

1.2 Summary of the Action

In recent years, the Government of Mozambique (GoM) has recognised the need for a coordinated and integrated approach to the governance and development of blue economy sectors, acknowledging the importance of sustainable management of marine resources and ecosystems as the basis on which blue economy sectors depend. This approach holds the potential to increase the contribution of blue economy to Mozambique's quest for a more resilient and inclusive development pathway. This Action is intended as the European Union's main contribution for the country to benefit sustainably from its emerging blue economy sectors. It is structured along three interlinked components: i) the availability of institutional capacity and information necessary for investment promotion in sustainable and inclusive blue sectors; ii) increasing blue economy value chains contribution to sustainable and inclusive growth; iii) sustainably financed and community-run solutions to restore and protect marine and coastal ecosystems.

Output 1.1 of the Action will develop a blue economy Observatory (inspired by the EU Blue Economy Observatory https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/index_en) within the existing institutional framework established by the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), creating a hub for sectoral knowledge and for the pro-active promotion of sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive blue economy investments.

Output 2.1 will upgrade selected fisheries and aquaculture value chains. The specific value chains to be supported will be selected based on a range of criteria including GoM's prioritization, scalability, competitiveness, value addition and their contribution to food and nutrition security climate action, and positive social, gender and environmental outcomes. The EU Action will support the development and implementation of value upgrading strategies, complementing and leveraging additional investments from the private sector and other development partners.

Output 3.1 will aim at enhancing the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources by developing community-managed marine areas (CMMAs) and their linkage with improvements on the efficiency and sustainability of fishery value chains and innovative finance options, as well as, fostering partnerships with private sector and local government to implement existing regulations and models for climate adaptation and resource management. This is expected to reinforce a virtuous circle whereby well-managed marine ecosystems provide the basis for sustainable and inclusive income streams.

The integrated implementation of the three outputs will: increase sustainable private sector investments in the blue economy; increase fisheries and aquaculture value-chains contribution to sustainable, inclusive and gender responsive economic growth; and stimulate the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources.

The Action will support the objective of the Growing Green focal area of the Multi Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 to "protect, restore and enhance Mozambique's natural capital and ecosystem services as essential drivers of sustainable growth and resilience", and "support the transformation of the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors towards more sustainable food systems, livelihoods and production patterns". Synergies will be sought with relevant ongoing and planned EU funded Actions. Namely, Skills for Employment (ACT-61711) aiming at enhancing youth employment opportunities as well as interventions focused on the recovery of Northern Mozambique (ACT-60677 Resinorte).

The Action has also been formulated to support the Green Deal Team Europe Initiative (TEI) for Mozambique across all its pillars. It will particularly contribute to the TEI's expected results of promoting sustainable production practices and increasing areas under sustainable management while fostering economic opportunities and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change, as well as, enhancing capacities and a conducive environment for green investments. The Action will also contribute to the e-Youth TEI objectives through its support to skills development and employment in blue economy related sectors.

The Action will contribute to multiple SDGs, notably SDG 14 (life below water) but also to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, and 13. Principal and significant markers for the Action include: aid to the environment, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, nutrition, biological diversity, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.