

LME21

CARTAGENA • 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2019



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TWENTY FIRST LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS ANNUAL CONSULTATION MEETING: Building Partnerships Around LMEs in Support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Summary Report



January 2020

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Currents large Marine Ecosystem
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATSEA	Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Program
BBNJ	Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
BCC	Benguela Current Commission
BoBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DIM	Data and Information Management
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
ICES	International Commission for the Exploration of the Sea
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICO	Inter-project Cooperation Opportunity
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IW:LEARN	International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LME:LEARN	Large Marine Ecosystems Learning Exchange and Resource Network
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MEDA	Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis
MEDLME	Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem
MFA	Multi Focal Area
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSC	Most Significant Change
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of United States
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OFMO	Ocean Fisheries Management Project
OSPAR	Oslo Paris Convention
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
R2R	Ridge-to-Reef
SAP	Strategic Actions Programme
SAPPHIRE	Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms
SCS	South China Sea
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SDS-SEA	Sustainable Development Goals of Seas of East Asia
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Sustainable Pacific Community
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
URI	University of Rhode Island
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission
WIO-SAP	Western Indian Ocean Strategic Actions Programme
YSLME	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The primary objective of the LME Annual Consultation Meeting is to be a global forum for GEF-funded and other non-funded marine and coastal (LME, MPA, MSP, ICM, and coastal climate change adaptation) projects' practitioners; international and national organizations and institutions; Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries bodies; international and national NGOs; government representatives; and local and regional community leaders, where experiences and lessons learned will be shared, and partnerships, alliances and other collaboration arrangements for ecosystem-based ocean governance and management will be forged, all in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the SDG14.
2. The specific objective of LME21 meeting was to focus on building partnerships towards achieving SDGs in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In addition, the LME21 meeting aimed to:
 - Mobilize practitioners and partners to enhance the LME community's efforts towards implementation of SAPs as well as implementation of the Agenda 2030 agenda, in particular SDG14 targets;
 - Present recent development in solving the critical issues important for the implementation of LME projects and programs, such as coastal resilience, pollution, fisheries, coastal degradation etc.;
 - Discuss the medium-term program of work of future LME consultation meetings;
 - Inform potential partners of the benefits that creating alliances with the LME initiatives may bring; and
 - Advise on the transformation of the TDA-SAP process from an almost exclusively "problem-solving" mechanism towards a "leveraging-opportunities" blue economy investment framework.
3. The three-day meeting took place on 18-20 September 2019 in Cartagena (Colombia). The meeting was held in Radisson Hotel in Cartagena. Around 80 participants attended the meeting, representing the GEF implementing and executing agencies, participating countries, NGOs and other partners.
4. During the opening session, the participants agreed that the LME "movement" has reached an age of maturity, while the annual LME annual consultation meeting is evolving into a sort of a think-tank to support EBM implementation with an emphasis on partnership building. Twenty-one years of deliberations cover an amazingly huge body of work, with 23 to 24 LME projects funded in 120 countries in all regions of the world. The community has delivered a working concept for EBM with a strategic approach and methodology leading to increasingly high-level structures. Legitimate stress reduction and enhanced ecosystem quality has been achieved in selected regions as well as a transformational commitment that can make a huge contribution to SDG14, which is the most ambitious SDG of them all. Communication of LME achievements needs to convince all stakeholders to work together to this end. In that respect, partnerships are needed for relevant SDGs.
5. Ken Sherman's speech on the occasion of 35 years of LME approach implementation was delivered by J.P. Walsh from the University of Rhode Island. He stressed that there are still many persisting concerns such as population increase, climate change, long-term rises in temperature etc. that can be considered to be challenges for LMEs. Blue Economy is highly dependent on natural capital of our oceans, whose impacts need to be weighed up as we grow. Identifying conflicts between different sectors is crucial. Linking 5 economic sectors to 5-module assessment approach, and integration via TDA/SAP process, is a way to a better-informed decision making.
6. Major outcomes of the GEF LME:LEARN project were presented with a focus on its contribution to the global and regional networking. Training and online courses on ocean governance and MSP (on-

line components and face-to-face components) with participants from more than 40 countries was highlighted. Outcomes of the LME:LEARN Twinning Programme, implemented through inter-project collaboration grants, communication assistance to the regional LME project leaders, tools and their application were presented. Following the presentation, several representatives of IW projects were invited on stage to talk about their experiences with the LME: LEARN products.

7. The breakout groups discussed the approach to LME partnerships. The purpose of the respective session was to present, via “clinics”, the best practices and lessons learned that have arisen from the development and adoption of partnerships within LMEs, which can be very usefully replicated in other regions. Panel was composed of the 5 marine projects’ representatives, each one of them focusing on a specific subject the respective partnership has been good at. A summary of each clinic results was presented to the audience. During the discussion the need was emphasized, among other, to have one central place to store some of the LME data and that countries need to be convinced to share data. It was stated that donor coordination is highly needed, first by identifying priorities and then finding out which donor can support what initiative.
8. Participants were informed of the results of the questionnaire that was sent to all active LMEs to analyse their contribution to the implementation of the SDG14. The LME projects that have responded are contributing quite extensively to reaching the SDG14 targets. However, in spite of those positive results not many people know about this and the awareness on that will need to raise. Some projects are trying to create an online database with graphic interface showing projects and initiatives that contribute to SDG implementation. This could become a joint effort so that each LME does not have to do its own exercise and recreate the same technology over and over again.
9. The participants discussed possible changes in the TDA/SAP process as the current one has some limitations. Interactive governance, as one possible approach, aims not only to identify problems in transboundary waters, but could also be used to identify opportunities. Interactive governance could be the guiding concept to revise TDA/SAP. Practitioners should be aware that TDA/SAP process is not mandated, but that it is an adaptive process which allows one to choose the best course that suits LME’s needs. TDAs also provide a wealth of information that could help create a better view on the post2020 period and what could happen in the future in the LMEs. TDAs could also be used for the inclusion of the investment component from the very beginning by thinking how the services could be improved. The pressure to improve should come from the bottom, such as from the fishermen when they think that improved governance will improve their livelihood and bring better economic performance. A proposal was tabled for a complete rebranding of TDA/SAP in the framework of LMEs, with a focus on the blue economy.
10. Future framework for LME reporting towards enhancing SAP contributions to SDG monitoring and reporting was presented, based on the report discussed at the Data and Information Management (DIM) workshop in Paris in July 2019, which reviewed the Data and Information Guidelines and agreed on next steps towards its implementation.
11. Technical site visit was supported by Aguas de Cartagena/Suez. One group of participants visited treatment plant, which was part of the expansion of sewage systems in the southeast and southwest areas project, financed by the World Bank. The second group visited the mangrove restoration area.
12. The purpose of the Session 6 was the identification of specific investment and partnership opportunities with a vision to make projects ready to engage in an “LME Investment Forum” within the 3 coming years. The desired outcomes of the session were the recognition of the need by the LME community to considerably expand investment and partnership opportunities to meet the LME agenda and SDG objectives (6, 12, 14); better understanding on how these opportunities could work; identification of specific investment and partnership opportunities in the four breakout themes; and

definition of next steps to activate the identified prospects in the 3 coming years. GEF LME:LEARN has set up three regional networks. Each network had meetings with the private sector with the objective to evaluate progress made with identified partners, foster an environment for regional private sector engagement, engage members in science-management discussions and how best practices could be replicated in the regions. Six main messages from the Regional Networks were: start small to create a business case; change your way of thinking to find the value propositions; industry fragmentation is good for projects; try to align with companies which are reputationally driven; demonstrate with one private sector partner that you have succeeded and you will have more chance to attract others; and credibility of the project and the project manager needs to be sound. The introductory presentation was followed by four investment and partnership opportunities breakout groups.

13. During the discussion, it was indicated that the long-term relationship is key. It was also mentioned that discussions usually focus on large private sector, but most of it is small, medium and/or micro, which also need to be engaged in the form of smart purpose-oriented partnerships (small scale, local markets, philanthropic partnerships, insurance, etc.). Awareness activities should also be included.
14. As is customary, the participants were introduced to the advances in ocean science and applications that might benefit the implementation of LME and other marine projects. The subjects presented included: cumulative effects of multiple human stressors in marine systems; recent advances in understanding the effects of climate change on the world's oceans; Civil Society Action Programme for the Wider Caribbean; Progress Report on UN Decade on the Ocean Science; and a new phase of GESAMP.
15. During the closing session the participants discussed the proposal for LME Partnership medium-term strategy. They supported the idea and gave proposals on how to proceed. They also discussed the LME Consultation Meeting Medium Term Strategy. The final panel gave the following suggestions:
 - Freshwater community should also be invited to these meetings;
 - Engagement with the private sector needs to be demystified, and we should start small;
 - Partners in a partnership have a clear and well-structured agenda, hence engage with the private sector from the start of the TDA/SAP formulation process to make sure SAPs align with their priorities and not just be considered as an afterthought;
 - Consider preparing guidelines to engage private sector;
 - The investment forum idea is really a great resolution of this meeting;
 - Next meeting's main topic should be the private sector engagement;
 - There should be more facilitated discussions in the future, and much less of static panels. We also need more results notes and experience notes;
 - More non GEF-funded participants should be brought to the meeting;
 - Source-to-Sea projects should be invited to the next meeting, as well as regional UN economic commissions.
16. The meeting was closed on 20 September 2019 at 17:30 hours.

1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The primary goal of the LME Annual Consultation Meeting is to be a global forum for GEF-funded and other non-funded marine and coastal (LME, MPA, MSP, ICM, and coastal climate change adaptation) projects' practitioners; international and national organizations and institutions; Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries bodies; international and national NGOs; government representatives; and local and regional community leaders, where experiences and lessons learned will be shared, and partnerships, alliances and other collaboration arrangements for ecosystem-based ocean governance and management will be forged, all in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the SDG14.









The general Objectives of the Annual Consultative Meeting were to:

- Discuss issues relative to the projects' implementation and priority issues requiring common responses;
- Mobilize knowledge resources, and review the emerging scientific and practical applications and tools to support the implementation of LME, marine and coastal portfolio of projects;
- Share lessons learned from existing efforts with regard to the GEF LME:LEARN and IW:LEARN projects (i.e. regional networks, capacity building via training and twinning, etc.) and identify future priorities to be undertaken within the LME portfolio; and
- Strengthen regional ocean governance mechanisms through enhanced collaboration between Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programs, Regional Seas programs and Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations), and the wider stakeholder community.

In addition to the above general objectives, each Consultative Meeting has a number of specific objectives that are linked to the specific theme the meeting focuses on. The specific objective of LME21 meeting was to focus on building partnerships towards achieving SDGs in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Furthermore, the LME21 meeting aimed, *inter alia*, to:

- Mobilize practitioners and partners to enhance the LME community's efforts towards implementation of SAPs as well as implementation of the Agenda 2030 agenda, in particular SDG14 targets;
- Present recent development in solving the critical issues important for the implementation of LME projects and programs, such as coastal resilience, pollution, fisheries, coastal degradation etc;
- Discuss the medium-term program of work of future LME consultation meetings;
- Inform potential partners of the benefits that creating alliances with the LME initiatives may bring; and
- Advise on the transformation of the TDA-SAP process from an almost exclusively "problem-solving" mechanism towards a "leveraging-opportunities" blue economy investment framework.

