actions that go beyond individual states' jurisdictions. Indeed, only by increasing coordination, mutualizing tools, pooling resources, sharing information and best practices can countries efficiently tackle threats that spread across national boundaries. In the last decade, in parallel to the national ones, numerous multi-country, regional and international policies and institutions have also been set up to provide collective responses to existing and emerging collective challenges.

The 1985 Nairobi Convention (NC) was one of the first and remains a prominent regional framework to enhance ocean governance in the WIO. Set up in 1985, the Convention provides an important regional cooperation framing, including governments, civil society and the private sector. In the decades that followed the adoption of the NC, the main Regional Economic Communities (RECs) established in the WIO, namely the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) have also developed their own dedicated BE and/or ocean-targeted policy instruments, in line with the 2019 Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES). More recently, other regional tools, such as the Western

Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) and the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS)³, have also emerged, showing that ocean governance remains a top priority in the regional agenda.

In addition to these policy tools, there are two main RFMOs: the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (IOTC⁴/FAO), with a mandate to manage fisheries of highly migratory species (e.g., tuna species) in both the waters under the jurisdiction of coastal States and in the ABNJ, and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), an autonomous international agreement, mandated to manage fisheries resources, excluding highly migratory species, in the ABNJ. To this end, RFMOs are empowered by their signatory parties to design and adopt binding conservation and management measures. However, the actual (human, material, political) capacities of signatory parties are limited, thus undermining full implementation of RFMOs conservation and management measures with negative impacts on their effectiveness. These limitations are in fact common to most of the regional cooperation bodies and tools, constituting one of the biggest challenges to the effective and collaborative management of such vast ocean space.

This Action intends to tackle some of these challenges and ultimately contribute to the sustainable, productive, climate-resilient governance and use of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). The EU has been a strategic partner for WIO countries and regional bodies across different maritime sectors. Such commitment is in line with the European Green Deal, the 2016 and 2022 EU's International Ocean Governance Agendas and more broadly with the legal framework established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Through different partnerships and agreements, the EU has been an active supporter of science-based management of ocean natural resources, including fisheries. The EU has also supported sustainable blue economy development in Africa through the Blue Invest Africa event in the Seychelles in 2022, which will be held again in 2024.

With this Action, the EU can further its strategic presence as a key partner for promoting good ocean governance in the region. Indeed, by promoting a shared vision on ocean governance, this Action is expected to have a transformative effect in favour of sustainable and inclusive growth and decent job creation, thereby contributing to increasing the relevance and visibility of the EU as a crucial player in these policy areas.

2.2 Problem Analysis

This Action will address the following specific regional challenges, in addition to those mentioned previously.

Lack of coherent policies and implementation strategies for ocean governance encompassing the whole of the WIO: Numerous national and regional policies targeting ocean governance and the sustainable blue economy have been developed in the WIO over the last two decades. However, the fragmentation of the ocean agenda, the persistence of a sector-focused institutional architecture, the diversity of policy/institutional levels and mandates (e.g. local, national, regional) have resulted in a patchy situation, where the lack of coherence and unclear coordination structures prevail. Despite the multiplication of initiatives towards that goal, there is still no systematic data collection tool gathering information on indicators of good ocean governance or the WIO's sustainable blue economy at national or regional levels, thus constraining strategic, evidence-based decision-making. Effective policy/strategy implementation pathways remain also a challenge due to a combination of factors, such as poor integrated planning, limited human, technical/material capacities, competition for funding and entrenched sectoral interests.

There is therefore a need to address these institutional challenges and capacity needs across the region, working with existing institutions such as the Nairobi Convention and the RFMOs, and introducing new approaches to inter-sectoral coordination at both national and regional levels. The use of proven tools, notably Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) seems particularly useful to facilitate the integration of different dimensions and levels of the blue economy and reduce potential spatial conflict, in particular between activities/sectors that take place in the same marine space/zones (e.g., port development, tourism, coastal fisheries/aquaculture) or marine protected areas. In

³ Draft expected in October 2023, with expected final approval by the Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties (COP) in May 2024. ROGS will include specific implementation platforms for (i) policy, (ii) finance and (iii) technical issues. See also: <https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ROGS-Flyer-revised.pdf#%3A~%3Atext%3DIn%20response%20to%20decisions%20of%20the%20African%20EnvironmentMinisters%2Cis%20to%20enhance%20regionalcooperation%20on%20all%20ocean%20activities>

⁴ The IOTC was established under Article XIV of the FAO constitution. This arrangement does not entrust IOTC with legal personality.

the WIO, MSP is still a relatively new concept and, whilst widely endorsed as an essential planning tool, there is very limited (human and institutional) capacity for its generation and use. A number of national and regional MSP- focused initiatives have been set up in the last years to address this, such as the EU support to Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - UNESCO to enhance MSP capacities, MSPglobal, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) Ocean project and SIDA's International Training Programme (ITP). These actions, implemented in partnership with the Nairobi Convention, will however need further support to continue enhancing and consolidating regional MSP capacities, in particular regional harmonisation.

Persistence of IUU fishing due to the lack of effective regional cooperation and regulation: Around EUR 136 million is the estimated loss for the region every year as a result of potential IUU fishing of tuna and other species⁵, threatening food security, human development and the livelihood of local communities, as well as the health of the oceans. Despite the growing awareness of coastal states and the different responses put in place to prevent, deter and eliminate the phenomenon, IUU fishing remains a widespread challenge for the sustainability of WIO resources and worldwide. While each country needs to play its part in fighting IUU fishing, no country can succeed alone, and regional cooperation is crucial for tackling this global scourge. Indeed, most WIO states are now parties to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA). In addition to the existing RFMOs and other tools, the region has also developed a Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance (PRSP) as part of a regional initiative to fight against IUU fishing. However, the effectiveness of these measures and institutions is considerably limited by different factors, from poor capacities, including monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) infrastructure, to the lack of political will. The EU should step up its support to the region to ensure that countries can play their part in the global fight against IUU fishing by discharging their international obligations as flag, coastal, port and market States.

There are two RFMOs existing in the region (IOTC/FAO and SIOFA). Their signatory parties lack the technical and financial capacities to effectively implement the RFMOs measures aiming at ensuring sustainable management of tuna and non-tuna fisheries resources, especially in ABNJs. While the IOTC/FAO has made some progress in developing harvest strategies and control rules for key species under their mandate, shortcomings in the implementation of binding conservation and management measures by signatory parties still fails to ensure the effectiveness of measures adopted to prevent excessive fishing pressure, to reduce impacts of fishing on the broader environment and to ensure adequate monitoring and control of fishing activities. SIOFA has similar issues in ensuring compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted by the organisation to regulate fisheries falling under its management mandate. As a result, the overfishing of key commercial species such as yellowfin and bigeye tuna, and persistent IUU fishing remains unresolved, with considerable divisions between different RFMO member countries, fishing fleets and socio-economic groups in terms of how to address these often-common challenges. The UNCLOS framework needs to be supported through the conservation and management of shared fisheries resources, achieving resource-use targets (e.g., stock-based target reference points), addressing non-compliance with RFMO management measures and combatting all forms of IUU fishing.

