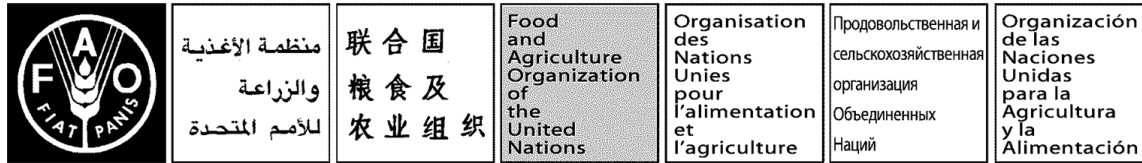


November 2018

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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)
NINTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)
Bridgetown, Barbados, 19-20 November 2018
Overview and update of the process towards the establishment of Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism concerning the Consolidation of a Regional Framework for Integrated Ocean Governance in the CLME+/WECAFC/Wider Caribbean region

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to inform participants at the Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) on the UNDP/GEF “CLME+ Project” (2015-2020). More specifically, it provides an overview of and update on a) the Process towards the Establishment of a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) concerning the Consolidation of a Regional Framework for Integrated Ocean Governance, b) the Integrated Assessment and Reporting Mechanism on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE), c) the Institutionalization of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP), d) how the PPCM, SOMEE and SAP M&E relate to each other and the role of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Project Phase 2 and the CLME+ HUB in the CLME+/WEACFC/Wider Caribbean region.

The CLME+ region

The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) are shared by 26 Independent States and 18 Overseas Territories. The CLME+ region falls within the area of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), as well as most of the area of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Figure 1). The marine area (4.4 million km²) of the CLME+ region is a major contributor to regional socio-economic development; is key to many globally relevant ecological processes; and supports exceptional -often endemic- biodiversity. Two drivers important to the region’s economies, and which are dependent on its marine ecosystems and

associated living resources are fisheries and tourism (Table 1). Other marine-based economic sectors such as shipping and oil and gas also play an important role to the region’s economy.