2 AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

AGENDA	Wednesday 18 September 2019	09 30	1 Opening session	 11 15	2 LME Implementation progress	 14 30	3 The LME partnership approach	 16 45	3 The LME partnership approach (continued)	RECEPTION	
	Thursday 19 September 2019	09 00	4 Implementation of SDGs	 11 15	4 Implementation of SDGs (continued)	 14 30	5 Technical site visit				
	Friday 20 September 2019	09 00	6 The Large Marine Ecosystems are everyone's business	 11 15	7 Advancing ocean science applications	 14 30	8 Closing session	 16 15	8 Closing session (continued)		



3 SUMMARIES OF SESSIONS (1-8)

Wednesday, 18 September 2019

SESSION 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

Session Chair	Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES	
Rapporteur	James Oliver, IUCN	
Time	Title	Name
09:30 10:00	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julian Barbieri, IOC/UNESCO • Andrew Hudson, UNDP • Christian Severin, GEF • Captain Juan Camilo Forero, Colombian Ocean Commission
10:00 10:25	The Large Marine Ecosystems Approach to the United Nations Ocean Sustainable Development Goal and Decade of Ocean Science: 35 Years of Global Movement, 1984-2019	Ken Sherman, presented by John Patrick Walsh, Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island
10:25 10:50	The LME Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities	David Vousden, Ocean Fisheries Management Project
10:50 11:00	Objectives and structure of the LME21 Annual Consultative Meeting	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN

Julian Barbrière, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO), welcomed the meeting on behalf of Mr. Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO Executive Secretary, who was not able to attend the meeting in person. He stressed that this is not only the annual meeting of the LME community but that it includes a full range of partners in Ecosystem Based Management (EBM). In his view, the LME “movement” has reached an age of maturity. This year’s meeting will focus on strengthening partnerships in EBM, mobilising resources, and enhancing science and governance, while the annual LME annual conference is evolving into a sort of a think-tank to support EBM implementation with an emphasis on partnership building. He outlined a few general themes that might fall in the focus of this year’s meeting, namely:

- The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement is underway and attempting to set up a new model for managing ecosystems and resources in the high seas. The exact approach is still to be decided but there are lessons that the LME community can learn from areas such as area-based management tools and capacity development.
- How do we embrace the blue economy theme and mobilise a narrative for the private sector covering LME services? Strategic Actions Programmes (SAPs) share objectives with the Blue Economy and add a transboundary dimension via shared basins and the transboundary Marine Spatial Planning frameworks supporting SAPs.

- We also aim to better define the contribution of LMEs and LME projects to the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is a need for better and more consistent packaging of LME interventions and achievements, which should be voiced at the Lisbon (UN Ocean Conference) in June 2020.
- Institutional cooperation at national and regional level is necessary to leverage financial commitment. But how do we convince governments to invest more in covering the science gaps?

Mr. Barbieri mentioned the UN Decade of Ocean Science, which should deliver a step change in ocean science, foster government participation in science to support ocean investments, identify priorities and shape dialogue for the next 10 years. It should ensure a level playing field across regions and address existing disparities. Finally, he stressed the need for a more strategic approach to deliver optimal support to the LME community and the meeting should make a step further towards a medium-term strategy for our community. He doesn't envisage that a final product-strategy shall be delivered at the end of the week but, at least, the meeting should agree on a mission statement, strategic vision and a sketch of a framework and a process to develop it.

Andrew Hudson, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), thanked the host country of Colombia. Twenty-one years of deliberations cover an amazingly huge body of work, with 23 to 24 LME projects funded in 120 countries in all regions of the world. The community has delivered a working concept for EBM with a strategic approach and methodology leading to increasingly high-level structures. Legitimate stress reduction and enhanced ecosystem quality has been achieved in selected regions as well as a transformational commitment that can make a huge contribution to SDG14, which is the most ambitious SDG of them all. Communication of LME achievements needs to convince all stakeholders to work together to this end. In that respect, partnerships are needed for relevant SDGs.

Christian Severin, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) transmitted greetings from the GEF Chief Executive Officer Naoko Ishii. He stressed that the investments in the LME portfolio are more and more important but hidden, hence we need to tell stories, in particular to people like Peter Thomson or from Friends of the Ocean who are not fully aware of LME contributions to delivering SDG 14. Our constituency is well placed to address, for example, climate-related challenges but we will miss a big opportunity if we don't communicate concise stories and result notes. Sustainability is a huge issue but we need political momentum and resources are needed to advance sustainability science and to transfer evidence to end-users. Hard work is needed in getting stakeholders to agree on ways forward: transformational, long-time friendships and trust need to be built to get things moving. However, GEF is proud of the LME portfolio, which is a success story that needs to be disseminated.

Captain Juan Camilo Forero, Colombian Ocean Commission, was honoured to welcome LME21 to Cartagena, in particular because it is the first time an LME annual consultation meeting is being held in Latin America. Colombia has a commitment to SDGs due to its highly dynamic and sensitive ecosystems. The Colombian government has strategies based on an integrative and comprehensive approach aimed at responding to growing threats and challenges, such as invasive species, overfishing, hypoxia, ocean acidification etc. These must be tackled seriously and rapidly. It is important to continue projects such as CLME+ and catalyse their action to generate resources in the region. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is a strong partner enabling Colombia to contribute to adaptation to climate change, coordinate with fisheries, and initiate conservation of biodiversity, reefs and associated habitats and livelihoods. The Colombian Ocean Commission conducted its 6th expedition in Sea flower Biosphere Reserve with more than 500 institutions working together. Almost 100 scientists contributed to increasing knowledge to support decision making on how to protect ecosystems and construct real ocean

governance. The 2nd Pacific expedition is planning to collect important information and publish it on the portals of institutions involved. The national policy is to achieve a status of a sustainable bio-oceanic nation but a huge effort is still required. Captain Forero mentioned that this meeting is an opportunity to share best practices and lessons learnt. They are eager to share their story. Closing his intervention, he invited the participants to enjoy Cartagena – a city full of history and beauty.

John Patrick Walsh, Coastal Resources Center (CRC), University of Rhode Island (URI), delivered a speech on behalf of Ken Sherman, who was unable to attend the meeting. The main subject of the presentation was the LME Approach to UN SDG goals and Decade of Ocean Science, spanning the 35 years of global LME movement (1984-2019). Motivation for caring for LME, of which 66 were identified so far, has been an incredible productivity with annual primary production in coastal regions fuelling up to 80% of fish catches, which were critical for food and revenue of nations as well as of respective coastal communities. LMEs are determined by physical and biological characteristics, not political ones. There are many persisting concerns such as population increase, climate change, long-term rises in temperature etc. We also have to keep in mind short-term climate variability, which can have fundamental and immediate impact on coasts and coastal resources, e.g. heat waves in the northern Pacific, which has killed 100 million cod in a short space of time. Assessment through 5-module approach is critical. GEF has provided critical support and leadership since 1995. Blue economy depends on 5 major coastal ocean sectors: energy, tourism, transport, fishing and mining. This results in high dependence on natural capital of our oceans, whose impacts need to be weighed up as we grow. Identifying conflicts between different sectors is crucial. Linking 5 economic sectors to 5-module assessment approach, and integration via TDA/SAP process, is a way to a better-informed decision making. The LME approach is a very strong cornerstone of GEF strategy. It is also important to guide the decade of ocean science and as an engine for SDG 14. Finally, he briefly introduced the University of Rhode Island, which is a large university in the north east of USA. It has a long history of coastal and ocean science and management. The CRC has many local and global programmes, and a large portfolio in sustainable seafood production, and coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

David Vousden, Ocean Fisheries Management Project (OFMP), gave presentation on LME partnerships' challenges and opportunities. After two decades of experience, best practices and lessons to draw from, it is evident that implementation of Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) cannot be achieved without partnerships. However, it takes time to move partnerships forward, whilst ratifying and financial set-up has to be sustained beyond lifetime of project. He continued on briefly showing major elements of some partnerships:

- Partnership for Environmental Management of South East Asian Seas (PEMSEA): Inclusion of all relevant stakeholders at all levels was key to the organisation's success.
- Oslo-Paris Convention (OSPAR): Small core budget provided leverage. Restricted flexibility has sometimes preventing it moving ahead, but when decisions are made then they are implemented quickly, e.g. establishment of High seas Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- GloBallast: Decisions have no legal basis but what it supports does have legal basis. Successful 3-tier approach, a great model followed by others; simple agreements are effective (not always a need for formal arrangements such as MOUs); training, capacity building, awareness raising, outreach and communication are all key to strengthening long-term ownership and knowledge within partnerships.
- Global Industry Alliance: an innovative Public-Private sector Partnership primarily to address barriers to low carbon shipping. Strong buy-in and ownership from industry. Membership is restricted to keep the Alliance small and functional.

- Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+): The Interim Coordination Mechanism became a strong support mechanism for SAP implementation by building as much as possible on existing institutional frameworks. Collaboration between GEF Projects/UNDP, Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fisheries Bodies and native IGOs' has proven highly beneficial in the CLME+ region.
- Sargasso Sea Commission: Constant communication with stakeholders and keeping them involved throughout created ownership.

It is important to involve all appropriate stakeholders at the earliest stages of discussion and negotiation and to address unevenness of capacities by establishing Regional Centres of Excellence and Learning Centres. Non-binding agreements can be surprisingly powerful by allowing more flexibility in moving ahead with mutually-agreed activities. Demonstration of the cost-benefits of collaboration and a long-term funding commitment (including from partners) is a key success factor. Anchoring partnerships and mechanisms within an existing formally-mandated body with legal status such as a Treaty or Convention then monitoring achievements and regular dialogue is very important for progress and maintaining membership.

Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN, presented the objectives and structure of the LME21. He stressed that the meeting's context has been set by the two previous presentations. Focus will be on partnerships; how do we build new and enhance existing ones. New approach to the meeting involves more interactivity as that has been strongly endorsed by participants of the previous meetings. The mission of the annual consultative meeting is to be a global forum on LMEs with other GEF-related projects and other related practitioners participating as well. In addition to the overall goal – sharing experiences and lessons learned, every meeting has specific objectives: partnership is the key word for the LME21. He finished his presentation with a detailed elaboration of the meeting's sessions.



SESSION 2: LME IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Session Chair	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME :LEARN	
Rapporteur	Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES	
Time	Title	Name
11:15 12:30	<p>Brief introduction of new LME, MSP, MPA, ICM, climate change, and fisheries projects, assisted by a visual aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Ecuador Mainland Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network (9369) • Pacific SIDS Fisheries Conventions (4746) • Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs (6920) • Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (9451) • Pacific Central American Coastal LME (10076) • North Brazil Shelf LME Mangroves (9949) • Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (4932) 	<p>Project representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xavier Chalen (9369) • David Vousden (4746) • Aimee Gonzales (6920) • Susanna Scott (9451) • Segundo Coello (10076) • Emilio Cobo (9949) • Jan Betlem (4932) <p>Moderated by the session chair</p>
12:30 13:00	GEF LME:LEARN impact	Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN

Ivica Trumbic opened the session and presented the session's objective, which is to introduce new projects to the community, what they are working towards and where the project is being implemented.