Insufficient financial and human capacity to support a sustainable blue economy at the regional level: Despite the growing political and economic interest for the blue economy, the region largely lacks the institutions, financial structures and knowledge to effectively promote, develop and implement sustainable and innovative initiatives. This is applicable across most sectors and levels, though is particularly relevant to seafood (wild and farmed) value chains, short-sea and regional shipping, offshore renewable energy development and marine bio-prospecting. Some of the barriers to the development of maritime-based sectors include poor policy and strategic planning, especially concerning balancing local food security (e.g., from fish landings), with longer, often more lucrative value chains. The region also lacks cohesive producer organisations that both provide a conduit for liaison with government and provide a means for building capacity across their membership. Innovative financing mechanisms and improved public-private partnering, combined with targeted technical assistance seems then need to be address some of these blockages, building on existing initiatives, such as the multi-layered technical and financial assistance provided through the 'Our Blue Future' (OBF) programme.

Inadequate training of sea-going personnel is another factor hindering the economic potential in the WIO. Almost

⁵ See, WWF, "The Missing Millions from Shrimp and Tuna Fisheries in the South West Indian Ocean", 2023, available at <https://www.wwf.eu/?10270441/US1428-million-potentially-lost-each-year-to-illicit-fishing-in-the-South-West-Indian-Ocean>

all coastal states have national maritime schools/academies dedicated to developing the skills of workers wishing to start a career in the maritime sector, including the fishing sector. However, few of these schools/academies meet international expectations/standards, and there is no regional networking or collaboration among them. The most frequent challenges include the lack of available qualified trainers and inadequate training equipment. This results in low numbers of adequately trained seagoing personnel able to work on national and foreign vessels.

Ocean and coastal ecosystems highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and ungoverned (human) activities: Marine ecosystems in the WIO are increasingly threatened by anthropogenic activities, including overfishing, the use of destructive fishing methods, pollution and eutrophication. The region is also affected by climate change leading to extreme weather events, coastal erosion, ocean warming and acidification and affecting the productivity and distribution of marine resources. This is having major adverse impacts for living marine resources, such as tuna stocks or stocks of other high-value species (e.g. shrimps, cephalopods and other finfish). Despite emerging actions such as IUCN's 'Great Blue Wall' initiative, most current biodiversity conservation approaches are often fragmented, under-resourced or lack ambition to adopt a truly regional approach to marine biodiversity conservation.

The new UN Treaty on conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) (designed to support the need for member states to meet their international obligations under UNCLOS) sets up a procedure to establish large-scale marine protected areas (MPAs) in the high seas in addition to the existing national and transboundary ones. The countries which have signed it will need support in the ratification and then the implementation process, given that once established, the creation of these zones will not be sufficient to guarantee their effective protection and will still require support. In the WIO, whilst all nine countries have identified/declared marine landscapes or MPAs in recent years, their actual safeguard have been limited by the lack human resources, equipment and/or political/institutional commitment to implement the measures associated with these MPAs.

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

Action-Wide

Nairobi Convention WIO-wide mandate (except Djibouti), covering ocean governance issues and ecosystem management, in particular. Administered by UNEP, the 1985 Nairobi Convention is the key high-level convening power and provides a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions across nations.

RECs. Includes IGAD, COMESA, EAC, SADC and the *de facto* REC, IOC. The RECs are important for their convening power at regional and sub-regional levels.

Coastal States. Whilst this programme is regional in nature, the ministries, agencies and research bodies of coastal states will benefit from technical assistance across the programme.

EU Outermost regions within the Action area e.g., Réunion and Mayotte. As important participants in Managing Authorities of the EU's INTERREG Europe programmes "Mozambique Channel" and "Indian Ocean" that promotes opportunities for sharing solutions to regional development issues, they will join the Republic of South Africa (RSA) in supporting this Action, especially in the provision of good practice, experience and capacity-building across areas of common regional interest.

Area 1: Ocean governance

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, in particular IOTC/FAO and SIOFA, for their roles and mandate on fisheries regional management as well as combating IUU fishing.

Indian Ocean Commission. The IOC is the repository organisation of the cooperation arrangements signed by the coastal States for the implementation of the *Plan Régional de Surveillance des Pêches* (PRSP – Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance).

Local or regional associations, civil society organisations (CSOs), and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) will participate in the possible development of regional and national policies and implementing actions, adding the value of locally-owned solutions and context-specific approaches.

Area 2: Investment into a sustainable blue economy

Financial Institutions (IFIs, e.g., AfDB, EIB, AFD, WB, IFAD). Should include national and international financial institutions operating in the region such as development and commercial banks, government pension funds and major private sector investors.

Regional and international blue economy technical and financial innovation and accelerator hubs, such as the SWIO Venture Builder, OceanHub Africa, Pangea Accelerator, Hatch Blue, Ocean Solutions Accelerator Programme, Katapult Ocean and AfriLabs.

Local or regional associations, CSOs, and INGOs will be fundamental to develop innovative pilot projects in SBE with regional relevance, tackling complex development priorities iteratively and experimentally. They will participate in the possible development of national policies adding the value of locally-owned solutions and context-specific approaches.

Area 3: Building ocean ecosystem resilience and blue carbon capture

UNEP is the leading UN agency on the environment and is based in Nairobi and serves as secretariat for the Nairobi Convention.

International, regional and local NGOs including IUCN, WWF, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wetland International, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and CORDIO.

Regional Resource Hub is hosted and technically coordinated by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, located in Nairobi. It offers information management systems and tools, capacity building, knowledge sharing products and communication activities aiming to reinforce the management effectiveness and governance of protected areas and surrounding communities in the WIO region.

The **IGAD Climate Protection and Applications Centre (ICPAC)** is a climate Centre accredited by the World Meteorological Organization, supported by IGAD, that provides Climate Services to 11 East African Countries.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is the sustainable, productive, climate-resilient governance and use of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

The Specific Objectives of this Action are:

1. SO1. Strengthen regional and national capacities to coordinate and collaborate on shared ocean governance
2. SO2. Facilitate investment in the sustainable blue economy;
3. SO3. Support regional initiatives to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and to preserve the ocean's natural blue carbon function.

The Outputs to be delivered by this Action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

Contributing to Specific Objective 1

- 1.1 Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and planning for a sustainable regional blue economy increased.
- 1.2 Implementation of conservation and management measures for shared fisheries resources through RFMOs is improved;
- 1.3 Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced; and
- 1.4 Knowledge and information on the SBE improved and made available to decision-makers.

Contributing to Specific Objective 2

- 2.1 Access to finance and business services in key sustainable blue economy sectors improved;
- 2.2 Investments into the SBE triggered, promoting Global Gateway, innovation and regional integration; and
- 2.3 Coastal State training for seagoing personnel aligned with international standards and improved;

Contributing to Specific Objective 3

- 3.1 Management of transboundary areas and ABNJs to support ocean conservation initiatives improved;
- 3.2 Nature-based solutions⁶ to prevent regional ecosystem degradation and/or restore degraded coastal and marine ecosystems implemented; and
- 3.3 Learning, research, outreach and knowledge of marine and coastal science improved.

⁶ Such as activities including coral garden creation, seagrass planting or mangrove regeneration programmes etc.

3.2 Indicative Activities

SO1: Regional and national capacities to coordinate and collaborate on shared ocean governance challenges strengthened:

Activities related to Output 1.1: Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and planning for a sustainable regional blue economy increased:

- Support development of a prioritised, time-bound and sustainable implementation plan for the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS);
- Support regional, sub-regional (ie via the RECs) and where appropriate, national entities in their development, adoption and evaluation of ocean / SBE policy and strategy development models and coordinating institutional structures; and
- Support the development of regional MSP across the region, working with and building on existing initiatives (e.g. MSPglobal, SIDA's 'SwAM Ocean' & 'International Training Programme').

