

July 2019

E



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Miami, United States of America, 15-18 July 2019

Overview and Update of the Process towards the Establishment of a Coordination Mechanism concerning the Consolidation of a Regional Framework for Integrated Ocean Governance

Suggested Action by the Commission

1. The Commission is invited to review and endorse the report on the “Overview and Update of the Process towards the Establishment of a Coordination Mechanism concerning the Consolidation of a Regional Framework for Integrated Ocean Governance” as presented.
2. The Commission is invited to review and endorse Resolution WECAFC/17/2019/19 on the “Proposed Permanent Coordination Mechanism (PCM) and Associated Sustainable Financing Plan for Enhanced Integrated Ocean Governance in the CLME+/WECAFC/Wider Caribbean Region”

The CLME+ region and the wider Caribbean

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.

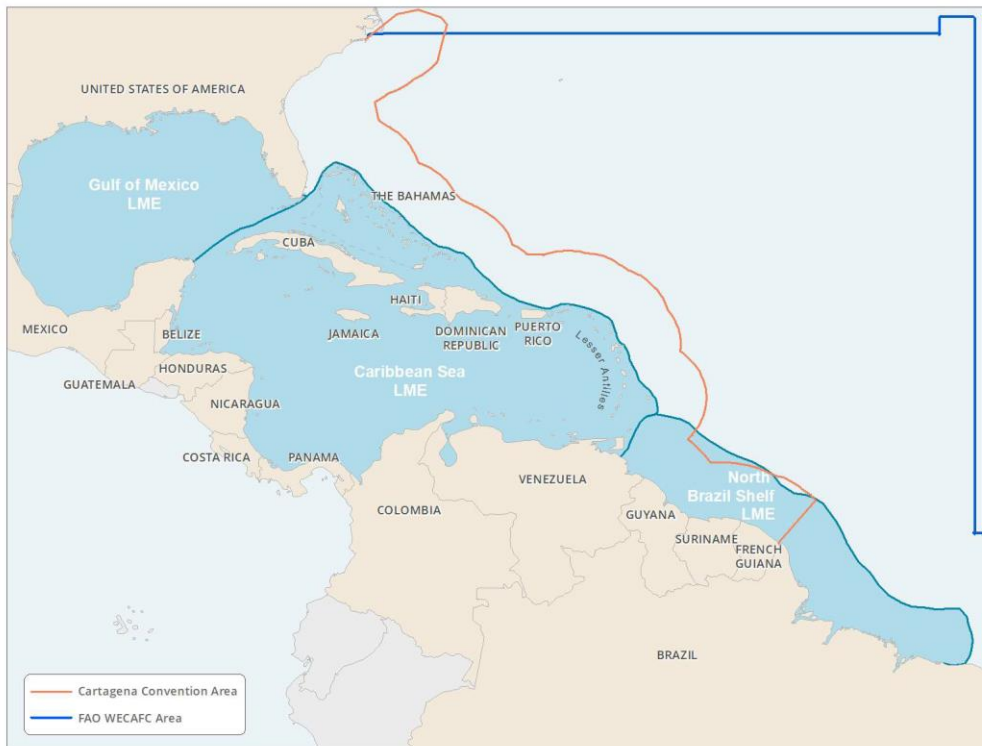


Figure 1: Map depicting boundaries of CLME+, WECAFC, and Cartagena Convention Area

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. By expansion, the same is valid for the areas covered by the Cartagena Convention and the WECAFC.

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

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

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 March 2019, this SAP had received high-level political endorsement by well over 30 Ministers, representing 26 different Countries and 8 Overseas Territories from the region. The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 Strategies and 76 Actions.

Specifically, Strategy 3 of the CLME+ SAP outlines a process towards the development and establishment of a regional policy coordination mechanism for ocean governance.

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. FAO and WECAFC are co-executing partners of the CLME+ Project.

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)

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

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

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 wider Caribbean 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. They include CARICOM, the OECS, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