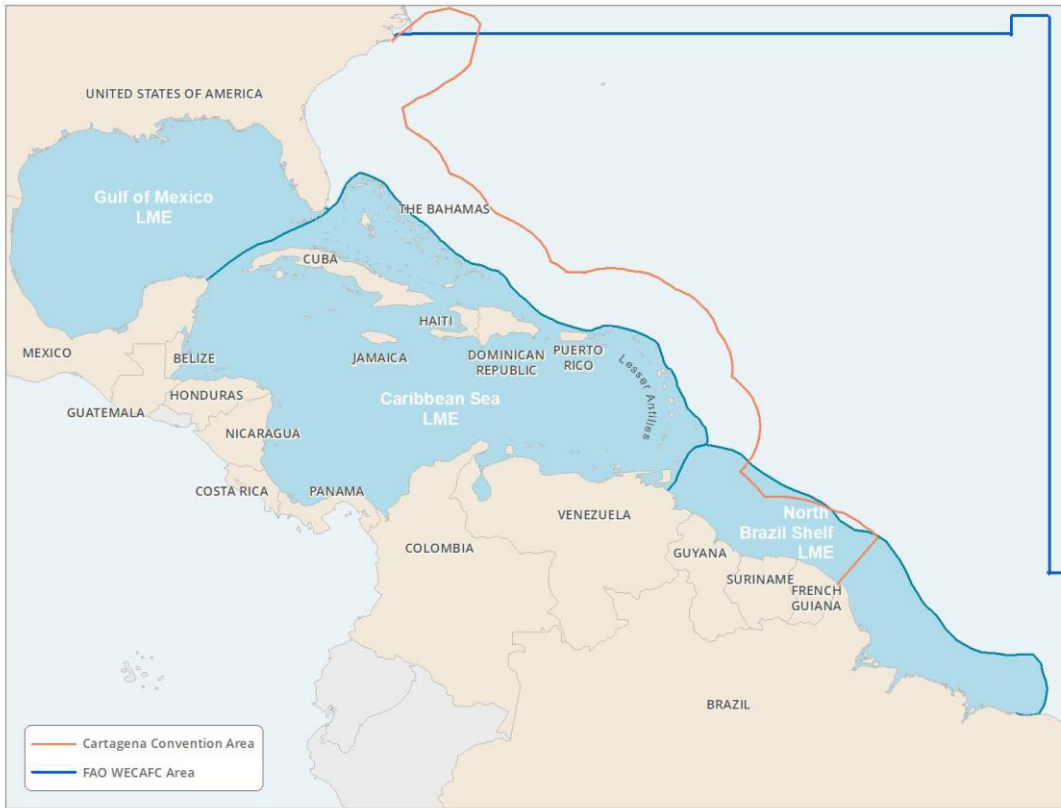


Figure 1: Map depicting boundaries of CLME+, WECAFC, and Cartagena Convention Area

The CLME+ region is regarded as one of the most geopolitically diverse and complex sets of Large Marine Ecosystems in the world. The culturally diverse countries and territories in this region range from among the largest (e.g. Brazil, USA) to among the smallest (e.g. Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis) and from the most developed to the least developed in the world. The region’s marine resources, as well as key problems affecting these resources (overfishing, pollution, habitat degradation and climate change), are shared to a very large extent among its many governments. Capacities for the management of living marine resources vary considerably at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Table 1: Key benefits at stake presently provided by marine ecosystems in the CLME+ region¹

Ecosystem Service	Benefits at stake (USD)
Provision of fish	457 million/annum (commercial capture fisheries only)
Recreational and tourism value	9.1 billion/annum (assuming only 10% visits due to healthy ecosystems)

¹ The figures in table 1 represent conservative estimates with the full value of marine ecosystem services in the CLME+ likely to exceed the amounts quoted below. The figures represent only a small selection of services provided by marine ecosystems and indirect economic effects are not included.

Protection of shoreline from erosion and storms	14 billion
Carbon Sequestration	90 to 704 million/annum

CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (2015-2025)

In 2013, CLME+ countries collaboratively developed a 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP), providing Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO's) with a roadmap to reverse degradation of the marine environment in the CLME+ region, and to secure its important resource base. By June 2017, this SAP had received high-level political endorsement by well over 30 Ministers, representing 25 different Countries and 6 Overseas Territories from the region. The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 Strategies and 76 Actions.