Brief introduction was made of the following new projects:

- **Xavier Chalen** presented the implementation of strategic plan for Ecuador's mainland, marine and coastal protected areas network. The project has improved the capacity building of persons responsible for MPAs, via a public-private partnership with GEF and philanthropic funding.
- **David Vousden** presented the Pacific Ocean Fisheries Management Project (OFMP). The convention of Western Central Pacific Fisheries was ratified and establishment of the Commission came to reality. A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was only finalized in 2018 and an SAP was agreed upon in summer 2019. A new International Waters (IW) project for the Western Central Pacific area, focused on living resources management strategies through the ecosystem-based approach, will be submitted to the GEF later in 2019.
- **Amy Gonzales** presented the Arafura and Timor Seas Region project, supporting the implementation of its Strategic Action Plan. Functional, regional governing mechanism, based on PEMSEA and other success ocean governance mechanisms, is being prepared for implementation under the auspices of the UNDP.
- **Suzanna Scott** presented the Caribbean Regional Oceans cape Project, which is contributing to the work of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The project is looking at building

capacity within its island states in order to understand the challenges and opportunities of the blue economy, and to undertake effective trans-national ocean governance.

- **Segundo Coello** presented the Pacific Central American Coastal LME project. The project is in its pro-doc application stage and will focus mainly on the area's rich biodiversity, fisheries management and habitat degradation. The core of the project will be the TDA/SAP process and its participatory approach including 7 involved countries. A regional network of marine spatial planning practitioners will also be established within the initiative.
- **Emilio Cobo** presented North Brazil Shelf LME project, aimed at zero-net loss of mangroves. The expected outcome will be to generate necessary baseline knowledge and technical assessments for critical knowledge gaps in Guyana and Suriname, as well as strengthening national capacity in coastal habitat and resource management/integrated coastal zone management. The project will develop a roadmap of cooperation with other initiatives in the region.
- **Jan Betlem** presented the Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States project, hosted by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, and focused on execution of a range of activities like preservation of marine ecosystems, sustainable terrestrial resource management and climate change. The project also has a strong human capacity building component.

Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN, presented the LME:LEARN project impact. She provided an outline of the major outcomes of the GEF LME:LEARN project with a focus on its contribution to the global and regional networking. Training and online courses on ocean governance and MSP (on-line components and face-to-face components) with participants from more than 40 countries was highlighted. Positive feedback from governments and international organizations like Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was received. Also, the comments on Coursera Platform on the LME MOOC are received as participants proceed with the course programme. Outcomes of the LME:LEARN Twinning Programme, implemented through inter-project collaboration grants, was also presented. The LME:LEARN project provided communication assistance to the regional LME project leaders, to allow for better streamlining of the project outcomes. This included engaging practitioners and government officials via social media. Marine Toolkits for LME practitioners were developed and made available. These are kits for MSP, Ocean Governance, Stakeholder Participation, LME Scorecard and Environmental Economics. Natalie presented the tools and their application. How users get engaged with these products is being monitored through website visits and through received feedback.

Following the presentation, several representatives of IW projects were invited on stage to talk about their experiences with the LME:LEARN products. These included the following LME:LEARN services and benefits:

- Intensified regional networking,
- Spurred participatory approaches to natural resource management,
- Created opportunities for facilitation of public-private partnerships,
- Advanced stakeholder understanding of ecosystem-based management concept,
- Advanced understanding of MSP processes, and
- Knowledge-based recommendations which help agreeing on national roadmaps for MSP.

SESSION 3: THE LME PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Session Chair	Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP		
Rapporteur	Jill Raval, UN Environment		
Time	Title		Name
14:30 14:40	The LME Partnership Approach: Introduction and overview of the session		Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN
14:40 15:00	Introduction to the clinics		Clinics moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A. Gonzales, PEMSEA• L. Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP• F. Mangisi-Mafileo, SPC• L. Walker CLME+• Tim Andrews, SAPPHIRE
15:00 16:30	Clinics: How the existing LME Partnerships work and what challenges they face	Multi –level coordination (PEMSEA)	Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA
		Funding partnerships (Med Programme)	Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment / MAP
		Action planning for SIDS (Pacific Ridge to Reef)	Fononga "Inga" Mangisi-Mafileo, The Pacific Community SPC
		Regional Framework for Ocean Governance (CLME+)	Laverne Walker, CLME+
		Science to Policy (SAPPHIRE)	Tim Andrew, SAPPHIRE
16:45 17:10	Report from the clinics (5’ each)		Clinics moderators
17:10 17:45	Discussion		Panel: Clinics moderators (see names above), moderated by Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN
17:45 18:00	REVOCEAN: Potential for a partnership		Alex David Rogers, REVOCEAN

Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP, gave a brief introduction on the LME partnership and the afternoon session.

Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN, welcomed participants and explained in detail the session's objectives, outputs, outcomes and flow. He stressed the importance of the session for the LME network, especially for those LMEs that are being created, build and/or expanded at the moment. The purpose of this session was to present, via clinics, the best practices and lessons learned that have arisen from the development and adoption of partnerships within LMEs, which can be very usefully replicated in other regions. Mr. Clar mentioned that the desired outcomes of the session were first, the recognition of the need by the LME community to replicate successful LME partnerships in other regions; second, the identification of problems, issues that prevent more LME partnerships to happen; and third, a better understanding of solutions and actions to promote and activate LME partnerships.

Panel, moderated by Manolo Clar Massanet, was composed of the 5 marine projects' representatives, each one of them focusing on a specific subject the respective partnership has been good at. They introduced the clinics aiming to help the participants to choose the clinic to attend.

Aimee Gonzales, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) presented the East Asian Seas Region and PEMSEA's multi-level coordination in the 5 sub-regional LMEs (Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the Sulu-Celebes Sea, the Indonesian Sea and the Gulf of Thailand), spreading over 235,000 km of coastline. In addition, the value of coasts and oceans in the East Asian Seas were presented including climate regulation, clean air, blue carbon sinks, shoreline protection, and ocean and wind energy production and blue economy providers. Furthermore, climate change, marine pollution, overexploitation of marine resources as well as ocean-based trade and industry were presented as threats to the East Asian Seas. Ms. Gonzales also presented the 25 years of implementing experience of the PEMSEA as an LME partnership mentioning its 11 partner countries, 21 non-country partners, 50 local government partners and 18 university partners as well as the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as a package of applicable principles, regional and international programmes, agreements, and instruments to achieve sustainable development of the East Asian Seas. PEMSEA provides training to local universities (learning centers) and as a result contributes to increasing local awareness and drive impact from the bottom up. Unlike other LMEs, this one isn't under any convention and therefore has more flexibility in terms of delivering on specific things. Ms. Gonzales exposed the multilevel operating modality of PEMSEA explaining regional, national and local level interventions, the current framework for Sustainable Development advancement as well as the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management process. It focuses on implementation of solutions on the ground in close partnership with the local government. In the last 5 years, they have doubled the engagement with private sector and are now promoting and aiming to mainstream blue economy.

Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP, explained how environmental issues threatening the Mediterranean Sea are a result of several elements especially focusing on the coastal areas. A massive coastal and urban development has created a lot of pressures and pollution. Mr. Galbiati stated that the Mediterranean LME benefitted of a long history (40 years) of governance initiated with the designation of the Regional Sea by UNEP and followed by the establishment of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Barcelona Convention. This setup reached a mature status and works well in supporting the Mediterranean countries. Particularly important in this setup is the partnership with the GEF. The GEF supported for over 20 years the region allowing the development of the full TDA-SAP and NAP cycle. This strategic partnership is confirmed by the upcoming (2020) Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security, a multifocal area programmatic approach with 8 child projects, technical assistance and bank investments in the Mediterranean, an asymmetrical region with different governance settings North-South-East and socioeconomic contexts. Mr. Galbiati presented as the key lesson learned the realization that the process is lengthy and therefore requires patience. Engaging a wide range of partners and managing their expectations can be a challenge. It is critical to raise awareness with investors from the beginning, and it is key to have a well-structured partnership because that does make a difference. Finally, Mr. Galbiati emphasized the need for a strong enabling environment, because it is important to move things without private investors. Investors know the "rules of the game" so it is just a matter of inviting them to the drawing board.

Fononga "Inga" Mangisi Mafileo, The Pacific Community (Sustainable Pacific Community - SPC), presented the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme, implemented by the UNDP and executed by the Pacific Community, based in the Fiji Islands. She explained that the Pacific Community is an international development organization serving 26 member countries and territories working across more than 25 sectors in fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, energy, and maritime and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The LME partnership components include: National

Multi-Focal Area (MFA) Ridge-to-Reef Demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries; Improved Governance for Integrated, Climate Resilient Land, Water, Forest and Coastal Management; Regional and National/ Local Ridge-to-Reef Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management; and Regional Programme Coordination. Thirteen bilateral projects and one umbrella regional project implementing crosscutting approaches (MFAs) in partnership with a lot of different stakeholders were implemented. Lessons learned from the Pacific R2R Programme include the following: (1) linking livelihoods and environment issues to high-priority policy areas such as economic growth, job creation or poverty reduction may improve the case for the sustainability of R2R mainstreaming and for that purpose a stronger private sector engagement strategy and plan needs to be developed; (2) sufficient attention to issues of political economy, i.e. identification of winners and losers in the current state or attitudes to reform is imperative; (3) identification and understanding of the target population for mainstreaming efforts gender-disaggregated assessment and social impact analysis require concerted effort, including marginalized communities such as women, minorities and indigenous peoples; (4) formal academic accreditation has proved highly effective in enhancing institutional capacities, political will and in building individual careers; and (5) there is a need to establish a systematic and cumulative approach to knowledge management - knowledge profiling, packaging and sharing through learning exchanges.

Laverne Walker, (CLME+, UNDP/UNOPS), presented the CLME+, which covers 2 LMEs (Caribbean and the North Brazilian Shelf) in the area shared by 26 Independent States and 18 Overseas Territories, including 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. She explained how CLME+ countries collaboratively developed a 10-year SAP, providing Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) 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. The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 Strategies and 76 Actions. The lessons learned of the CLME+ Initiative include: the acknowledging from the very early stage that the responsibility for the governance of marine resources falls with civil, public and private actors; seeking to engage with economically important sectors such as tourism and shipping from very early; starting to test the effectiveness of a mechanism such as the CLME+ SAP ICM by identifying common areas of priority to advance among the members; starting small when testing how effective a new approach is before defining a more permanent framework; and, finally, institutionalizing the TDA/SAP Approach (have an institutional structure, such as a Secretariat, in place to support the work of a coordination).

Tim Andrews, (WIOSAP - SAPPHERE), presented key lessons learned from this LME partnership. First, process needs to be rooted in a mechanism that is going to be in place long after project terms. Projects provide essential tools to achieve regional and global objectives, but sustainability is key. Second, synergies between partners and initiatives need to be actively sought and planned for, preferably during project design, but even after this, if possible. Third, private sector engagement can be difficult, especially when there are gaps between processes, and special attention needs to be put towards ensuring long-term relationships. Fourth, early engagement with national focal points/institutions and establishing strong partnership and ownership at a national level is key to enhancing national leadership in the implementation of projects. Fifth, country priorities need to be acknowledged and addressed as far as possible to ensure strong regional frameworks for collaboration. And finally, recognition that some of the participating countries require additional support when dealing with issues of regional concern. Cross-fertilization and sharing of lessons are particularly important in this regard.