Activities related to Output 1.2: Implementation of conservation and management measures for shared fisheries resources through RFMOs is improved:

- Support RFMO and coastal states for the stock assessment of shared species;
- Provide technical assistance to RFMOs to design capacity building activities and training with the aim to improve beneficiaries' capacity to comply with conservation and management measures adopted;
- Provide technical assistance to beneficiaries on data collection, analysis and reporting to improve their capacities to comply with obligations stemming from RFMO membership;
- Support beneficiaries for the organisation of meetings and other activities within the framework of RFMOs, notably the areas related to the conservation and management of shared resources.

Activities related to Output 1.3: Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced:

- Prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by strengthening national fisheries governance frameworks in line with regional and international benchmarks, and ensuring adequate identification and deterrent sanctioning of IUU behaviour at regional level;
- With the assistance of EFCA, develop and propose training paths for officials contributing to monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, including women (e.g. sea and port inspectors, operators of Fisheries Monitoring Centres⁷, personnel in charge of the verification of catch certificates, judges and prosecutors);
- Support the utilisation of satellite imagery to improve prevention and detection of IUU fishing;
- Support the joint deployment of patrol resources of the coastal States actors⁸ of the Plan Régional de Surveillance des Pêches (PRSP – Regional Plan for Fisheries Surveillance); and
- Promote and strengthen exchanges of monitoring, control and surveillance data and intelligence between coastal States, notably by taking advantage of existing regional bodies (e.g., RMIFC) and tools (e.g., IORIS)

Activities related to Output 1.4: Knowledge and information on the SBE improved and made available to decision-makers:

- Provide on-demand technical assistance to identify institutional, technical and financing options⁹ to develop and host a regional 'SBE portal'¹⁰ as part of the upgraded NC 'Clearing House Mechanism' (CHM)¹¹ with linkages to the WIO Symphony geographical information system (GIS);
- Design, install and support the WIO 'SBE portal' to be managed under the NC, including the provision of selected key equipment and technical support;
- Develop the portal's institutional arrangements, including ensuring its multi-stakeholder use and inputs, and long-term financial and institutional sustainability;
- Contribute to the understanding and gathering of information on climate impacts on the Blue Economy; and

⁷ E.g. the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar and the Regional Operations Coordination Centre (ROCC) in the Seychelles.

⁸ PRSP has included Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles & Tanzania but not Djibouti or Somalia.

⁹ Including possible financial and technical support from private sector interests.

¹⁰ This regional portal will compile national SBE data e.g. from the proposed Blue Economy Observatory in Mozambique.

¹¹ This will build on the Nairobi Convention 'Western Indian Ocean Information Management Strategy (WIO-IMS).

- Support the organisation of meetings / workshops to allow practitioners, academics and other stakeholders discuss, debate, and share information, knowledge, experiences and lessons within the WIO region.

SO2: Investment in a sustainable blue economy strengthened:

Activities related to Output 2.1: Access to finance and business services to the key sustainable blue economy sectors improved:

- Conduct and disseminate the results of desk studies and additional analysis to identify common regional barriers (e.g. market access, climate risks) for SMEs and other businesses to access finance for sustainable blue economy development and associated value chain upgrading;
- Identify and develop a range of suitable finance mechanisms¹² and business case development tools to facilitate and encourage the sustainable and inclusive funding of BE value chains in the WIO;
- Identify and develop a range of suitable finance mechanisms, including blue carbon, to ensure sustainable funding for the management of transboundary ecosystem conservation and restoration initiatives e.g. MPAs and MPA networks, including through carbon and/or biodiversity funds; and
- Support the development and operation of a ‘regional SBE investment hub’ consisting of a network of sub-regional incubation/accelerator hubs, regional and EU financial institutions and other SBE business development resources that will act as an investment pipeline into the WIO SBE.

Activities related to Output 2.2 Investments into the SBE triggered, promoting Global Gateway, innovation and regional integration:

- Conduct training and capacity building to support existing or emerging regional SBE investment networks for SMEs and others to develop ‘bankable’ business plans and access national, regional, EU (e.g. EFSD+) and other international funding opportunities, aimed at facilitating investment promotion in sustainable blue sectors and the ‘greening’ of non-sustainable initiatives;
- Support regional financial institutions to align with the sustainable blue economy finance principles¹³ and other appropriate guidelines e.g. UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights or promotion tools such as biodiversity offset) and targeting other stakeholders beyond financial institutions (e.g. companies active in the region, regional institutions, etc.);
- Provide grants to a pool of suitable pilot projects that are able to demonstrate potential for up-scaling and replicating good practice elsewhere in the WIO e.g. innovative technology or financing, strong youth engagement or gender equality focus, diversifying value chains, providing critical infrastructure that supports the Global Gateway approach, supporting nature-based solutions, implementing pilots for local climate action, leveraging other decarbonisation initiatives etc.; and
- Test, refine and prototype at least one sustainable financing model to ensure the long-term viability of a transboundary MPA of regional importance in the WIO (see also Output 3.1¹⁴) in the North Mozambique Channel and / or other similar key regional ecosystem scale sites.

Activities related to Output 2.3: Coastal State training for seagoing personnel aligned with international standards and improved:

- Review selected national training curricula for training of seagoing personnel, and support revision where needed to ensure alignment with international standards of the IMO (e.g., the STCW for seafarers and its adaptation for fishing vessel personnel - STCW-F);
- Train a pool of regional trainers (including women) according to the IMO train the trainers approach for STCW / STCW-F, and establish a network of regional trainers¹⁵;
- Provide technical assistance to national maritime schools / academies for the identification and specification of training equipment needed for basic training; and

¹² Based on UNEP Finance Initiative’s ‘Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles’ (<https://www.unepfi.org/blue-finance/>) and associated sector guidance <https://www.unepfi.org/blue-finance/resources/> supported by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank as well as by the Swedish Government.

¹³ Based on UNEP Finance Initiative’s ‘Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles’ (<https://www.unepfi.org/blue-finance/>) and associated sector guidance <https://www.unepfi.org/blue-finance/resources/>.

¹⁴ The financing tool(s) developed and tested in SO 2 will be developed in close association with the ‘on the ground’ activities in Output 3.1.

¹⁵ This may include assistance from other experienced maritime training centres in the region, such as the Centre de Formation Nautique Reunion (CFNR-R) in Reunion (possibly via INTERREG) and in the fisheries-focused Oceana Maritime Academy in Cape Town, RSA.

- Assess the feasibility and propose measures to support the upscaling of a number of existing national maritime academies into regional maritime hubs in capacity to deliver IMO approved certificates of competency for higher qualifications (e.g. deck officers, engine officers).

SO3: Regional initiatives to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and preserving blue carbon capture supported

Activities related to Output 3.1: Management of transboundary areas and ABNJs to support ocean conservation initiatives improved:

- Reinforce the capacity of regional organisations who may then be able to support national organisations, CSOs and local organisations by reviewing and updating tools that support existing and emerging transboundary marine protected areas and their management, promote ‘ecological connectivity’ and offer guidance to supports value chains
- Develop guidance, manuals, indicators and capacity to help regional organisations to standardise data collection, monitoring, review and verification to support ratification of relevant ocean-related treaties (e.g. BBNJ Treaty, UNCLOS), conventions, protocols and/or systems; and
- Support ocean conservation awareness initiatives, which extend to estuaries and inland/upstream river basins (pollution control, habitat conservation), that promote lessons learnt and best practice at the regional level (including for climate change adaptation and mitigation).