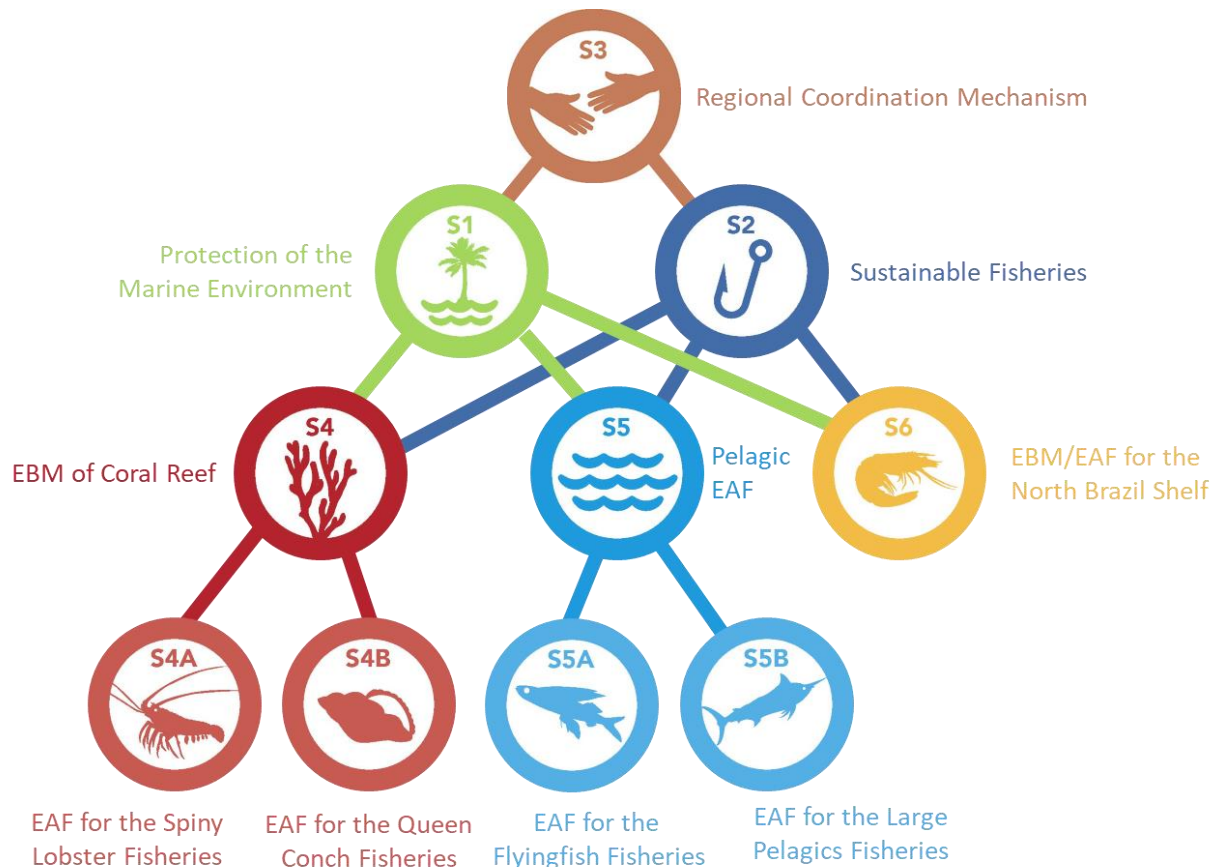


Figure 2. The 6 Strategies and 4 Sub-strategies of the CLME+ SAP

Relevant highlights include:

- SAP Strategy 2 focuses on enhanced regional governance arrangements for sustainable fisheries. Among other topics, it highlights the need for “enhanced capacity to manage knowledge and to mainstream findings from monitoring, science and research in regional, sub-regional and national decision making and policy development”. Given WECAFC’s functions to contribute to improved governance, disseminate fisheries data, strengthen institutional capacity and facilitate harmonization of policies, the Commission plays an important role in the implementation of the SAP. WECAFC is supported in this role by FAO and its Member States (including ministries and decentralized

institutions), as well as by other regional inter-governmental organisations such as UN Environment, CRFM and OSPESCA.

- SAP Strategy 3 outlines a process towards the development and establishment of a regional policy coordination mechanism for ocean governance. (see [The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism and the CLME+ Regional Governance Framework](#), CLME+ PPCM Consultancy, Benefits of a PPCM and SFP for Ocean Governance sections)
- SAP Strategy 1, Action 11 explicitly calls for the enhancement of the capacity to monitor, assess and report on the state of the marine ecosystems in the CLME+ region. (see [Collaborative development of a Regional Report on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies \(SOMEE\)](#) section)

The UNDP GEF CLME+ Project

The 5-year UNDP/GEF “CLME+” Project: *“Catalysing the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”* (GEF ID 5542), approved in 2015, aims at facilitating the implementation of the CLME+ SAP.

Relevant expected outputs from the CLME+ Project include, amongst others:

- The production of proposals, and adoption by CLME+ countries of preferred technical and financial solutions for
 - a regional Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) for shared living marine resources/ocean governance
 - a strengthened and consolidated, multi-level, nested Regional Governance Framework (RGF) for shared living marine resources/ocean governance, with an associated Sustainable Financing Plan (SFP)(see [The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism and the CLME+ Regional Governance Framework](#), CLME+ PPCM Consultancy, Benefits of a PPCM and SFP for Ocean Governance sections)
- The design, launch and maintenance of a dynamic and expandable online “CLME+ HUB” (see [The CLME+ HUB](#) section)
- The development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme (see [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme \(SAP\)](#) section)

The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism and the CLME+ Regional Governance Framework

The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM), formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017, consists of 8 Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO’s) with a formal mandate for shared living marine resources/ocean governance, and with geographic focus on the CLME+ region. The ICM’s aim is *“to enhance regional coordination and collaboration, support oversight and integration of actions for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment”*. The 8 member organizations encompassing the SAP ICM are: United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment CEP); Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO-WECAFC); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/IOCARIBE) of UNESCO; Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat;

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD); Organisation of the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA); and the Commission of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (Figure 2). The geographical scope of the SAP ICM signing parties is consistent with their mandates and their broad political endorsement across the CLME+ region.