After the introductions to the clinics, **participants broke into five groups** trying to answer a general question: How the existing LME Partnerships work and what challenges they face?

Clinic 1. Multi-level coordination (PEMSEA)

Major problem for multi-level coordination is that countries are not accustomed to work together, while language may also be a barrier to collaboration. Overcoming these barriers may help to maintain the LME vision at the regional level. It may be even more important at the local level because the question is how to keep them inspired. The moderator answered that in ASEAN region they have country managers and champions who they trust to do the work. They also engage with the partners in the countries. Participants would like to hear more success stories from others, which could be, among other, documented in reports. Participants asked about the nature of private sector involvement. The moderator responded that they have investment specialists at local level. They have a diverse mix of funding, bilateral grants from Norway and the EU, but also the countries' contributions. There was also a question about the blue economy vs nature conservation, in particular whether the blue economy term is easier to use for branding than the nature conservation. However, sometimes it is not always clear what the term means.

Clinic 2. Funding partnerships (UNEP MAP)

After a general discussion with 2 rounds of breakout groups, the most common challenge identified by participants was replicating the LME partnership model as a result of the political instability and lack of well-defined governance. During the discussion participants were seeking for a solution stating that enabling conditions should be promoted to create and expand LME partnerships and attract private (and public) investors. These enabling conditions include the following: a well-defined institutional framework should be established (a "leading" institution can pilot the promotion of the LME process among countries); an international convention should be endorsed to advance in the LME agenda, which will provide a neutral broker to manage the system; the LME TDA-SAP and NAP process is key to progress; clear "rules of the game" and regulations should be promoted; and last but not least, a minimum of political stability is necessary to promote LME partnerships.

Clinic 3. Action planning (SCP)

The clinic moderator stated that the Ministry of Environment has engaged with local people creating awareness of inter community to shift the thinking, but that it is important to be careful not to raise too many expectations, which may sometimes cause a mistrust between civil society and the government. Participants were also interested to learn more on how countries work together, and it was the country champions that were used. It was mentioned that there were difficulties, in the SPC area, in establishing the Public Private Partnerships. Regarding the blue economy, in the SPC they use the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique. It builds capacity of people on how to build their stories.

Clinic 4. Regional Framework for Ocean Governance (CLME+)

The working group raised the idea that due to the fact that many of our SAPs are developed primarily by government actors for governments, it is very difficult to engage with other actors, primarily the private sector and industry. Notwithstanding this, industry is moving forward in putting in place a number of voluntary measures for the management of resources that they are dependent on. In moving forward, it was indicated that there is a need for those in the LME community to take the opportunity to partner with industry and other actors who are taking the initiative to put in place measures to sustainably manage their resources. As a second top idea, the working group indicated that the process towards the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for enhanced coordination and cooperation between a number of organizations can be a very long and drawn out process. Interest was expressed in learning more about the experience that the CLME+ Project had towards the formalization of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism, particularly the challenges and best practices. It was suggested that a best practice document of this experience could be developed and shared with interested parties in the LME Community.

Clinic 5. Science to Policy (WIOSAP – SAPPHIRE)

The breakout session focused on the science-to-policy process that currently takes place in the WIO region in support of implementation of the SAPPHIRE SAP, and other WIO regional LME initiatives. The Science

to Policy Platform that has been established under the auspices of the Nairobi Convention serves as a mechanism to move information on priority issues in the marine and coastal environment from the research/expert domain to the level of policy makers in the ten countries that are signatories to the Convention. This mechanism allows technical information to be reviewed, discussed and agreed at a regional level before being presented to the signatories to form the basis of regional policy decisions. The Clinic focused on ways to improve such a mechanism to ensure that it serves the needs of the region, and also the potential for replication in other parts of the world. Two key issues were identified during the discussion. The first was regarding the access to and sharing of data and information. In the WIO, the Nairobi Convention hosts a Clearing House Mechanism intended to form a trusted, reliable and easily accessible source of information to the countries of the region. It has not functioned to its fullest capacity and significant effort is being placed in strengthening the mechanism through the LME projects. It was recommended that this could be an area where IW:Learn could play a role, as well as new partnerships such as with RevOcean and their Ocean Data Platform, that could assist in addressing challenges by working with regional bodies to provide solutions in this regard. In addition, data and information sharing agreements between institutions, countries and regional bodies need to be strengthened in order for the best available information to be accessible to support the science to policy process at a regional level. This is particularly relevant in some commercial sectors such as fisheries and other ocean industries. The second one was the difficulty in translating policy into practice. This was identified as an ongoing challenge at both a national and regional level. Often excellent policies and strategies exist but are not adequately implemented. Policy decisions therefore need to take into consideration the practicalities and sustainability of these policies; and this should also be an important component of the advice that technical bodies provide for the policy making process.

Clinics moderators **reported from the breakout groups' discussion**. A summary of each clinic was presented to the audience as explained above. During the **discussion**, a participant queried that data is an underlying factor to build trust. Maybe REVOCEAN could be part of the solution. It was emphasized on the need for one central place to store some of the LME data. Regarding data sharing, it is key to convince countries to share data and clearly indicate what is in it for them making, thus, a case for data sharing. Another comment was made regarding donor coordination. It was stated that donor coordination is highly needed. The first step is to identify priorities and then find out which donor can support what initiative. In addition, it was also commented that the CLME+ Hub consists of database of existing efforts and projects in the region, so donors don't fund replicated actions. There was also a mention of the Small Grants' coordination mechanism indicating that the donor coordination at the small grants level is something that the CSO Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is looking at trying to get donors to align their work-plans. Regarding donor coordination in the Pacific, it was stated that they have a targeted group that works on that and what the development priorities should be. Regarding donor coordination in SAPPHERE, it was mentioned that they focus on trying to tell donors and guide them through the work programme of the convention.

Alex David Rogers, REVOCEAN, provided an in-depth overview of the Norwegian funded (philanthropist) initiative that consists of a science program and two spin off projects. One is the Plastic REvolution (working in Ghana) and the other one is on the establishment of the ocean data platform. Mr. Rogers explained the organizational vision, which is *"one healthy ocean – from curiosity to understanding to solutions"*. He also indicated the project on ocean mapping (REVOCEAN) as well as a research vessel description, which is under construction and to be launched in 2021. The vessel includes fisheries acoustics, meteorological station, wave radar, drone launching, etc., and state-of-the-art equipment that can do physical sampling down to 6000 meters. The vessel can accommodate up to 90 people at a time and can also be used for commercial/charter purposes (generate revenue) along with science expeditions. It can be a platform for communication and host workshops that can take participants to witness the collection. It was also indicated that the vessel will have live streaming, having the University of Rhode Island (URI) as a partner. Mr. Rogers hoped that the collected scientific information can help identify required solutions. They plan to announce an open call for proposals. The selected proposals/projects

that can use the vessel will be based on excellent ideas and reviewed externally by the Norwegian Science Center. It was also stated that the potential problem of a global vessel is that it can't fund the broader non-ship projects' costs/salaries but just the data element (lab work, etc.).

In the discussion after the presentation, a participant asked about the ownership of the data. REVOCEAN has a specific data policy. They need to make the data collected freely available. However, they won't release data if it is sensitive in terms of threatened species and national security. Mr. Rogers indicated that if there is something they really want to support and if the proposal can't get those things funded, then they are willing to fund the science/salaries/non-ship costs on an exceptional basis. The economic sustainability of this project is 1/3 on science, 1/3 on expedition and 1/3 on charter and that will pay for the costs of the research vessel. Mr. Rogers indicated that the daily operating costs are of \$45,000 euros.



Thursday, 19 September 2019

SESSION 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

Session Chair	Gonzalo Cid, NOAA	
Rapporteur	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN	
Time	Title	Name
09:00 09:20	Tracking LMEs' progress in SAP implementation and achieving SDG14 targets: Quick summary overview	Andrew Hudson, UNDP
09:20 11:00	Detailed elaboration of LMEs' progress in SAP implementation and advancing SDG14: Results of the questionnaire	LME Project Managers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Andrews (SAPPHIRE) • A. Gonzales (ATSEA) • R. Hermes (Bay of Bengal LME) • A. Hudson (Benguela Current LME) • P. Debels (CLME+) • S. Coello (Humboldt LME) • L. Galbiati (MEDLME) • D. Vousden (OFNP) • A. Gonzales (PEMSEA) • S. Siriraksophon (SCS) • Y. Guo (YSLME) Moderator: Andrew Hudson, UNDP
11:15 12:40	Rethinking TDA/SAP approach: from "problem-solving" to "leveraging-opportunities-to-solve problems" in the context of SDGs	Panel members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Debels, CLME+ • Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA • Lorenzo Galbiati, MEDLME Moderator: Chris Severin, GEF
12:40 13:00	Developing future framework for LME reporting towards enhancing SAP contributions to SDG monitoring and reporting	Virginie Hart, GEF LME:LEARN
13:00 13:15	Oceans and Human Health: Challenges and opportunities	Jose Ernesto Mancera Pineda, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Andrew Hudson, UNDP, informed the participants of the questionnaire that was sent to all active LMEs. All projects responded, and 11 out of 13 LMEs are present at the meeting. After giving details of responses on each survey question he concluded that LME projects that have responded are contributing quite extensively to reaching the SDG14 targets. He concluded that in spite those positive results not many people know about this and that we need to raise the awareness on that.

The LME representatives, divided in two groups, have presented the highlights of their achievements. After each group's presentations the discussion followed.

Tim Andrews, SAPPHERE, stated that the PCU has only been in place since the beginning of this year. Ten countries have carried out national consultations and identified priorities. Policy reform at national level focused on MSP, ocean governance, but not yet on a regional level. With regards to institutional reform, inter-sectoral national committees were established, regional science to policy platform has been established. Finally, the investments have started to materialize originating from EU, SIDA, and through a joint implementation of fisheries project with FAO.

Aimee Gonzales, ATSEA, said that PEMSEA was involved in the first stage of the project, and she reported that the fisheries policy reform was implemented, among other. ATSEA project had a direct influence on the decision to start the reform, via the foundational analysis made through the LME. SAPs and NAPs helped Indonesia, Timor Leste and Australia to work together in defining the 10-year environmental quality objectives including recovering fisheries, restoring degraded habitats for sustainable provision of ecosystem services, reducing land-based sources of pollution, protecting marine species, etc.

Rudi Hermes, Bay of Bengal LME, briefly introduced the project, which is now entering in the second phase. He said that all the project's components are relevant for some of the SDG14 targets, especially on fisheries, habitats, pollution and livelihoods and resilience. The project is between the two phases and SAP implementation has not yet started. He then elaborated on the expected results for each target, singling out pollution reduction as the most ambitious one.

Andrew Hudson, Benguela Current LME, presented the project's achievements on behalf of the PCU representatives who could not attend the meeting. He mentioned achievements of the three countries (Angola, Namibia and South Africa) in relation to specific SDG14 targets. In addition, a number of regional technical guidelines were produced. The major regulatory achievement was the Benguela Current Convention which has come into force. On the institutional side, the key achievement was the establishment of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and the work on creating national inter-sectoral committees.