Activities related to Output 3.2: Nature-based solutions are implemented to restore degraded coastal and marine ecosystems:

- Implement NbS that enhance transboundary climate resiliency, enhance water quality and conserve spawning habitats (estuaries/ freshwater/ saltwater habitats) in the North Mozambique Channel and other similar key regional ecosystem scale sites; and
- Support scaling up mechanisms and programmes identified within National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), existing or proposed National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)¹⁶ that include the promotion and adoption of NbS to enhance coastal resilience.

Activities related to Output 3.3: Learning, research, outreach and knowledge on marine and coastal science improved:

- Improve the role of civil society and non-governmental organisations on ocean conservation matters within the regional arena¹⁷;
- Communicate and develop improved research, outreach and knowledge findings on marine science matters through supporting relevant and ongoing Scientific and Technological programmes to enhance marine NbS implementation, including spawning habitats (estuaries/ freshwater/ saltwater);
- Support ongoing regional marine scientific research agendas and initiatives that relate to educational, scientific and technological development (including and capacity transfer) programmes that align with existing regional initiatives in train¹⁸; and
- Promote regional networks of national research bodies to leverage additional funding and access to funding opportunities / (e.g. information, link or leverage private sector investment in research).

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

This Action intends to improve the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems through the regional adoption of nature-based solutions and the preservation of the ocean’s natural blue carbon function. It will also identify and promote opportunities to improve biodiversity and contribute to global climate change action through improving CO2 sequestration through a set of activities (including conservation through marine protected areas and the facilitating blue carbon capture through nature-based solutions, etc.).

¹⁶ As of Sept 2023, only Kenya (2017) and Madagascar (2022) have endorsed NAPs.

¹⁷ Examples may include Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Memorandums of Understandings (MoU) produced etc.

¹⁸ WIOMSA is a relevant legally recognised entity to support this activity, being regional of character, possessing multi-disciplinary membership, and having a strong reputation for designing and implementing projects/programs.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required. However, due to the diversity of the components and activities foreseen, national and regional policy developments implemented with the support of the Action should benefit from specific environmental analyses.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

Due to its focus on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment). Yet, if need be, specific activities should be accompanied by dedicated environmental impact assessments, notably when these involve infrastructure and other productive-related actions. The Action will also provide technical assistance to regional, national and local entities on climate risks and vulnerability assessments related with ocean governance / the SBE. These will support and strengthen adaptation planning and feed the implementation of adaptation activities.

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

Given the nature of the interventions foreseen, the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is of no or low risk (no need for further assessment). However, as indicated above, in specific cases and if need be, particular interventions should be accompanied by dedicated climate risk assessments, notably when these involve infrastructure and other productive-related actions.

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 proposed Action recognises the different ways in which women and girls can be affected by the degradation of marine and coastal resources, as well as the importance of their particular contributions to an SBE. Consideration will be given to diverse ethnic, cultural and political norms in participating countries affecting the role of women, girls and vulnerable groups. This will inform approaches at local and national level to improve their inclusive involvement in decision-making processes and the implementation of private and public investments.

Human Rights

The Action will apply a human rights-based approach by ensuring respect of all human rights, participation, non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency in all phases. Further, SBE principles strictly align with the SDGs, embracing inclusive and leaving no one behind approaches.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While vulnerable groups will be considered and targeted through local analyses and planning, aiming at increasing potential social benefits, disability is not targeted per se. As much as possible, the Action will seek to increase participative and inclusive practices and governance, safeguarding that the most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, are included in planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

Reduction of inequalities

To reduce inequality, this Action focuses on various aspects such as access to resources, education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and environmental conservation. In particular, the Action promotes sustainable resource management; such as strengthening environmental regulations, promoting sustainable fisheries management, and supporting women's rights organisations and movements. Due to its horizontal vision, the SBE approach offers a good basis for providing equal opportunities to all persons and avoiding potential discrimination patterns.

Democracy

The Action will directly promote enhanced multi-level governance, at local, national and regional levels. The capacity building and technical assistance provided will also directly strengthen government institutions, thereby supporting efficient democratic institutions. Performance indicators related to updated and improved policies, leading to clarified national SBE systems, will be included in the Action performance framework and monitored on a regular basis. Further, the Action intends to support social accountability through civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizen engagement, thereby strengthening democracy by way of voicing the needs of vulnerable groups and communities and holding public officials accountable (demand-side accountability)

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Better ocean governance will contribute to solving conflicts between competing uses of marine space, resources and services. MCS activities for instance should support vessel controls at sea, encouraging synergies with national entities dealing with illegal trade, maritime trafficking and security issues. The support to international negotiations over marine and fishing resources will also contribute to improving bilateral and multilateral dialogues and ease potential tensions over access to natural and productive resources. The programme is designed to increase social cohesion and reduce environmental fragility through interventions to build and support community-based organisations and their capacities for fisheries and environmental management.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The design of the Action is aligned to support the principles of the African Union (2017) “Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa”. It is also in line with the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The foreseen support to coastal ecosystem management intends to provide protection against coastal erosion, flooding from storms, increasing sea levels and potential damages caused by wave action.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Risk 1: SBE policies at regional level continue to lack development and coherent strategies with implementation pathways.	Medium	High	Both institutional organisation and capacity needs across the region will be strengthened with the ROGS providing a mandate for WIO-wide support through this proposed Action
External environment	Risk 2: Political commitment and human capacity of national and regional authorities unable to contribute significantly to the implementation.	Low	Medium	Techniques such as engagement and diplomacy, stakeholder consultation, capacity building, incentives and benefits, negotiation and compromise, and establishing mechanisms for ongoing collaboration and joint decision-making to foster trust (tailored the specific context, culture, and challenges of the situation) could be adopted. Persistence, strategic planning, and adaptability are key to successfully mitigating obstacles posed by uncooperative authorities.
External environment	Risk 3: Adverse investment and business environment within	Medium	Medium	The Action will identify key regionally-relevant barriers and weaknesses in blue

	coastal countries and trade barriers			value chain development and address these where possible.
External environment	Risk 4: Poor security / political stability in parts of the region	Medium	Low	As this is a regional Action, lessons learnt in the more stable parts of the region can be applied to other, less stable areas.
External environment	Risk 5: Increased risk of climate-changed driven hazardous events such as major storms and flooding.	Medium	Low	Development of contingency plans and possibly targeted support in the event of major, persistent events.
External environment	Risk 6: Demographic context and economic growth yield an increase in anthropogenic impacts on water quality and land use detrimental to riverine, marine and ocean ecosystems and habitats.	Medium	High	The Action will assist promote policy coherence across the region in terms of both ocean governance and blue economy planning.
External Environment	Risk 7: A number of infrastructure projects (notably major dams or coastal grey infrastructure) could deeply affect sedimentation dynamics (notably in deltas), destroying coastal ecosystems and spawning areas.	Medium to High	High	Part of the Action in SO1 might include developing regional capacity in strategic-level environmental and social impact assessment as a tool to encourage sustainable development and inter-sectoral communication and planning. It will be an important point to ensure this covers the impacts that cross the terrestrial / ocean divide.
Planning, processes and systems	Risk 8: National and local governments are not committed to effectively improving cooperation on cross-border matters.	Low	Medium	This risk will be mitigated by involving key stakeholders already during the development of the Action through the preparation of Strategic Investment Plans and, where possible, building on existing relationships / project successes.