The CLME+ region is also home to four regional political integration organisations (Figure 2), with broad mandates covering multiple issues, including mandates addressing enhanced ocean governance and management. CARICOM and the OECS are composed mainly of the English speaking Caribbean Island states and territories. Many OECS member countries are also members of CARICOM. The Central American Integration System (SICA) (with CCAD and OSPESCA) integrates the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) centred on the countries bordering the Caribbean Sea, seeks to promote consultation and cooperation amongst members.

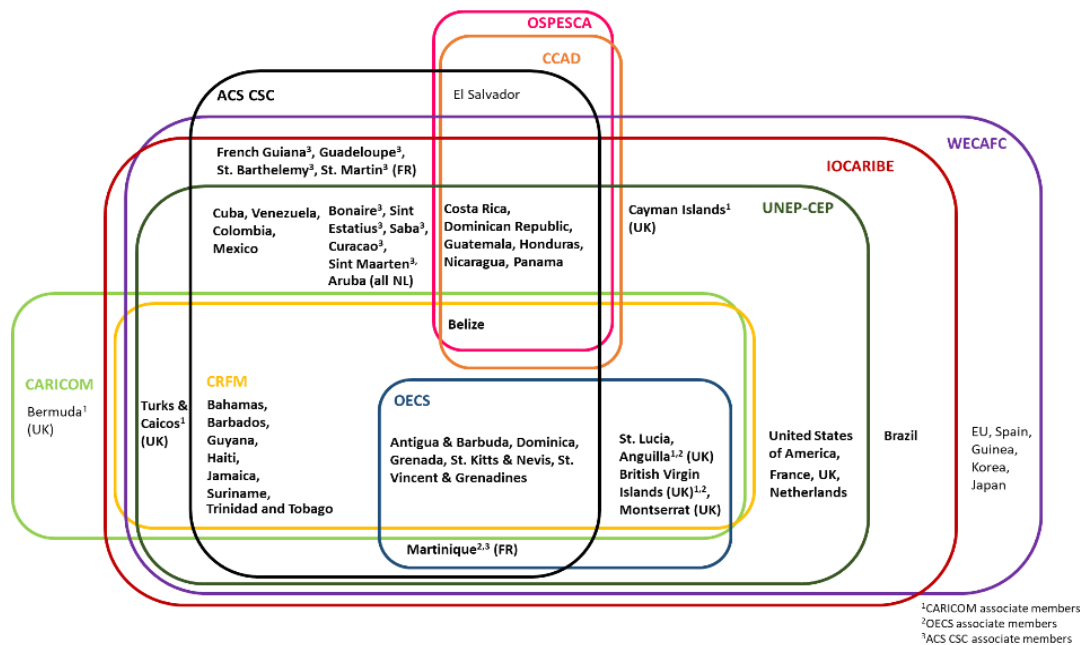


Figure 2: Country Membership of Regional Governmental Organisations existing within the CLME+ region

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the CLME+ region is challenged in identifying and defining approaches that guide and assess the ability of regional intergovernmental organisations in fully achieving their mandates, individually and collectively, in relation to ocean governance. It is anticipated that increased efficiency within and amongst these regional intergovernmental organisations can be enhanced through an overarching arrangement for ocean policy coordination in the region.

Such a regional ocean policy coordination mechanism is expected to extend beyond the governance of living marine resources and include other ocean related sectors such as: tourism, shipping, oil and gas, and minerals. It is also expected that such a mechanism would cover all CLME+ countries and give priority

to issues of ocean governance and policy. The adoption of such an approach should lead to the strengthening of the Regional Governance Framework for the CLME+ region (Figure 3).