Patrick Debels, CLME+, informed that the region has undertaken most of the necessary institutional and regulatory reforms through the CLME+ SAP. They have also contributed to all targets directly, except target 14.3, which they have contributed to indirectly. He gave several examples of the direct contribution.

Segundo Coello, Humboldt LME, said that this LME is in the stage between the two projects. However, based on the SAP, which was endorsed in 2016, regional policy reforms were undertaken, while the regulatory and institutional ones have yet to be undertaken. Some investments have also been made, mostly in the fisheries sector. The contribution has been made to targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.a and 14.b.

In the **discussion** that followed, a question was asked whether the achievements presented could be expressed in the dollar amount, possibly with the assistance of the IW:LEARN team. P. Debels replied that CLME+ is trying to create an online database with graphic interface showing projects and initiatives that contribute to SAP implementation. They have 76 projects with a value of 134 mil USD. Projects are asked to state to which SDGs they contribute. They are making an investment as a project but if there is an interest this could be taken across the entire LME portfolio. Maybe this could become a joint effort so that each LME does not have to do its own exercise and recreate the same technology over and over again. It was mentioned that UNDP supports 38 voluntary commitments for LMEs, while the whole world has made 1400 commitments. This could also extend to database SAP implementation. In the Humboldt LME, the response of private sector to the anchovies' project was surprisingly high (40 mil USD). The question is whether this is happening in other places. Specific problem is that country reports never say that "Life below Water" objective (SDG14) is one of the priorities, but it is usually poverty, education, etc. That needs to be corrected.

Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP, said that in the Mediterranean there is not only the GEF project but also the Barcelona Convention. The project produced two SAPs. Implementation of SAP MED led to the formulation and implementation of many regional policies, guidelines and plans, including NAPs. Eighty percent of policies for marine pollution are in place in the Mediterranean countries. Reporting has also improved. Finally, there is a Med Programme with 600 million USD investment. SAP BIO led to many regional actions programmes. Twenty-four priority areas of conservation were identified and several strategic plans were prepared.

David Vousden, representing the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project OFMP, said that in the project's region, a score of policy reforms at national and regional levels were implemented. At national level they included zone-based management, IUU mitigation, domestic development, bi-catch management, legal frameworks, responses to WCPFC CMM's (Conservation and Management Measures), as well as policies promoting regional cooperation in all WCPFC processes. At regional level FFA member-wide consolidated cooperation in regard to the development and adoption of Conservation and Management Measures, zone-based management, adoption of observer programs, adoption of VMS, cooperative MCS systems and region wide MCS operations, establishment and utilisation of the regional Fisheries surveillance centre (Honiara). Regulatory measures included fisheries acts and associated regulations across all members, legislation and regulations relating to seafood safety and reporting processes. Institutional measures included restructuring of oceanic fisheries administrations to better achieve management goals across FFA member countries. Finally, a contribution has been made to the implementation of all SDG14 targets.

Aimee Gonzales, (PEMSEA), said that they have a sustainable development strategy for the seas of East Asia and a regional marine framework. All of it has been translated into national policies on ICZM, national ocean policies, sea use policies, basic ocean policies, from Japan to Lao (water policy only). Countries have done institutional policy reforms, regulatory reforms, also at a local level. Nothing has been done at the regional level on regulatory reform, because they are partnership and they do not have a binding agreement, only an action plan (blue economy, for example). Regarding investments, they have capacity development, developing knowledge products, and some studies at national level, such as on seaweed farming etc. They have implemented all SDG14 targets except on ocean acidification, but some partners have prepared studies on impacts of ocean acidification (China). Countries have some subsidies on fisheries, but they don't report on those. Data is a problem, because some countries have official secrecy acts. There is an issue what they can share and officially report to UN. Finally, she said that there is a tracking tool on local level implementation of SDGs.

Somboon Siriraksophon, South China Sea LME (SCS), informed that national policies on fisheries refugia were adopted in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as the regional one, including the Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species. He then elaborated on the regional implementation of each SDG14 target.

Yinfeng Guo, Yellow Sea LME (YSLME), gave a brief presentation on the structure of the GEF project, and the implementation of SAP. Currently, the region is in the process of TDA revision. He also presented the contribution of the project to implementation of the SDG14 targets, emphasizing achievements in the marine areas' protection, and fisheries management.

In the **discussion** that followed, it was mentioned that we need is a monitoring and evaluation how effectively TDA/SAP have been activated and delivered. Have policies been fulfilled, which is an improvement on the current, more or less, the box ticking exercise. The session chair **Gonzalo Cid** (NOAA) concluded that here is a lot of activities that LME projects have created that are outside of the projects. It is important to keep a record of these activities.

Chris Severin, GEF, introduced the panel on TDA/SAP approach.

Patrick Debels spoke of the interactive governance in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The idea is to introduce some changes in the TDA/SAP process. The change proposed is that in addition to identifying problems in TDAs we should also be identifying the opportunities. A governance effectiveness assessment framework, based on interactive governance, has been developed with the University of West Indies. There are limitations to the current TDA/SAP process which is still not enough about the opportunities. In the CLME SAP it was indicated that inadequate governance is one of the root causes of the problems, and that it could be improved utilising the concept of the “interactive governance”. It is not only about identifying and solving problems but also about identifying opportunities. Interactive governance could be the guiding concept to revise TDA/SAP. In the Caribbean there are many IGOs, which typically have the mandate for reporting, but mostly on sectoral basis. Then there are projects who do TDAs and which again report separately. They propose to institutionalise the TDA process to create the ownership by regional organisations. TDA could be a product and ownership of several organisations. This is very well shown in their State of the Marine Environment report.

Aimee Gonzales said that PEMSEA has been managed in an adaptive manner and that they have not been following the TDA/SAP process in its “prescribed” stages, because it is an organisation that is not bound to do it. They, however, took the best features of it and implemented it. **Chris Severin** intervened saying that PEMSEA’s example shows exactly what TDA/SAP is supposed to be: not mandated but an adaptive process which allows you to choose the best course that suits your needs. The process could be redefined to take in consideration not just what is happening in the ecosystems but also in the socioeconomic system, which could open the way for the investments and blue economy. It should not be just about the state of mangroves, coral reefs and other natural ecosystems, but also about enabling the policy framework for sustainable financing. TDAs also provide a wealth of information that could help create a better view on the post2020 period and what could happen in the future in the LMEs. TDAs could also be used for the inclusion of the investment component from the very beginning by thinking how the services could be improved.

Lorenzo Galbiati said that in the Mediterranean LME the TDA/SAP process followed the prescribed succession of stages. On the positive side, the development of National Action Plans (NAP) has been internalised by the Barcelona Convention, i.e. the countries were bound to develop them. A lot could be said about the private sector in the region, it seems to be more attentive now. However, the proper procedure to reach out to these new partners is lacking. While well consolidated mechanism to reach out to stakeholders, even academia, exist in MAP Regional Activity Centres, for the private sector there is no such a systematic process in place and it is the missing link that they are now trying to fill as much as possible with the new LME project.

Opening the **discussion**, **Chris Severin** said that since there is a number of people working in fisheries and in the private sector, we could think about the missing part that would make it easier to talk to governments. Some think that the pressure to improve should come from the bottom, such as from the fishermen when they think that improved governance will improve their livelihood and bring better economic performance. TDAs should address the socio-economic considerations. It should definitely be in the TDA, such as food security. If you want to start “selling” the concept of ecosystem services you need to show what is their value for them, for example by doing the Cost-Benefit Analysis to show that ecosystem management approach is beneficial to the countries prompting them to change the “business as usual” model.

One participant presented an interesting approach carried out in ASCLME. They started first with something called MEDA (Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis), which is the TDA but at the national level. It was valuable because it developed in-country ownership of the regional process, created the basis for the long-term technical and management body needed to support SAP at the national level, and ensured

that all appropriate agencies provided their input. So when all national MEDAs were integrated into a regional TDA there was already a structure in countries that could be built into the SAP. Bay of Bengal LME is probably one of the first that have identified socioeconomic concerns. However, it was warned that there may be the risk in the process outlined earlier. While the value of building national ownership is clear, the MEDAs could also raise national expectations that LME project could solve all their national problems. In order to be more realistic and not raise those expectations too much, in BoBLME it was decided to continue with the transboundary analysis at a regional level first. A participant replied that if you can't sell the ownership at the national level, countries need to see why something that is of value at a transboundary level is also of value at the national level. The national buy-in has to be secured. The debate on this subject was closed by stating that the LME project does not necessarily solves national problems. If a country identifies a very important national problem, other donors should probably help. TDA/SAP process does not force people to think about their problems only, they should also think of the solutions. SAP should outline opportunities because we want people to invest in the SAP and not in the TDA. But if the TDA/SAP process is considered as a continuum it doesn't really matter.

The question is whether TDA/SAP are something that could be used by stakeholders in the regions. It seems that some don't know where and when to get engaged while, sometimes, these documents are very large and impractical to use. Sometimes we are not always selling what we are doing,

The need was expressed to go to the local level and work towards presenting opportunities at that level. There are some policies that are global or regional but most of the investments are national or local. We are also working on the national and local transboundary levels and we need that multi-level approach. Sometimes we don't give enough weight to these two levels.

A proposal was tabled for a complete rebranding of TDA/SAP in the framework of LMEs, with a focus on the blue economy. Two points need to be considered. The economic loss to ocean ecosystems runs into trillions. Hence, the first part of the blue economy consideration has to be the restoration of degraded marine ecosystems. And that's what TDA/SAP does: finding problems and finding solutions. The other point should be about the opportunity: business, investment, job creation, livelihood creation.

Could we say "sustainable development analysis" instead of TDA? It is often said that TDA is a factual document while SAP is a negotiated document. However, it is very difficult to draw the line between the two. Once you do all the analyses then you are tempted to go into finding the solutions, but then the nature of TDA is changed, and it is then actually moving into the SAP "realm", which is more negotiated than factual document. If we want to keep the TDA factual, we have to avoid the politics.

Virginie Hart, GEF LME:LEARN consultant on Data and Information Management (DIM), presented future framework for LME reporting towards enhancing SAP contributions to SDG monitoring and reporting. The presentation was based on the report she has prepared for the project and which was discussed at the workshop in Paris in July 2019. That meeting reviewed the Data and Information Guidelines and agreed on next steps towards its implementation; reviewed and agreed on common LME indicators that will allow comparison of progress in implementation of SAPs between the LMEs; and presented the LME experiences in data and information management, training on data and Information management tools. She outlined the next steps in LME DIM, namely: implementing the DIM guidelines; integrating the common indicators in future LME projects; and making available best practices, training and tools on data and information management.

José Ernesto Mancera-Pineda, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, gave a presentation "The Ocean and Human Health: Challenges and Opportunities, the case of Ciguatera in the Caribbean". Mr. Mancera also participates in the IOC - UNESCO "The harmful algae bloom (HAB) programme". Over the past two decades marine intoxication appears to have increased in frequency, intensity and geographic distribution. These must be a warning sign that requires better understanding and recognition through multidisciplinary

research to fill information gaps. The economic damage can be estimated only for some activities: fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, desalination plants, sources of drinking water, cost of monitoring and training programs. During the last two decades, the number of HABs in the Caribbean has doubled, going from 36 events between 2000 and 2010 to 74 between 2010 and 2018. This increase is worrying considering the negative impacts of HABs. There is a need to strengthen the existing research and monitoring programs and establish them in the countries that still require it. A greater commitment of the countries is expected to face HABs in the Caribbean.