Planning, processes and systems	Risk 9: Partners not able to access appropriate stakeholders/beneficiaries and/or establish presence across the region	Low	High	Thorough selection of implementing partners/trusted entities, ensuring that partners have previous knowledge and expertise on implementing activities in the region.
Implementation	Risk 10: Competing economic interests inc. relating to conservation and management of shared resources act as a barrier to improvement	Medium	High	The risks will be reduced with transparent evidence for decision making and enhanced dialogue within the framework of RFMOs and specifically involving the private sector.
	Risk 11: Women not fully participating and existence of barriers perpetuating gender inequalities.	Medium	High	Targeted stakeholder engagement, gender-responsive planning, capacity building, and empowerment. Targeted interventions on safeguard mechanisms. A comprehensive and context-specific approach that will be explored further during the Inception Phase.

Lessons Learnt:

This Action has integrated the lessons learnt and best practices of previous and ongoing initiatives supported by the EU, EU Member States and other international donors in the areas directly related to its three proposed components. Among the initiatives revisited and assessed are the EU-supported E€OFISH programme¹⁹, FISHGOV 2 project²⁰, the Programme to promote Regional Maritime Security (MASE), the World Bank SWIOFish projects²¹, the GIZ-funded WIOGI and Our Blue Future programmes and the SIDA-funded SwAM Ocean ITP programmes in MSP.

- Causes of the failures observed: (i) the low implementation capacity of many of the WIO region's lead entities in sustainable blue economic development, inc. the RECs; (ii) the limited contribution of less-developed States to regional resource management bodies²²; (iii) previous regional solutions have not fully accounted for linguistic, cultural, scale, logistical or other differences across the various mainland and island States in the WIO; (iv) the constant risk across all SBE sectors is the lack of a regional regulatory harmonisation / level playing field, (v) political will and good sector governance, especially with respect to regulate access to fisheries, is an essential condition for ensuring sustainable exploitation of fish stock and preservation of the marine environment²³; and (vi) SBE current approaches that are too sectoral or even sub-sectoral and not inter- sectorial with a strong integration of environmental and social concerns.

¹⁹ EU funded programme to enhance equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-I0 region. September 2018 to September 2024, with a budget of € 28 million. See <https://ecofish-programme.org/>

²⁰ Fisheries Governance Project 2 (FishGov 2): The Enhancing Sustainable Fisheries Management and Aquaculture Development in Africa (Fisheries Governance 2). Project implementation period from 2021 to 2025 and is jointly implemented by AU-IBAR and AUDI-NEPAD under funding by the EU.

²¹ The World Bank recently approved the TransFORM/SWIOFish5 project 2023-2030 to support Maldives and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) to strengthen regional, evidence-based fisheries management in the SWIO Region and to improve competitiveness in the fisheries sector in Maldives. The project envisages a USD 12 million grant to the Indian Ocean Commission to support the work of the South-West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) in enhancing the management framework of fisheries resources in the areas under its jurisdiction. Activities implemented under the TransFORM/SWIOFish5 will not overlap with the activities considered for the action.

²² For instance, agreement on management resolutions or resource allocation can be compromised due to insufficient financial or technical capacity for effective participation, or insufficient levels of regional solidarity.

²³ Based on the results of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the E€OFISH programme.

- Main keys to success: (i) rather than inventing new entities, the use and development of existing entities provides a higher likelihood of sustainable operation and delivery, esp. at regional level²⁴; (ii) there are regional leaders in certain topical areas e.g. MSP in the Seychelles, whose experience can be used to replicate their success elsewhere in the WIO; (iii) programme design and actions need to be fully coherent with those of other regional initiatives (such as the ROGS in this case) and programmes being developed over the same time period²⁵ as well as EU policy priorities and strategies for the region; (iv) the use of pilot activities to test scalable approaches and operations e.g. under SO2; (v) the need to influence financial institutions to both combat industrial threats to the ocean but also to encourage sustainable financing modalities; and (vi) building appropriate and strong stakeholder coalitions to deliver programme activities based on competencies and competitive advantages.
- Factors favouring the success of actions: (i) the proactive involvement of women (e.g., in coastal activities, management of natural resources, health and consumption habits) and young people (innovative value chain actors and potential entrepreneurs); (ii) the importance of economic sustainability (value chain upgrading – integration of business opportunities); and (iii) sustainable exchanges between peers (effective transfer of know-how, knowledge and the emulation of local and regional dynamics).
- Actors directly concerned by these lessons: (i) inclusive mobilisation of local and regional institutional actors (ii) need for technical and where appropriate, financial assistance ensuring the coherence of the programme (methodological and technical support), (iii) selection and supervision of actors responsible for the implementation of components and (iv) the use of focused steering committees (monitoring and response).

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying basis for this Action is that the Overall Objective is to contribute to a sustainable, productive, climate-resilient governance of the Western Indian Ocean.

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that:

IF SO 1: Regional and national capacities to coordinate and collaborate on shared ocean challenges are strengthened;

AND,

- Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and a sustainable blue economy is increased;
- Regional management framework of shared fisheries resources through RFMOs is improved;
- IUU fishing is reduced;
- Knowledge and information on the blue economy improved and made available to decision- makers;

AND, IF the following assumptions hold:

- Blue economy policies, strategies and work plans are more robust and consistent across the region, supported by improved institutional structures for cross-sectoral planning, enhanced alignment with international standards and the uptake of regionally harmonised tools e.g., marine spatial planning;
- Capacity of policy makers and managers to support the development, implementation and enforcement of international agreements, such as the BBNJ agreement and the Port State Measures Agreement, and regional agreements and mechanisms, including on regional fisheries management (e.g., regional fisheries management organisations - RFMOs) and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, etc.; and
- All actors and stakeholders in the blue economy have access to the basic information required for the sustainable and equitable governance of the WIO and its blue economy;

AND IF,

SO 2: Investment in the sustainable blue economy is facilitated; AND,

- Direct funding and technical support to specific pilot projects in SBE value chains in the WIO is delivered, thus supporting the Global Gateway;
- Access to finance and commercial development tools by blue value chain businesses is improved; and
- Maritime training programmes in the region are developed to international standards.

AND IF, the following assumptions hold:

²⁴ For instance, there are already proven regional entities involved in marine biodiversity conservation (e.g. WIOMSA, CORDIO, etc) and these need to be engaged and facilitated to partner in programme delivery (for SO3). Likewise, the Our Blue Future programme is well established, gaining momentum and is also a good potential partner for SO1 and SO2.

²⁵ For instance the ‘Scientific and Technological Support to Regional Centres of Excellence related to Green Transition’ financed under NDICI-Global Europe.