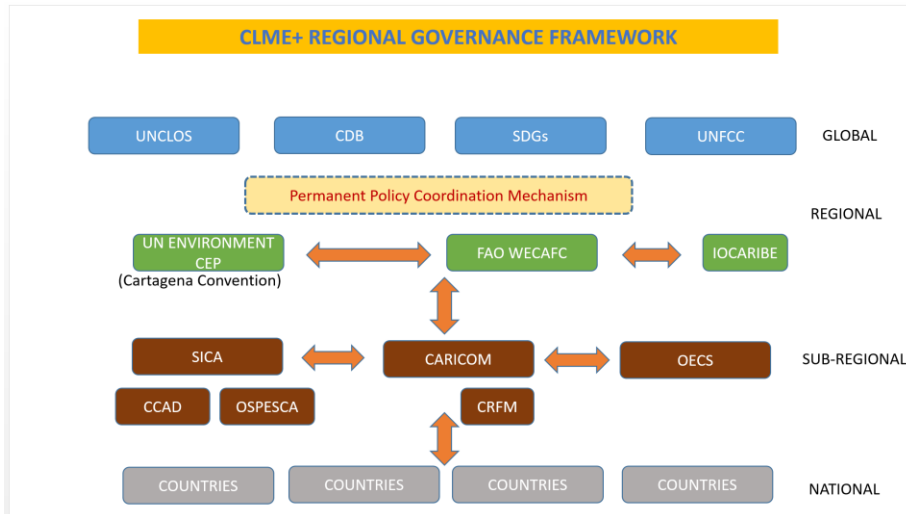


Figure 3: Partial depiction of CLME+ Regional Governance Framework

CLME+ PPCM Consultancy

In November 2017, the CLME+ Project awarded a consultancy to the Centre of Partnership for Development (CAD) to develop and present proposals, for selection and adoption by the CLME+ Countries, for a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) and a Sustainable Financing Plan (SFP) to support and optimise the operations of the different organisations that make up the CLME+ RGF, including the proposed PPCM. The PPCM is also expected to ensure the sustainability of current regional coordination efforts, namely the CLME+ SAP and Sustainable Fisheries ICMs.

Inception:

A baseline analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) related to the technical/institutional and financing aspects of the ocean governance arrangement in the CLME+ region was undertaken during the initial months of the Consultancy. Some of the results of the analysis are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Examples of results of a SWOT analysis regarding technical and financial aspects of ocean governance in the CLME+ region

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Endorsement of CLME+ SAP by 25 countries	High number and fragmentation of IGOs in CLME+ region	Ongoing discussion regarding establishment of an RFMO	Continued poor economic performance by some CLME+ countries lead to low investments
Establishment of SAP and Fisheries ICMs	No legally binding arrangement that covers all CLME+ countries	IGOs mandate broad enough to address blue economy	Marine governance occurs within a complex context involving geopolitical and economic interest

Strong legal frameworks in place at sub regional level	Weak mechanism for national intersectoral coordination	Many IGOs working on developing sustainable financing plans	Impact of climate change and variability
Good science basis for marine EBM decision making	Engagement of private sector weak	Potential for increased engagement with CSOs	Programme implementation largely donor dependent

The results of the SWOT analysis were used in identifying options towards a framework for governance supported by a sustainable coordination mechanism.

Phase 1

During Phase 1 of the consultancy, finalized in September 2018, the consultants developed a Business as Usual scenario related to how the CLME+ region would advance in the absence of a PPCM. The 2015-2050 Business-as-Usual (BaU) Scenario in the CLME+ region provided a description of the CLME+ region's future, including the region's ability to achieve the objectives of the CLME+ SAP, in the absence of a PPCM. The BaU scenario purported that in the absence of a regional coordination mechanism, it would be difficult to successfully achieve the goals and objectives of the CLME+ SAP.

The BaU Scenario was used in the development of an Options Paper which presented four generic options for a PPCM for the review and consideration of CLME+ countries. The generic options were identified through interviews with key representatives of IGOs and reviews of existing governance arrangements from selected LMEs globally. The proposed options ranged from a very basic coordination body with limited capacity and scope to a comprehensive Wider Caribbean Region commission with a strong mandate. Costs estimates for the generic PPCM Options were calculated in a preliminary way as a basis for discussion and further refinement during the next phase of the Consultancy.