SESSION 5: TECHNICAL SITE VISIT

Mish Hamid, GEF LME:LEARN, gave a general introduction to the technical site visit. **Jesus Garcia**, Aguas de Cartagena/Suez presented the Water and Wastewater Master Plan and Implementation Strategy, which consists of two projects in two stages. The first, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$24.3 million, entailed the expansion of sewage systems in the southeast and southwest areas. The second, financed by the World Bank for US\$85 million, was more comprehensive. It entailed the expansion of both water supply and sewage systems, construction of conveyance systems, treatment plants, and a discharge outfall. **Miguel Angel Acosta**, Coastal Concession, presented the mangrove restoration area. The participants split in three groups and visited the following locations: the Viaduct, the wastewater treatment plant and the mangrove area.



Friday, 20 September 2019

SESSION 6: THE LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS ARE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Session Chair	Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN	
Rapporteur	Virginie Hart, GEF LME:LEARN	
Time	Title	Name
09:00 09:15	Bringing the private sector to the table: Lessons from the Regional Networks	Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN
09:15 10:30	Investment and partnership opportunities Four breakout groups: 1. Conserving Marine and Coastal Areas through Environmentally Sustainable Blue Economy Strategies 2. Sustainable Fisheries Management 3. Water and Wastewater Management 4. Transforming Plastic Life Cycles	Moderators: 1. Susanna Scott, Oceanscape Project 2. Diego Orellana, Global Commodities Project 3. Chris Corbin, Cartagena Convention 4. Robert Glazer, GCFI
10:30 11:00	Group reporting and discussion	Panel: Group moderators Moderated by Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN

Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN, explained in detail the session's objectives, outputs, outcomes and flow. He stated that the purpose of the session was the identification of specific investment and partnership opportunities with a vision to make projects ready to engage in an "LME Investment Forum" within the 3 coming years. The desired outcomes of the session were the recognition of the need by the LME community to considerably expand investment and partnership opportunities to meet the LME agenda and SDG objectives (6, 12, 14); better understanding on how these opportunities could work; identification of specific investment and partnership opportunities in the four breakout themes; and definition of next steps to activate the identified prospects in the 3 coming years.

Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN, made a presentation about lessons learned from the regional network meetings with the private sector organized by GEF LME:LEARN in the African, Asia Pacific, and Latin-American and Caribbean regions. The primary objective of the meetings was to evaluate the status of the network, evaluate the twinning and Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities (ICO) offered by GEF LME:LEARN and discuss how these have progressed with identified partners, foster an environment for regional private sector engagement, engage members in science-management discussions and how best practice could be replicated in the regions. The meetings' framing questions were the following: What is the value proposition for both the marine project and the private sector partners? How to work with and through business organizations? What should marine projects/institutes be aware of? How can intermediaries facilitate the engagement of companies with the projects? She summarised 6 main messages from the Regional Networks: start small to create a business case; change your way of thinking to find the value propositions; industry fragmentation is good for projects; try to align with companies which are reputationally driven; demonstrate with one private sector partner that you have succeeded and you will have more chance to attract others; and credibility of the project and the project manager needs to be sound.

The introductory presentation was followed by four **investment and partnership opportunities breakout groups**.

1. *Conserving Marine and Coastal Areas through Environmentally Sustainable Blue Economy Strategies, moderated by Susanna Scott, Coordinator of the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project*

Discussions highlighted that LMEs tended to focus on science and that there was a lack of socio-economic expertise or skillset assigned to LMEs to allow for a business focused approach that would facilitate investment in LMEs. The needs of LMEs were clear and many include, *inter alia*, research, access to relevant technology, capacity building, fostering green approaches, and funding. However, it was clear that LMEs were not prepared to engage private sector and speak in a business focused manner.

The **first recommendation** to address this deficiency was the preparation of guidelines to help LMEs engage the private sector. It was noted that the UN had prepared rules and guidelines to facilitate cooperation between the UN and the business sector. However, these appeared to be complicated and difficult to use. It was therefore suggested that any guidelines produced should be simple, clear and user friendly. The **second recommendation** was to establish a forum or mechanism that would allow private sector to advise on business ideas to facilitate implementation of SAPs. Examples of such mechanisms included the US Private Sector Advisory Council and the TV Shark Tank Series, both of which allowed private sector or business savvy persons to advise on proposed business ideas, which allowed for the business ideas to be strengthened and made investor worthy. The **third recommendation** was to create case studies and models to showcase successful private sector engagements in LMEs to demonstrate this success and create interest among potential investors. And the **fourth recommendation** was that the priority sectors to be engaged are tourism, oil and energy, fisheries, and insurance.

2. *Sustainable Fisheries Management, moderated by Diego Orellana, Global Commodities Project*

The group's discussion first focused on the position of fishermen in the market. The markets have changed. We now have market pressure (fair trade, certification), which has been positive. However, the downside is that the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification works for large scale fisheries, but not for small-medium sized. Someone proposed that we should talk to MSC to rethink their model to incorporate small-medium sized fisheries.

A number of participants talked about the obstacles to better participation of private sector in fisheries. In the Pacific, for example, there are cases where a global trader comes in, sets up a distribution centre, trains women and children, certifies the fish, which then helps to marketed product at a premium. Further discussion touched upon the issue of improving livelihoods as a result of the private sector intervention. Often it appears that the main benefit goes to the private sector, not the local fishermen, and that should change, because the benefits to fishers could create a more stable market, which would also benefit the company. It was mentioned that in that case companies could invest to help fund conservation. Very often the supply chain ends in next district town or next centre that are close to the intervention area.

Regarding the list of potential partners, it was mentioned that we need a solid register of fishers. If we want to drive the benefits down, we need to know who these people are. It is important to improve the financial literacy of fishermen so that they can become more active partner to the private sector, in particular by understanding better the outcomes of investments.

3. *Water and Wastewater Management, moderated by Chris Corbin, Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention*

Chris Corbin made an introduction to the Cartagena Convention, indicating that water and wastewater management is one of the major issues that they are facing. The investment goes to primary wastewater treatment but mainly to drinking water management. Since many countries do not have an adequate tariff system, this can be an investment opportunity. It was also mentioned that the focus of water management investment has been in urban areas and in coastal areas particularly. In small islands, it will be difficult to apply a centralized system investment. The idea is to have investment opportunities in rural areas. In the Mediterranean, two bank investments (800 million USD investment) are ready to be implemented only when there is an agreement with the country and a partner that can manage the project.

Jesus Garcia presented the ACUACAR historical context. By the mid-1990s, rapid population growth, unplanned urban development, and poor wastewater management had severely deteriorated Cartagena's rich coastal resources, generating a public health crisis. At this time, just half of the households had connections to a wastewater disposal system and none of the wastewater was treated. The environmental crisis confronting Cartagena in the mid-1990s was undermining the city's long-term sustainability by threatening its world-class tourism industry, posing public health risks and lowering the quality of life". Prior to 1995, Cartagena's water and sanitation service suffered with an inefficient water utility that was owned and controlled by the municipal government. Due to low tariffs and inefficient operations, the lack of cost recovery on behalf of the water utility contributed to financial problems, ultimately resulting in the delivery of inadequate services to its users. He presented the sewer system master plan (1995 -2013). In 1999, ACUACAR received an \$85 million loan through the World Bank to help finance sewerage, wastewater treatment facilities, and water supply infrastructure. Tariff increase came with an improvement of the service. Before the new system was implemented, the water could not be drunk, there was no sewer infrastructure, and spills were all around the city. Citizens saw improvements in the service, and they were willing to pay a higher rate. AQUACAR will also be interested in collaborating with the CLME+. A participant asked if there is an opportunity to collaborate with the private sector. Mr. Garcia explained that the private sector listens to the client. It is important to create the need of more environmentally friendly services. You need to think small and create a business model.

4. Transforming Plastic Life Cycles, moderated by Robert Glazer, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)

There were three main takeaways from the discussion. The first was that it is important to develop long-lasting and significant partnerships. It is important to start small and build upon successes. Inevitably, there will be a conflict between small projects and LME-scale needs. The second important comment was that each case is different. For example, small family companies in China in general, have a strong sustainability ethic due to the community nature of their markets. In Colombia, the opposite is true: sustainability usually is mandated by the government because there is little effort at the local scale. And the last but not least was that significant participation is necessary to develop appropriate policies and solutions. At first, there was regulatory push-back from public sector to developing sustainability projects and partnerships in Colombia. Triciclos developed a business model and helped develop public policies about single use plastics thus changing. Also, it was indicated that for future partnership conferences, small companies' representatives should be invited.

The **break group reporting** panellists were all from the private sector except one from the public sector. During the discussion, it was indicated that the long-term relationship is key. Conservation International in Ecuador has long term relationships. It was also mentioned that discussions usually focus on large private sector. But most is small, medium and/or micro and they also need to be engaged because they are also looking at how to green their operations. Another important comment was that we need to identify the main private sector groups. Another idea was to bring LMEs, partners and investors together. Another participant mentioned that we should promote smart partnerships (small scale, local markets, philanthropic partnerships, insurance, etc.) as well as purpose-oriented partnerships. Regarding wastewater, it was mentioned that it's important to think small first. You have to create a business model.

Someone must pay for the service. Awareness activities should also be included. Finally, it was mentioned that we should create guidelines to engage the private sector. We should engage the private sector from the beginning, but the timing of projects is too slow for the private sector, creating at the end, a lack of their interest to engage.



SESSION 7: ADVANCING OCEAN SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS

Session Chair	Cesar Toro, IOC-IOCARIBE	
Rapporteur	Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN	
Time	Title	Name
11:15 11:30	Cumulative effects of multiple human stressors in marine systems	Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa, INVEMAR
11:30 11:45	Recent advances in understanding the effects of climate change on the world's oceans	Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES
11:45 12:00	A Civil Society Action Programme for the Wider Caribbean	Nicole Leotaud, CANARI
12:00 12:15	UN Decade on the Ocean Science: Progress Report	Julian Barbieri, IOC-UNESCO
12:15 12:30	A new phase of GESAMP	David Vousden, OFMP
12:30 13:00	Discussion	

Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa, INVEMAR, introduced the institute. Its focus is on cumulative effects and ecosystem responses to human activities (coastal area with impacts). They are also operationalising the Ecosystem Approach/MSP/ICM trying to minimise the human activities that exacerbate vulnerability. The institute has made numerous advances, in particular in data management and processing. However, there are still a number of challenges, such as inadequate capacity, disconnection between people and institutions, agency inertia etc. In the discussion that followed one participant mentioned that there is a high risk in Caribbean of the sea level rise, wondering if there is evidence that the Caribbean will continue to be affected since the observation period has been quite short. INVEMAR has two stations in the Caribbean and there are some indications of the sea level rise but not at the scale of the Pacific.

Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES, presented the paper on understanding the effects of climate change on the oceans. Seven key messages were summarised: climate change already affecting the oceans; technical advances in observation networks are improving; understanding of socio-ecological systems has improved; some marine organisms exhibit a capacity to adapt; options for societal adaptation are more limited if current rate of greenhouse gas increases; strategic opportunities for societal adaptation have been identified; adaptive management frameworks are urgently needed to address policy issues. He stated that the multidisciplinary research programs are appearing across the globe.