- National and regional policies support indigenous, gender-equal employment and skills development in the maritime sector, especially offshore;
- There is strong programme integration into existing blue economy investment accelerator hubs and networks, such as the Our Blue Future programme;
- Investment is targeted and supported by appropriate, long-term support for financial and technical capacity-building; and
- Donors understand the need for specific approaches for island/mainland countries e.g., donors and operators acknowledge cultural and economic specificities within a shared regional approach

AND IF,

SO 3: Regional initiatives to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and blue carbon capture are supported;

AND,

- Management of transboundary areas and ABNJs to support ocean conservation initiatives are improved;
- Nature-based solutions are implemented to prevent regional ecosystem degradation and/or restore degraded coastal and marine and connected riverine-estuary ecosystems; and
- Learning, research, outreach and knowledge on marine and coastal science are improved; AND, IF the following assumptions hold:
 - Specific enablers are strengthened, such as governance tools, human capacity and sustainable financing (linked to the policy priorities) to support both value chain development and associated/inter-linkages to advance marine conservation;
 - No support is provided to an economic activity that does not have a positive outcome on marine conservation (be it directly or via CSR/offsets);
 - Mainstreaming of biodiversity marine conservation principles is achieved in all the sectors and embraced by the main stakeholders for developing suitable policy

THEN,

The **Impact** - a sustainable, productive, climate-resilient governance of the Western Indian Ocean can be achieved.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe 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 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.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (values & years)	Targets (values & years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the sustainable, productive, climate-resilient governance and use of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).	1 No. of countries supported by the Action to participate and cooperate in international (and regional) mechanisms for ecosystem-based approaches to ocean management ²⁶ .	None (2023)	Nine (2029)	1 SBE portal data.	<i>Not applicable</i>
		2 Increase (%) in private sector turn over from SBE maritime sectors in terms of GDP contribution in the WIO.	To be determined (2023)	To be determined (2029)	2 SBE portal data.	
		3 Increase (%) of critical marine habitats protected in line with WIO regional policies and international commitments (CBD and BBNJ Treaty etc).	To be determined (2023)	To be determined (2029)	3 WIO NGO (e.g. CORDIO, WWF, WIOMSA) data.	
Outcome 1	1. Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and planning for a sustainable regional	1.1 No. of relevant international and regional agreements ratified and implemented by WIO coastal States.	To be determined (2023)	To be determined (2029)	Implementation partner reports	Equal political will across the IGAD, COMESA. EAC, SADC & IOC sub-regions.

²⁶ MIP Priority Area 3 – Green transition SO5: R5.1.1

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (values & years)	Targets (values & years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
	blue economy increased.	1.2 Number of shared stocks for which the exploitation status could be assessed based on scientific evidence.	IOTC/FAO 12 (2023) & SIOFA to be determined (2023) ²⁷	IOTC/FAO 16 (2029) & SIOFA to be determined (2023)	RFMO reports	Coastal States have the capacity to collect and share scientific data as expected by RFMOs resolutions
Outcome 2	2. Investment in the sustainable blue economy facilitated.	2.1 No. of economic operators (SMEs, large enterprises, financial institutions) reporting the adoption of sustainable practices in their operations as a result of EU support ²⁸	None (2023)	To be determined (2025 - 2029)	Implementation partner reports	Active programme engagement with value chains across the region.
		2.2 No. of people (disaggregated by gender) trained or capacitated with EU support on maritime skills development ²⁹ .	None (2023)	To be determined (2025 - 2029)	Implementation partner reports	Equal opportunities across different languages / capacities.
Outcome 3	3. Regional initiatives to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and preserving blue carbon capture supported.	3.1 Marine areas under sustainable management ³⁰ with EU support (km ²) ³¹ (Indicator 8 EURF).	Baseline study to be carried out for each WIO country	15% on average at the WIO level (2029)	World Database on Protected Areas and national data	Willingness amongst regional institutions
		3.2 No. of WIO nations that adopt (or are in the process of adopting) legislation that supports BBNJ Treaty implementation.	Zero (2023)	Nine (2029)	Annual Reports	Political will amongst Member States and willingness amongst regional institutions
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance increased.	1.1.1 Number of institutional coordination mechanisms on SBE established or supported through the EU-funded intervention ³² .	1.1.2 None	Nine (2029)	Implementation partner reports	Political will across different sectors / States exists.
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Implementation of conservation and management measures for	1.2.1 Compliance records of targeted coastal States (number of requirements compliant / number of requirements applicable).	IOTC/FAO 69% (2023)	IOTC/FAO 75% (2029)	Reports of the compliance	Need to focus capacity-building on low-ranking States and on serious

²⁷ For IOTC/FAO will include tropical tuna species, billfish species, neritic tuna species and oceanic sharks). SIOFA indicator species to be agreed.

²⁸ Modification of Level 2 indicator GEF 2.6

²⁹ Developed from MIP Priority Area 3 – Green transition SO4: R4.3.1

³⁰ Marine areas adopting sustainable management tools.

³¹ MIP Priority Area 3 – Green transition SO5: R5.2.3

³² Results and indicators for development validated by DG INTPA - <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/results-and-indicators>

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (values & years)	Targets (values & years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
	shared fisheries resources through RFMOs is improved				committees of RFMOs	and repeated compliance issues.
Output 3 related to Outcome 1	1.3 Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced.	1.3.1 Number of trainings or exercises with regional working groups on data and information sharing related to MCS (gender disaggregated).	M/F to be determined (2023)	M/F to be determined (2029)	Implementation partner reports	Political will to share key but sensitive data; sufficient human capacity; frequent staff mobility.
		1.3.2 No. of joint deployment plans organised.	Three (2023)	To be determined (2029)	Implementation partner reports	Political will to conduct JDPs.
Output 4 related to Outcome 1	1.4 Knowledge and information on the SBE improved and made available to decision-makers.	1.4.1 No. of sustainable and inclusive knowledge products and policy inputs produced by the WIO SBE portal.	None (2023)	To be determined (2029)	Implementation partner reports	Regional / national entities / stakeholders willing to work together.
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Access to finance and business services in key sustainable blue economy sectors improved.	2.1.2 No. of SBE-related business incubators programmes or SMEs support measures supported ³³ .	None (2023)	To be determined (x number per year over the WIO region)	Implementation partner reports	Regionally-relevant needs can be prioritised and agreed amongst stakeholders
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 Investments into the SBE triggered, promoting Global Gateway, innovation and regional integration.	2.2.1 Investments (m EUR/year) by sector (living resources, non-living resources, ocean energy, ports activities, shipbuilding and repair, maritime transport, and coastal tourism) in SBE using introduced financial instruments ³⁴ .	None (2023)	To be determined (x number sector / per year over the WIO region)	Implementation partner reports; SBE Portal data; EU M&E systems.	Investments are credible, communicated and financial instruments effective.
		2.2.2 No. of value chain upgrading strategies published.	None (2023)	Ten	Implementation partner reports; SBE Portal data.	Upgrading strategies are credible & supported because they are based on robust data and developed through participatory approaches.