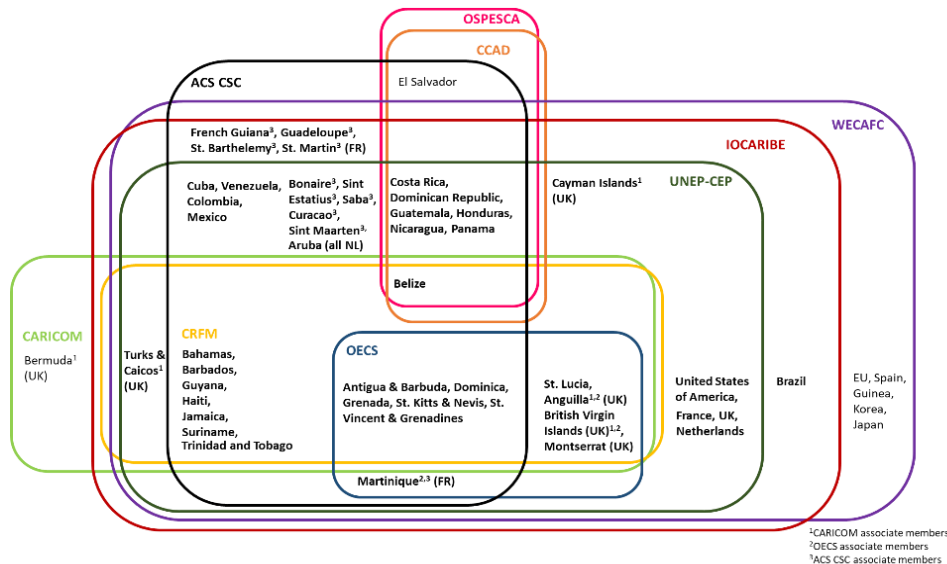


Figure 2: Country Membership of Regional Governmental Organisations existing within the Wider Caribbean Region

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

The proposed Coordination Mechanism will consist of the IGOs with existing mandates for the management and governance of marine and coastal resources in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). The proposed mechanism is not seeking to establish a new regional organization. It is instead perceived as a mechanism that will be owned and driven by countries to strengthen their already existing regional IGOs which are part of the Regional Governance Framework (Figure 3). Further the proposed mechanism will be viewed as having an enabling and facilitating role, pertaining primarily – subject to approval of such roles by the countries- to coordination of policies, programmes and activities. Therefore it is not anticipated that the proposed mechanism would be in competition with existing organisations to access resources, but will instead strengthen the capacity of the organizations to jointly or individually mobilize resources for ocean governance. Lastly, it is not anticipated that the Mechanism will be a forum where countries take binding decisions, with domestic legal obligations, but will instead be an arrangement based on voluntary cooperation and collaboration.

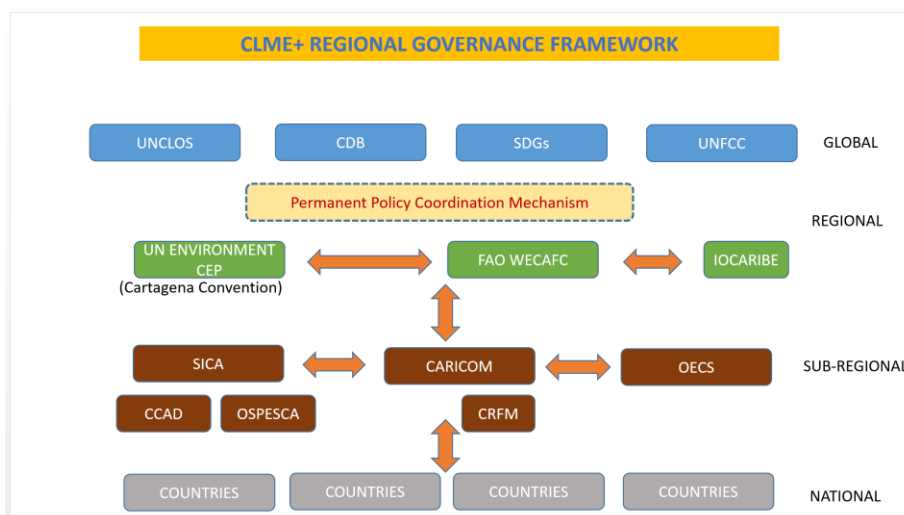


Figure 3: Partial depiction of CLME+ Regional Governance Framework

Benefits of a PPCM and SFP for Ocean Governance

It is anticipated that such a Coordination Mechanism and SFP will provide a number of critical direct and indirect benefits to the region. Direct benefits include the consolidation of the regional framework for integrative ocean governance, which builds upon and links national governments and a number of IGOs with a mandate on oceans, regional Fisheries Bodies and regional geopolitical integration mechanisms. Such is expected to result in more efficient and synergistic ocean governance processes across the wider Caribbean (“good governance”). Indirectly, the establishment of such a Coordination Mechanism is anticipated to result in improved health of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, with positive effects on the region’s economies, livelihoods and well-being, including through disaster risk reduction and the preservation of the cultural, scientific and social value of ecosystem goods and services (“effective governance”).

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 I

In September 2018, twenty CLME+ countries and 10 intergovernmental organisations participated in a first regional consultation meeting to review and discuss the cost and benefits to the region of establishing a Coordination Mechanism. Options for the Coordination Mechanism which ranged from a basic to a more complex model were presented. As a major outcome of the consultation meeting, countries formulated a set of recommendations including a list of proposed functions for the Coordination Mechanism.