Nicole Leotard, CANARI, has presented the civil society action programme to support the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. CANARI was asked to develop programme by bringing together people managing oceans. It was a plan by civil society for the civil society. The programme can be used by governments, donors, researchers and others. Although it has 8 strategies and 90 actions, it was designed as a user-friendly document. Civil society organisations do research, but they want to do participatory research, and integrate indigenous knowledge. Ms. Leotard stressed that resources should be invested into civil society to implement the plan. Promotion of the plan will be carried by 46 organisations from 16 countries, while the governments will also be encouraged to participate. Private sector is interested in creating a small grants coordination mechanism to better support the C-SAP. Mapping of donors has started and early results show how donors are or are not supporting the programme. The next step will be to ask donors to integrate this issue into their portfolios. The presentation was concluded with the hope that other regions can learn from this model. In the discussion that followed, participants stressed that countries will need to step up, though this effort needs to be taken up at local level. The problem of the

Sargasso Sea was mentioned stressing that governments want to give up since they cannot handle the problem while the affected communities are left on their own. Strategy to solve this problem should primarily deal with the worst affected communities, in particular children with major respiratory problems.

David Vousden, addressed the meeting on behalf of GESAMP, which is celebrating 50 years of existence. Mr. Vousden has just been appointed as its chair. Overall objective of GESAMP is to provide scientific advice to UN organizations and governments to support sustainable use of the marine environment. It is sponsored by 11 organizations, including the main UN ocean bodies. GESAMP provides a multidisciplinary scientific understanding and avoid duplication. No other body has a formal requirement to advise UN bodies. Ten secretariats feed into it, and it is headquartered at IMO in London. It has executive committee made up of member organizations. Its partners are, among other, Regional Seas, industry, governments, NGOs, and, hopefully soon, the LMEs. GESAMP has been praised for rigorous scientific assessment, and it has some of the best and independent scientists. It has multiple working groups focusing on specific issues such as evaluation of hazardous substances, review of application of ballast water systems, atmospheric inputs and chemicals to the ocean, plastic and marine litter, marine geoengineering, etc. There are also several correspondence groups dealing with issues such as impacts of residues of oil spills, Sargasso/seaweed impacts on Caribbean and West Africa, extensive impact of offshore mining, etc. The 2005 GESAMP review looked at science for sustainable oceans and produced a new strategic vision for GESAMP. It has access to an extensive network of experts. One proposed mechanism is to achieve greater involvement at the regional level (UNEP, for example, should request more input from GESAMP). LMEs and other GEF international waters projects can approach and, perhaps, GEF IW:LEARN can support this. Decade for Oceans is approaching and GESAMP can make a significant contribution.

Julian Barbieri, IOC/UNESCO, spoke about the preparation for and the vision of UN Decade of Ocean Science, which aims at new social contract for natural science. However, it is grossly under-resourced. The initiative has 6 societal outcomes. There will be a series of regional workshops during the preparatory phase. Also, communications materials and the website will be developed. Member states can certainly contribute significantly. It is also important engage LMEs during the consultation process and catalyse the development of innovative projects.



SESSION 8: CLOSING SESSION

Session Chair	Julian Barbieri, IOC-UNESCO	
Rapporteur	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN	
Time	Title	Name
14:30 15:30	Medium term LME Community Strategic Framework: Presentation of the framework and discussion	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN
15:30 16:00	Discussion on the strategy to address the important ocean events in the near future	Moderator: Mish Hamid, GEF LME:LEARN
16:15 17:30	Closing discussion	Panel members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isabelle Vanderbeck, UN Environment • Yinfeng Guo, YSLME • Sombon Siriraksophorn, SCS • Chris Severin, GEF • Jada Anderson • Jesus Garcia, AGUACAR Moderator: Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP

Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN, presented the draft outline of the medium-term strategy for LME Community/Partnership. A strategy is a way of describing what and how we are going to get things done together. A good strategy will consider existing barriers and resources and will follow the overall vision, mission, and objectives of the initiative. He also said that the LME Community comprises the marine and coastal practitioners (LME, MPA, MSP, ICM, LMMA, corresponding Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries Bodies), leaders, international and national organizations and institutions, NGOs, business community, etc. Medium-term strategy is a key resource to engage other stakeholders. Globally, the strategy should be about the ocean governance, i.e. about managing and using the world's oceans and their resources in ways that keep our oceans healthy, productive, safe, secure and resilient. However, more precisely, it is about framing activities of the LME community in medium term within which LME projects will contribute to. It is also a strategic framework where LME projects/initiatives are nested and/or get the strategic “inspiration”; about setting targets for our outcomes as a global community on which we can measure our progress; and about defining how awareness can be created on the LME Community’s impacts on ecosystems. He further explained details of the strategy, focusing on its major strategic directions, namely: evolution of the ocean governance framework, blue economy, LMEs and 2030 Agenda, sustainability, and science in support of EBM. Continuing the presentation, he outlined the elements of the medium-term strategy for the LME Annual Consultation Meeting, which will be integrated in the Community’s strategy.

In the **discussion** that followed, the participants supported the preparation of the strategy. Some suggested that other reflections besides questionnaire should be sought. There are many stakeholders that do not respond to LME questionnaire, like people in projects, private sector, etc. They should be contacted and that would secure wider basis for the future deliberations. Also, the Strategy should respond to what do we mean by LME Community, in particular by expanding the scope bringing in other stakeholders that have not been mentioned today. Some would like to see more of the blue economy, in particular by responding to the SDG14’s target 14.7, also including the ecosystem services because that is important for stakeholders when they talk to politicians. A participant proposed two critical strategic

areas. One should focus on implementation by strengthening capacity, while the other should focus on science and information as the basis for good decision-making. Strategy will indicate the means to link scientific findings to the implementation needs on the ground, and it should facilitate discussion between practitioners and decision-makers. And LME projects are doing just that, i.e. they don't produce science but they have to have access to the scientific findings. The link to GESAMP should be established in the strategy. There are many scientists that could help in GESAMP.

We should move incrementally towards the investment forum, and it should not be a large one in the beginning. We could have national, sub regional, regional, and global. Fisheries, biodiversity and marine pollution should be mentioned in the opening statement. Governance module is prominently there, but the other 4 are missing. There should also be more balance among modules, possibly in the vision statement. A question was asked whether BBNJ should be mentioned in the strategy. Strategy should offer a potential contribution of LME projects in supporting BBNJ, connecting MPAs, providing more technical framework for negotiation. Regarding the process: it was mentioned that at this meeting only a framework for discussion was presented. After the meeting, the first draft will be prepared, then circulated among community, and another draft will be prepared, adopted and launched at some event, possibly in June 2020 at the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon. A steering committee shall be formed and the relevant UN agencies will be involved.

During the discussion on the Consultation Meeting Medium-term Strategy, it was mentioned that it is a key event for the LME Community where they will check the implementation of the LME Community strategy based on the progress report. While some would like to have meetings at coastal locations as has been done during the last few years, we have seen a drop-in participation, which may have something to do with the venue. The proposal was given to alternate between Paris and other locations, where many local stakeholders could attend. The meeting should focus on where we are in strategy implementation. Strategy will allow us to have a much more action-oriented agenda and not just topics of general nature.

Mish Hamid, GEF LME:LEARN, opened a discussion on the future Important events where LMEs will participate. He said that IW:LEARN has a global dialogue engagement money. The most important future meetings are the Marine Regions Forum in Berlin, Our Oceans, Sustainable Oceans Summit in Paris, all in 2019, and [UN Oceans](#) Conference in Lisbon, [IUCN Congress](#) in Marseille, Seabed Authority Meeting in Jamaica, all in 2020. What messages should we relay there? For some of these meetings, high registration fee is an issue and IW:LEARN does not have funds for that. Lisbon conference is the key event in 2020. There is already an organisation process in place, and they are asking for proposals for some dialogue sessions. Message to these meetings should be concise, stressing that the LME approach is different from anything else. For that we need to work out a shorter and a longer message, which will be relayed, depending on the type of the audience. Also, the SDG14 brochure will be revised.

Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP, moderated the concluding session of the meeting. He asked the panellists the following three questions: (1) What message do you take home from this meeting? (2) What would you like to bring as a topic or a partner to the next meeting?; and (3) What is your voluntary commitment to the LME community?

Isabelle Vanderbeck, UN Environment, believes in the power of partnership as discussed extensively at the LME Consultation meeting. Hence in the spirit of integrated Source-to-Sea management, she reckons that the freshwater community should have been invited to attend the LME consultation meeting rather than having parallel events such as this week in Cartagena. She stressed that engagement with the private sector needs to be demystified. Recognizing that establishing partnerships is a step by step approach, she encourages to start small, even if your LME is large, convince and upscale, ensure that partners in a partnership have a clear and well-structured agenda, hence engage with the private sector from the start of the TDA/SAP formulation process to make sure SAPs align with their priorities and not just be considered as an afterthought. She recommended that IW: LEARN considers preparing guidelines to

engage private sector, including compiling and sharing success stories for use by the portfolio. She agrees that the investment forum is really a great resolution of this meeting. As a fervent supporter of the TDA/SAP approach, she believes that the approach would benefit from being enriched with existing assessment and planning tools including those developed by the GEF IW portfolio e.g. TWAP, economic valuation, flood and drought forecasting systems, blue forest carbon assessment etc. She stressed the importance of data sharing, monitoring and reporting, socio-economic assessments, community engagement and, underscored the power of conservation finance to ensure SAP sustainability.

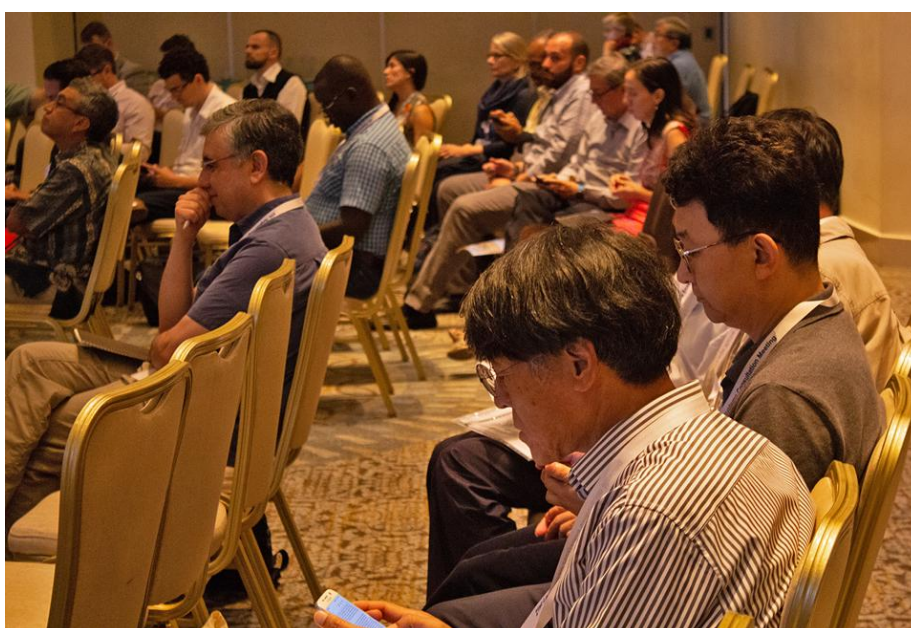
Sonboon Siriraksophorn, SCS, supports the deliberations of the meeting, in particular the proposal to develop the LME Community Medium-term Strategy.