³³ MIP Priority Area 5 – Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs SO3: R3.2.1

³⁴ MIP Priority Area 3 – Green transition SO5: R5.2.2

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (values & years)	Targets (values & years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Output 3 related to Outcome 2	2.3 Coastal State training for seagoing personnel aligned with international standards and improved	2.3.1 No. of countries with training packages fully aligned with IMO standards (STCW – STCW-F)	None (2023)	Nine (2029)	IMO records	Willingness to align with IMO maritime standards
		2.3.2 a) No. of certified ³⁵ regional trainers (gender disaggregated) 2.3.2 b) Online regional network of trainers established and maintained	M/F to be determined (2023) None (2023)	M/F to be determined (2029) Yes (2026)	Implementation partner reports Implementation partner reports	Suitable candidates made available. Willingness to maintain trainer network
Output 1 related to Outcome 3	3.1 Management of transboundary areas and ABNJs to support ocean conservation initiatives improved.	3.1.2 No. of guidance manuals developed, to help standardise data collection, monitoring, review and verification to support ratification of relevant ocean-related treaties (i.e., BBNJ), conventions, protocols and/or systems.	Zero	Nine (2029)	Annual Reports	Willingness of WIO nations to receive support for ratifying relevant ocean related treaties, protocols or systems
Output 2 related to Outcome 3	3.2 Nature-based solutions to restore degraded coastal and marine ecosystems implemented.	3.2.1 No. of transboundary Blue Carbon (“green buffer- blue forest carbon capture” related) NbS pilot projects implemented that embrace all relevant coastal habitats) and are designed to improve climate resilience through a regionally compliant selection process.	Zero (2023)	Five (2029)	Annual Reports	Full commitment of WIO countries to support NbS pilot projects to support marine conservation and climate resiliency.
Output 3 related to Outcome 3	3.3 Learning, research, outreach and knowledge on marine and coastal science improved.	3.3.1 No. of existing international civil society and non-governmental organisations engaged on learning, research, outreach or knowledge related support programmes) that convey WIO marine science matters onto the international arena.	To be determined (2023)	To be determined (2029)	Project reports	Willingness of civil society/NGOs to engage on learning, research to convey WIO marine science matters.

³⁵ Certified : attended the training of trainers workshops and passed the qualification tests.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

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 84 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 rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures³⁶.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

A grant is envisaged to ensure the implementation of part of Output 1.3 "Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced"

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Regional and/or intergovernmental organisations, national, regional or international NGOs.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement will contribute to achieve Specific Objective 1, specifically Output 1.2: "Implementation of conservation and management measures for shared fisheries resources through RFMOs is improved."

4.4.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

4.4.3.1

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following selection criteria: (i) ongoing successful engagement in the WIO region and other similar programmes that provide capacity building and technical assistance on certification and traceability schemes and establishing regional risk assessment frameworks; (ii) successful experience in capacity building and coordination of MCS activities in non-EU waters; and (iii) capacity to implement tasks such as legal support, the identification of training needs and planning of training activities, the planning and coordinating surveillance campaigns at sea including international cooperation for the mutualisation of control resources.

The implementation by this entity entails part of Output 1.3 "Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced", in particular supporting the organisation of joint patrols, supporting the Regional Centre of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, enhancing the capacity of national bodies to efficiently tackle IUU by adopting/improving the regulations and providing training.

³⁶ 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.

4.4.3.2

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: i) extensive experience on the design and implementation of international technical cooperation projects in the Western Indian Ocean region; ii) technical, financial and operational capacity to manage EU-funded programmes; and iii) experienced in leading technical assistance (TA) projects in regional and national policies aimed at, inter alia, supporting sustainable blue economy sectors through value chain upgrading and providing or facilitating targeted financial support and otherwise supporting the Global Gateway approach, and/or providing TA to support environmental protection, climate resilience and ocean governance into policy formulation and implementation.

The implementation entails the whole of Output 1.4 "Supporting the implementation of the WIO - Information Management Strategy".and the whole of Specific Objective 2 "Facilitate investment in the sustainable blue economy" (i.e. outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).

4.4.3.3

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: i) excellent record on the design and implementation of international technical cooperation projects in the field of ocean governance, marine resource management and protection, and/or Blue Economy; ii) technical, financial and operational capacity to manage EU-funded programmes; and iii) experience leading technical assistance projects in regional, national and local public policies aimed at increasing sustainable development of the blue economy, notably the use of maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a management tool.

The implementation by this entity entails supporting the implementation part of the activities linked to Output 1.1 "Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and planning for a sustainable regional blue economy increased", namely to support the development of tools to implement the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy, through the use of MSP. In particular, the entity will ensure the ongoing development of MSP in the region by harmonising data standards, inter-sectoral coordination and ensuring MSP contributes to evidence-based management of the sustainable blue economy in the WIO.

4.4.3.4

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) extensive experience and mandate to operate in the Western Indian Ocean region in the field of ocean governance, marine resource management and protection, and/or Blue Economy; (iii) technical capacities and available expertise in the mentioned areas; (iii) technical, financial and operational capacity to manage EU-funded programmes;

The implementation entails part of Output 1.1 "Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and planning for a sustainable regional blue economy increased" excluding the MSP elements.

4.4.3.5

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with one or more entrusted entities acting, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) excellent record on the design and implementation of international technical cooperation projects in the Western Indian Ocean region; (ii) technical, financial and operational capacity to manage EU-funded programmes; (iii) experience leading TA projects in regional, national and local public policies aimed at improving ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and blue carbon capture.

The implementation by one or more of these entities entails Specific Objective 3 "Support regional initiatives to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and to preserve the ocean's natural blue carbon function.

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

Should the implementation through direct management (grants) of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.1 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from direct to indirect management with an entity, which will

be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) Technical capacities and available expertise in the area of fisheries management and/or the fight against IUU fishing; (ii) demonstrated ability to foster collaboration and build partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the targeted area and (iii) technical, financial and operational capacity to manage EU-funded programmes. The implementation entails Output 1.3 "Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced".

Likewise, should the implementation through direct management (procurement) of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.2 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from direct to indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) mandate to ensure the conservation and management of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean; (ii) outstanding technical capacity and experience providing support to regional fisheries bodies worldwide and in the Indian Ocean; (iii) extensive applied research capacities on fish stock. The implementation entails Output 1.2: "Implementation of conservation and management measures for shared fisheries resources through RFMOs is improved."

Conversely, should the implementation through indirect management of all or part of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.3.1 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management through grants.

(a) Purpose of the grant:

A grant would be envisaged to ensure the implementation of part of Output 1.3 "Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced", in particular supporting the organisation of joint patrols, supporting the Regional Centre of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, enhancing the capacity of national bodies to efficiently tackle IUU by adopting/improving the regulations and providing training.

(b) Type of targeted applicants:

European specialized agencies/bodies, regional, international and/or intergovernmental organisations; national, regional or international NGOs with technical capacities and available expertise in the targeted area.

Should the implementation through indirect management of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.3.2 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management through grants.

(a) Purpose of the grant:

A grant would be envisaged to ensure the implementation of Output 1.4 "Supporting the implementation of the WIO - Information Management Strategy".and the whole of Specific Objective 2 "Facilitate investment in the sustainable blue economy" (i.e. outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3).

(b) Type of targeted applicants:

Regional, international and/or intergovernmental organisations; national, regional or international NGOs with technical capacities and available expertise in the targeted area.

Should the implementation through indirect management of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.3.3 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management through grants.

(a) Purpose of the grant:

A grant would be envisaged to ensure the implementation of Output 1.1, namely to support the development of tools to implement the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy, through the use of MSP.

(b) Type of targeted applicants:

Regional, international and/or intergovernmental organisations; national, regional or international NGOs with technical capacities and available expertise in the targeted area.

Should the implementation through indirect management of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.3.4 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management through grants.