Phase II

The Phase 2 report of the Consultancy “*Proposal on Options for a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the CLME+ Region*” builds on the outcomes of the first consultation meeting and defines the proposed mandate, geographic scope, expands on the proposed functions of the Coordination Mechanism and proposes options for a financing plan for Regional ocean Governance Framework. The Phase 2 Report of the Consultancy will be discussed during a second regional consultation meeting scheduled to take place 30 July – 1 August 2019 in Panama City, Panama.

The proposed mandate of the Coordination Mechanism is to “*Promote and facilitate regional collaboration and cooperation by coordinating policies and programmes in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) for the conservation, management and sustainable use of the marine environment and coastal and marine resources.*” It is anticipated that the geographic scope of the Coordination Mechanism will include the entire WCR (including the Caribbean, North Brazil Shelf and Gulf of Mexico LMEs). The thematic mandate as discussed by countries during the first regional consultation meeting in September 2018 includes shared living marine resources, and progressively other thematic areas, sectors and economic activities that are related to the marine environment and resources, such as Tourism, Oil and Gas, Shipping, Mining, Biotechnology, Bioprospecting and Renewable Energy. Climate change resilience is a key cross-cutting theme of the mandate. Nine functions for the Coordination Mechanism have been proposed (Figure 4). It is further anticipated

that the Coordination Mechanism can either be informally established, e.g. through a Memorandum of Understanding, or more formally through the negotiation of a new regional agreement.



Figure 4: Proposed functions of the Coordination Mechanism

Once established it is proposed that the Coordination Mechanism’s operation will be guided through four main elements: (i) Steering Group with CLME+ country representation which will provide the overall guidance and direction of the Coordination Mechanism; (ii) an Executive Group consisting of the inter-governmental organisations making up the Coordination Mechanism will provide technical and strategic guidance to the Coordination Mechanism in-line with the overall guidance from the Steering Group; (iii) Working Groups (countries, IGOs and other stakeholders/experts from science, private sector as required) which are constituted by the Executive Group on a “needs basis”; and (iv) a Secretariat, which provides the technical and administrative support (Figure 5). Hosting options for the Coordination Mechanism including how and where the Secretariat will be housed are discussed in detail in the full Report. Regarding the resource requirements and costs for the operation of the Coordination Mechanism, the cost of implementing each of the proposed functions have been estimated and included in the full Report.

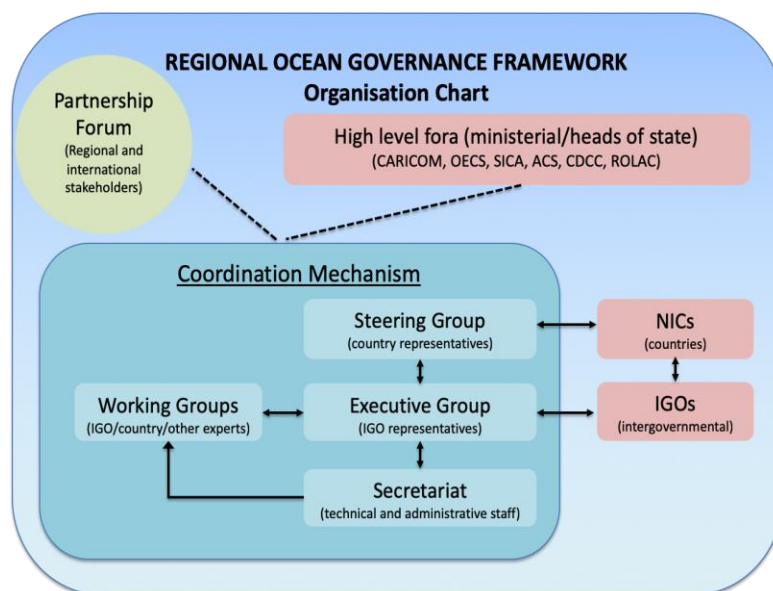


Figure 5: Proposed Organisational Structure of the Coordination Mechanism

Much attention has been placed on the proposed financing plan in an attempt to ensure reliable, sufficient and resilient funding of the mechanism's recurring expenses. However it is recognized that achieving sustainable financing will be a gradual process implemented through a number of transitional phases.

In order to be viable and sustainable in the long term, the financing solutions for the Coordination Mechanism cannot disregard the required financing schemes for the IGO's that currently constitute the RGF. The proposed solutions therefore need to be embedded within a wider-ranging sustainable financing scheme for the RGF. In light of this, the financing plan proposes the following measures to be adopted by the IGOs for the mid to long term in order to secure sustainable financing of the RGF: (i) coordinated grant leverage; (ii) a strategic regional approach to private sector partnerships and (iii) catalysing investment for a thriving and sustainable ocean-based/blue economy.