The 4 generic PPCM options were discussed by CLME+ countries during a two day Consultation meeting which took place in Cartagena, Colombia 25- 26 September 2018. Twenty CLME+ countries and 10 intergovernmental organisations participated in the meeting. CLME+ countries which participated in the 2-day consultation meeting recommended that the consultants develop detailed proposals aligned with 2 of the generic options for further discussion and consensus by countries. Much emphasis was placed on the proposed functions for a regional coordination mechanism for ocean governance. The countries stated that the functions of the SAP ICM should be used as a basis for the PPCM, and also identified additional functions (Table 3). It was further recommended that any additional functions deemed necessary to the successful functioning of a PPCM should be considered by the consultants during Phase II of the Consultancy.

Table 3: Proposed Functions of the PPCM

SAP ICM Functions	Proposed New Functions
Monitoring & Evaluation of the CLME+ SAP and other critical ocean sustainability goals and commitments	Joint programme development
Communication, outreach and dissemination of information	Resource mobilization
Data and information sharing	Reach out to/support national ocean governance, including national level coordination for oceans
Stakeholder engagement via the CLME+ Partnership	
Identifying and addressing emerging issues	
Report back to their constituents	

In relation to the thematic scope of the coordination mechanism, it was recommended that the PPCM should have a broad thematic scope from the onset, but initially prioritize its focus on the three key transboundary issues (pollution, habitat degradation and unsustainable fisheries), and the cross cutting issue of climate change². It was further noted that the PPCM should undergo a progression towards enhanced functionality through a phased approach.

Initial sustainable financing proposals outlining approaches for strengthening and enhancing the operations of the organisations making up the existing RGF, and which are to be further detailed under Phase II of the consultancy, were shared with CLME+ countries.

Phase II

During Phase II of the Consultancy the consultants are expected to produce a more detailed, and fine-tuned PPCM and SFP for the options identified during the September Consultation Meeting. The detailed options paper is expected to be shared with CLME+ countries in April 2019 where they are expected to undergo intense review and consultation at the national level in preparation for the second consultation meeting tentatively scheduled for July 2019 (Please see Annex 1 for the PPCM and SFP Consultancy Roadmap). During this Consultation Meeting, CLME+ Countries are expected to identify a preferred option for further refinement. A decision on the preferred PPCM including its associated SFP Proposal is expected to be taken at the final meeting of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee. It is anticipated that the agreed PPCM Proposal and SFP towards the consolidation of a regional framework for integrated ocean governance in the CLME+/WECAFC/Wider Caribbean region will be adopted through the relevant IGO constituent meetings.

Benefits of a PPCM and SFP for Ocean Governance

In summary the proposed PPCM and SFP are expected to provide the following benefits to the CLME+ region:

- Strengthen the CLME+ Regional Governance Framework for integrated ocean governance in the CLME+/WECAFC/Wider Caribbean region, through intersectoral coordination, and also ensuring more efficient use of resources by maximizing synergies and minimizing duplication.
- Consolidated approach towards monitoring and reporting the state of the marine environment and associated economies within the CLME+ region. (see [Collaborative development of a Regional Report on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies \(SOMEE\)](#) section)
- Improved monitoring of the progress towards the achievement of the SAP actions and objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14. (see [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme \(SAP\)](#) section)
- Mobilise resources and build capacities to implement regional and national ocean governance related programmes
- Better oversight of the status and return of investments by key stakeholders in the marine environment

² Solutions to deal with the issues of pollution, habitat degradation and the unsustainability of fisheries should be robust and contribute to enhancing the resilience of the socio-ecological system in the face of climatic variability and change

Lastly the adoption of a PPCM and SFP towards improved integrated ocean governance within the CLME+/WECAFC/Wider Caribbean region can be viewed as a commitment to enhanced ecosystem value resulting in increased food and nutrition security, resilience, capital investment and economic growth for the whole region.

