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**The First Bureau Meeting
to the Convention for the Protection,
Management and Development of the
Marine and Coastal Environment
of the Eastern African Region**

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GEF Application on WIO-LaB Partnerships for SAP Implementation

The Secretariat is preparing a GEF application for US\$15,000,000 for a five year WIO-LaB follow-up project entitled *WIO-LAB Partnerships for SAP Implementation*.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the implementation the SAP through partnerships. In particular the project will address high priority issues highlighted in the SAP.

The proposed project responds to Decision CP6/1 of the Sixth Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention that was held in 29 March to 1 April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya. The project will build on the achievements of the concluded WIO-LaB project and maintain the momentum towards the sustainable management of the shared coastal and marine resources of the Western Indian Ocean region. In line with concluded WIO-LaB project the proposed project will also contribute towards the achievement of relevant targets of Agenda 21, World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) including: a) environmental sustainability; b) ending poverty and hunger; c) gender equity; and d) global partnerships.

The proposed project has four Strategic Objectives and related components including:

- a) Critical coastal habitats protected, restored and managed for sustainable use.
- b) Water quality meets international standards by the year 2035
- c) River flows are wisely and sustainably managed and the management of the coastal zone and river basins is fully integrated in the WIO region
- d) By 2015, stakeholders will collaborate effectively in addressing transboundary challenges.

The project will build strongly upon the partnerships with organisations and institutions developed during the development of the SAP. At the national level, an important priority of

the project will be to mainstream the priorities of the SAP into national policy and legal frameworks, development plans and budgets. The project will catalyse and provide support to the current national processes of developing National Action Plans and integrating relevant elements of the SAP into appropriate policy instruments such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans or National Environmental Management Plans.

The project will be implemented and executed through a “Partnerships Approach”, with the UNEP **Division for GEF Coordination (DGEF) being the implementing agency**, and the UNEP Division for Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)/Nairobi Convention Secretariat as the overarching executing agency.