(a) Purpose of the grant:

A grant would be envisaged to ensure the implementation of The implementation entails part of Output 1.1 "Human and institutional capacity for ocean governance and planning for a sustainable regional blue economy increased" excluding the MSP elements and Output 1.4 "Supporting the implementation of the WIO - Information Management Strategy"..

(b) Type of targeted applicants:

Regional, international and/or intergovernmental organisations; national, regional or international NGOs with technical capacities and available expertise in the targeted area.

Finally, should the implementation through indirect management of the activities mentioned under point 4.4.3.5 become not to be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the Commission will revert to an alternative second option, entailing a change from indirect to direct management through grants.

(a) Purpose of the grant:

A grant would be envisaged to ensure the implementation of a wide range of the outputs under SO3, notably assisting in the capacity-development activities (Output 3.1); implementing nature-based solutions (Output 3.2) and learning, research and outreach activities (Output 3.3).

(b) Type of targeted applicants:

Regional, international and/or intergovernmental organisations; national, regional or international NGOs with technical capacities and available expertise in the targeted area.

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.

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative budget components	EU contribution 2024 (EUR)	EU contribution 2025 (EUR)	Total (in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4			
Specific Objective 1 (Strengthen regional and national capacities to coordinate and collaborate on shared ocean governance) composed of:			17 750 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1		3 000 000	3 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.2	3 000 000		3 000 000
Indirect management with Entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.1	3 000 000	2 000 000	5 000 000
Indirect management with Entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.32	3 000 000	750 000	3 750 000
Indirect management with Entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.43	1 500 000		1 500 000
Indirect management with Entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.32.54	1 500 000		1 500 000
Specific Objective 2 (Facilitate investment in the sustainable blue economy) composed of:			25 000 000
Indirect management with entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.32	9 250 000	15 750 000	25 000 000
Specific Objective 3 (Support regional initiatives to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem resilience and blue carbon capture) composed of:			15 250 000
Indirect management with entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.2.63.5	6 750 000	8 500 000	15 250 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1		3 000 000	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.2		3 000 000	

Evaluation – cf. section	may be covered by another decision		
Audit – cf. section			
Totals	28 000 000	30 000 000	58 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The programme will be coordinated by a Steering Committee co-chaired by the European Commission services. Participating stakeholders will include regional institutions, all implementing partners and European Commission services involved, as well as potential public bodies involved in specific interventions (e.g., innovative SBE pilot projects) as proposed by the Technical Committees. The Steering Committee will meet at least annually and provide strategic guidance to the action ensuring the regional approach of the overall intervention and its coherence with the policy priorities of the sectors concerned, as well as the operational monitoring of the programme and the approval of the annual reports.

The European Commission services acting as component leads will be actively involved in programme coordination, to ensure effective implementation and follow-up of respective component, and contribute to inter-component (horizontal) coordination. The European Commission services will chair a Technical Committee that will meet at least twice a year, encompassing all implementing partners involved in the corresponding pillar, in coordination with relevant Regional Entities.

A programme coordination and implementation unit will support both the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee meetings, facilitating the horizontal/vertical exchange of information between and within the three main components. It will also support involved European Commission services coordinating strategic alignment with other organisations, and enabling participation of key stakeholders, including national ministries, civil society (including effective participation of women organisations) and regional actors, including outermost regions. Complementing this, the Coordination Unit will contribute to and manage a network of knowledge/practitioners, enabling more informal knowledge sharing and information flow.

All European Commission services will be associated with relevant (in the country) programme activities (e.g., pilot projects), ensuring national appropriation and, when appropriate, political dialogue with country or regional authorities. The lead European Commission services will coordinate among themselves the participation in any formal or informal coordination mechanism established at HQ level with other parties to align/enhance synergies between this programme and other regional programmes on specific issues, notably on fisheries management and BBNJ processes.

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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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 (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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).

EU Delegations leading in the implementation of specific components will be responsible for coordination and consolidating monitoring data regarding their own pillar, collected by the implementing partners, in closed collaboration with other European Commission services, and to report on the Logical Framework matrix with support from M&E expertise provided by the implementation unit. Specific surveys/studies can be financed under the regular budget of the action, and if needed through specific budget lines identified for this purpose.

Monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

5.2 Evaluation

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

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to coordination of activities and the effectiveness of the implementing scheme in place for each component.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that strong articulations of the implementation of BE activities at national and regional levels should have occurred, and each country is in a position to implement key BE innovative activities. It should be highlighted that the actions comprise several pilot projects that are being tested.

Evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams. The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month 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 may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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

5.3 Audit and Verifications

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 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

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 chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Direct Management - Grant – cf. section 4.4.1.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Direct Management – Procurement – cf. section 4.4.2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Indirect management with an entrusted entity– cf. section 4.4.23.21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.32
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.43
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 6	Indirect Management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.23.54
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 7	Indirect Management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.3.5
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	

Appendix 2 ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- ABES Africa Blue Economy Strategy
- ABNJ Areas beyond national jurisdiction
- AFD Agence Française de Développement
- ALB Albacore tuna
- BBNJ Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
- BET Bigeye tuna
- CBD Convention on Biological Diversity
- CFNR-R Centre de Formation Nautique Reunion
- CHM Clearing House Mechanism
- COP Conference of Parties
- CSO civil society organisation
- DRR Disaster risk reduction
- EDFI European development financing institutions
- EEZ Exclusive economic zone
- EFCA European Fisheries Control Agency
- EFSD+ European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus
- EUD European Union Delegation
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation
- GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- ICZM Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- IFI International financial institutions
- IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development
- ICPAC IGAD Climate Protection and Applications Centre
- IMO International Maritime Organisation
- IOC Indian Ocean Commission
- IOTC/FAO Indian Ocean Tuna Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation
- IUCN International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- IUU Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
- LME Large marine ecosystem
- MASE Regional Programme for the Promotion of Maritime Security
- MCSCC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (in Mozambique)
- MIP Multiannual Indicative Programme
- MPA Marine protected area
- MPCA Multi-Partner Contribution Agreement
- MSP Maritime spatial planning
- NAP National Adaptation Plan
- NBS Nature-based solutions
- NBSAP National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
- NC Nairobi Convention
- NDC Nationally determined contribution
- NGO Non-governmental organisation
- OBF Our Blue Future
- PRSP Plan Régional de Surveillance des Pêches (EN: Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan)
- RCOC Regional Operations Coordination Centre (in the Seychelles)
- RCoE Regional Centre of Excellence
- REC Regional Economic Community
- RFMO Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
- RMIFC Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (in Madagascar)
- ROGS Regional Ocean Governance Strategy
- RRH Regional Resources Hub
- SADC Southern African Development Community

- SBE Sustainable Blue Economy
- SIDA Swedish International Development Agency
- SIOFA Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- SKJ Skipjack tuna
- SME Small to medium-sized enterprise
- SO Specific Objective
- SWIOFC Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
- SWIOP Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme
- TEU Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (containers)
- TNC The Nature Conservancy
- UCRE Unité de Coordination Régionale Élargie
- UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
- WIO Western Indian Ocean
- WIOGEN West Indian Ocean Governance & Exchange Network
- WIOGI Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative
- WIO-IMS Western Indian Ocean - Information Management Strategy
- WIOMSA Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
- WOMESA Association of Women Managers in the Maritime Sector in Eastern and Southern Africa
- YARIS Yaoundé Regional Information System
- YFT Yellowfin tuna