Collaborative development of a Regional Report on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE)

The CLME+ “State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies” (SOMEE) reporting mechanism will build upon and further expand existing regional reporting efforts undertaken by ICM members and their partners. Thematically, the CLME+ SOMEE report and SAP M&E Framework (see [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme \(SAP\)](#) section) will not be limited to the description of environmental/marine habitat status and fish stocks; substantial focus will also be put on matters relating to socio-economics, management processes and principles, international commitments, and governance. SOMEE is also expected to include both the periodic production of a “static” report as well as the development of a more dynamic, web-based version, which is likely to be housed within or linked closely with the CLME+ HUB. (see [The CLME+ HUB](#) section) Online support of spatial information will be provided in part by the Caribbean Marine Atlas Project Phase 2 (CMA2). (see [The Caribbean Marine Atlas Project Phase 2 \(CMA2\)](#) section). Although the first SOMEE report is driven by the CLME+ Project, the longer-term goal is to institutionalize the process through the strengthening and consolidation of a RGF. (see [Benefits of a PPCM and SFP for Ocean Governance](#) section)

Monitoring and Evaluation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

The 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) adaptive management cycle includes the essential step of measuring progress and results (including short-term outputs and long-term outcomes) to determine if the SAP actions are having the intended impact to improve management of the shared living marine resources or if the actions are advancing at all.. This is carried out through Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and the development of a host of focused and clear objectives and indicators and the collection of indicator values.

Once progress on SAP actions is assessed, this information will be available online through the CLME+ HUB. (see [The CLME+ HUB](#) section) Components of the SAP M&E, such as certain indicators, will overlap with and be used by the SOMEE report. (see [Collaborative development of a Regional Report on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies \(SOMEE\)](#) section) In general, SAP M&E should not be seen in isolation to the multitude of other M&E efforts, indicator sets, goals and targets that exist across the region (e.g. SDGs). Ideally, many of these efforts should overlap and support the other. Again, the longer-term goal is to institutionalization the SAP M&E, indicators for SOMEE and M&E of shared living marine resources in general through the development of the PPCM and SFP. (see [Benefits of a PPCM and SFP for Ocean Governance](#) section)

The CLME+ HUB

The CLME+ HUB (clmeplus.org) was developed to ensure better coordination and collaboration among the many efforts and initiatives on the marine environment in the CLME+ region. It can be seen as a gateway of knowledge, resources and tools to support the achievement of the CLME+ Vision and SAP initiatives.

The HUB has been designed to accommodate the information needs of ICM members and a wide variety of CLME+ stakeholders including the general public and LME Practitioners. Specifically, the CLME+ HUB provides access to key information and products through its document library and tools such as the database of projects and initiatives. Online tracking of SAP actions (see [Monitoring and Evaluation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme \(SAP\)](#) section) and an online version of SOMEE (see [Collaborative development of a Regional Report on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies \(SOMEE\)](#) section) will eventually be accessed through the HUB.

The Caribbean Marine Atlas Project Phase 2 (CMA2)

The Caribbean Marine Atlas Project Phase 2 (CMA2) (<https://www.caribbeanmarineatlas.net/>) is linked with the CLME+ Project and provides an online platform for geospatial information, using GeoNode technology, supporting both Integrated Coastal Zone Management piloted in select countries and the assessment of the marine environment and associated economies in the Wider Caribbean/CLME+ region. The existing hardware, software and human resources of CMA2 are available for use by the CLME+ Project and serve as an excellent example of cooperation and a division of labor among projects. The CLME+ HUB, the online version of SOMEE, the online tracking of SAP and ICM members' webpages plan to use CMA2 as the central online repository for spatial layers to pull from and display dynamic web maps. In fact, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities of the Cartagena Convention and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development have formally recommended to trail CMA2 as a platform for their spatial layers.

Actions Requested of the SAG

The Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of WECAFC may wish to give a formal recommendation to the WECAFC Commission regarding the content provided in the document titled, "ON THE PROPOSED PERMANENT COORDINATION MECHANISM AND ASSOCIATED SUSTAINABLE FINANCING PLAN FOR ENHANCED INTEGRATED OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN THE CLME+/WECAFC/WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION" sent by Laverne Walker to Yvette DieiOuadi on Thursday, November 1, 2018 and the document titled, "ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CLME+ SAP M & E AND SOMEE REPORTING MECHANISM WITHIN WECAFC" sent by John Knowles to Yvette DieiOuadi on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.