Yinfeng Guo, YSLME, said that the project brought government officials to this meeting, because its agenda is very relevant. For the next meeting, the topic should be the private sector engagement.

Chris Severin added that there should be more facilitated discussions in the future, and much less of static panels. We need more results notes and experience notes.

During the **discussion**, a participant noted that we need some indication of the historical trend showing how far we have gotten to where we are now. In this respect, it was mentioned that Al Duda and Ken Sherman' paper on history of LMEs traced that trend very well. The paper could be distributed at the later stage to all participants and the wider community. We should bring more non GEF participants to the meeting. We have them more than before, but there are still many out there that could participate in future meetings. There is, though, the Issue of financing their participation. It was stated that there is "life" after GEF, and the Black Sea Program is an example. Source-to-Sea projects should be invited to the next meeting, as well as regional UN economic commissions. **Lorenzo Galbiati** said that next year they might showcase first results of the MedProgramme, in particular partnership with the fisheries and private sector. A participant proposed that next year there should be more discussion about SOME and have a panel composed of the regional seas and conventions' representatives. Finally, more time for creative conversation should be allowed.

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:30.



4 DETAILED AGENDA OF THE MEETING

DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019				
1 – Opening				
Session Chair	Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES			
Rapporteur	James Oliver, IUCN			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session
09:30 10:00	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julian Barbieri, IOC/UNESCO • Andrew Hudson, UNDP • Christian Severin, GEF • Captain Juan Camilo Forero, Colombian Ocean Commission 	Plenary, individual addresses	To welcome the participants and to present the objectives of the meeting.
10:00 10:25	The Large Marine Ecosystems Approach to the United Nations Ocean Sustainable Development Goal and Decade of Ocean Science: 35 Years of Global Movement, 1984-2019	Ken Sherman, presented by John Patrick Walsh, CRC	Plenary, presentation	A historical overview of the LME approach.
10:25 10:50	The LME Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities	David Vousden, Rhodes University, South Africa	Plenary, presentation	Over the past two decades, many lessons and best practices have arisen from the development and adoption of partnerships within the LMEs, which can be very usefully replicated in other regions. An analysis of the current LME partnerships and an outline of the challenges and opportunities facing future partnerships in view of implementation of SDG14 targets
10:50 11:00	Objectives and structure of the LME21 Annual Consultative Meeting	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN PCU	Plenary, presentation	Outline of the meeting's objectives and procedure to manage its course
Coffee break 15 minutes (11:00 – 11:15)				

2 – LME Implementation Progress

Session Chair	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME :LEARN			
Rapporteur	Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session
11:15 12:30	<p>Brief introduction of new LME, MSP, MPA, ICM, climate change, and fisheries projects, assisted by a visual aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9369 Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Ecuador Mainland Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network 4746 Pacific SIDS Fisheries Conventions 6920 Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs 9451 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project 10076 Pacific Central American Coastal LME 9949 North Brazil Shelf LME Mangroves 	<p>Project representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X. Chalen (9369) D. Vousden (4746) A. Gonzales (6920) S. Scott (9451) S. Coello (10076) E. Cobo/ S.Banks (9949) L. Galbiati (9545) <p>Moderated by the session chair</p>	Plenary, interventions from the floor	<p>Introduction of new projects to the community, what they are working towards and where the project is being implemented. Focus is on new developments, issues, pressing “highlights” and products. The projects will present their objectives and outcomes.</p>
12:30 13:00	GEF LME:LEARN impact	Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN PCU	Plenary, presentation, interventions from the floor	<p>Major outcomes of the GEF LME:LEARN project with a focus on its contribution to the global and regional networking. Reflections from the three projects on what they have benefitted and how.</p>

Lunch break 90 minutes (13:00 – 14:30)

3 – The LME Partnership Approach

Session Chair	Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP			
Rapporteur	Jill Raval, UN Environment			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session

14:30 14:40	The LME Partnership Approach: Introduction and overview of the session		Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN	Plenary, presentation	Overview of why this session is useful and how it will work.
14:40 15:00	Introduction to the clinics		Clinics moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A. Gonzales, PEMSEA• L. Galbiati, UN Environment/ MAP• F. Mangisi-Mafileo, SPC• L. Walker CLME+• Tim Andrews (SAPPHIRE)	Panel, moderated by Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN	Four selected partnerships will very briefly introduce their partnerships (with a focus on their particularities/particular strengths). This will help participants in choosing the clinics they want to attend, as they will only be able to ask questions to 3 out of the 5 partnerships through the clinics.
15:00 16:30	Clinics: How the existing LME Partnership s work and what challenges they face	Multi –level coordination (PEMSEA)	Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA (Muralla room)	Breakout sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three rounds of 30’ each• Participants will select 3 clinics to attend based on the information provided ahead of the meeting• Each clinic begins with the top 5 lessons learned through each process.• The attendees to the clinic will have 25 minutes to ask questions and interact with the Partnership representative• Each clinic will have a moderator and rapporteur to capture the discussions• Once the timer sounds, participants will move to their next selected clinic
		Funding partnerships (Med Programme)	Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment / MAP (Canones room)		
		Action planning for SIDS (Pacific Ridge to Reef)	Fononga "Inga" Mangisi-Mafileo, The Pacific Community SPC (Corales room)		
		Regional Framework for Ocean Governance (CLME+ Partnership)	Laverne Walker, CLME+ (Vela room)		
		Science to Policy (SAPPHIRE)	Tim Andrew, SAPPHIRE (Manglar room)		
Coffee break 15 minutes (16:30 – 16:45)					
16:45 17:10	Report from the clinics (5’ each)		Clinics moderators	Plenary, reporting	A summary of each clinic will be presented using the predetermined template
17:10 17:45	Discussion		Panel: Clinics moderators (see names above), moderated by Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN	Panel	Discussion will be directed towards role of the LME Community in forging and consolidating LME-based partnerships
Special presentation					
17:45 18:00	REVOCEAN: Potential for a partnership		Alex David Rogers, REVOCEAN	Plenary, presentation	Research priorities for the LME projects especially in relation to plastic pollution, overfishing and environmental impacts of fishing and climate change impacts.

Reception offered by GEF LME:LEARN (20:00 – 22:00)

DAY TWO

THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2019				
4 - Implementation of SDGs				
Session Chair	Gonzalo Cid, NOAA			
Rapporteur	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN PCU			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session
09:00 09:20	Tracking LMEs' progress in SAP implementation and achieving SDG14 targets: Quick summary overview	Andrew Hudson, UNDP	Plenary, presentation	Summary result of a questionnaire/checklist sent to LME projects to identify their progress in implementation of SAPs and contributions to SDG14. Graphical presentation of the results.
09:20 11:00	Detailed elaboration of LMEs' progress in SAP implementation and advancing SDG14: Results of the questionnaire	LME Project Managers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Gonzales (PEMSEA) • D. Vousden (OFNP) • A. Gonzales (ATSEA) • L. Galbiati (MEDLME) • S. Siriraksophon (SCS) • S. Coello (Humboldt LME) • P. Debels (CLME+) • Y. Guo (YSLME) Moderated by Andrew Hudson	Panel discussion	Project managers, divided in two panel groups, provide more details on governance reforms and investments that have to date been delivered under their SAPs and how these contribute to SDG14.
Coffee break 15 minutes (11:00 – 11:15)				
4 - Implementation of SDGs (continued)				
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session
11:15 12:40	Rethinking TDA/SAP approach: from "problem-solving" to "leveraging-opportunities-to-solve problems" in the context of SDGs	Panel members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Debels, CLME+ • Aimee Gonzales, PEMSEA 	Panel discussion	Revisiting the TDA/SAP approach with a view to redrafting the current methodology where more attention should be given to the sustainable "blue economy" opportunities (instead of only focusing on environmental problems) to identify win/win opportunities and facilitate

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/ MAP <p>Moderator: Chris Severin, GEF</p>		engagement with Private Sector. The business community should be told that LME community is trying to preserve resource base that is allowing them to develop their businesses. Introduction by Patrick Debels, who will also define the concept of “interactive governance in support of the Agenda 2030”.
12:40 13:00	Developing future framework for LME reporting towards enhancing SAP contributions to SDG monitoring and reporting	Virginie Hart, GEF LME:LEARN	Plenary, presentation	A view to improve the reporting on SDG implementation in LME projects based on the findings of the LME DIM Workshop in Paris in July 2019.
Special presentation				
13:00 13:15	Oceans and Human Health: Challenges and opportunities	Jose Ernesto Mancera Pineda, Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Plenary, presentation	The marine environment contributes significantly to human health. At the same time, the marine environment is under pressure from human activities. Presentation will explore LME projects’ role in improving the human health.
Lunch break 60 minutes (13:15 – 14:30)				
5 – Technical site visit (14:30 – 18:30)				

DAY THREE

FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019				
6 – The Large Marine Ecosystems are everyone’s business				
Session Chair	Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN PCU			
Rapporteur	Virginie Hart, GEF LME:LEARN			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session
09:00 09:15	Bringing the Private Sector to the Table: Lessons from the Regional Networks	Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN PCU	Plenary, presentation	Sharing who LME:LEARN has brought to the table at a regional level (Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa), what advice was given from each region, and an introduction into how the breakout groups will work
09:15 10:30	Investment and partnership opportunities Four breakout groups:	Moderators: 1.Susanna Scott,	Breakout session	Through a round table discussion and breakout groups, this session aims to open up dialogue between stakeholders operating within

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserving Marine and Coastal Areas through Environmentally Sustainable Blue Economy Strategies 2. Sustainable Fisheries Management 3. Water and Wastewater Management 4. Transforming Plastic Life Cycles 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Oceanscape Project 2. Diego Orellana, Global Commodities Project 3. Chris Corbin, Cartagena Convention 4. Robert Glazer, GCFI 		<p>LMEs, and to explore potential investment and partnership opportunities. The group moderator will provide 5 minutes opening on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quick introduction on the theme and initial potential investment and partnership opportunities at global level; and • What specific potential financing and partnering institutions are most relevant to the theme to explore. <p>Breakout session moderators will ask to the audience the following questions to open the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the benefits of your project to the business community? 2. What specific investment and partnership opportunities have you identified in your respective LMEs or projects? 3. What specific potential financing and partnering institutions are most relevant to the theme to explore? 4. What success stories do you have to share in partnering with the business community? 5. How do we prepare our community for an LME Investment Forum? 6. What specific steps can the marine community take to help get us there?
10:30 11:00	Group reporting and discussion	<p>Panel: Group moderators</p> <p>Moderator: Manolo Clar Massanet, GEF LME:LEARN</p>	Panel	<p>The breakout group moderators will provide a brief report.</p> <p>A panel discussion with attendees from the private sector will take place</p>
Coffee break 15 minutes (11:00 – 11:15)				
7 - Advancing ocean science and applications				
Session Chair	Cesar Toro, IOC-IOCARIBE			
Rapporteur	Natalie Degger, GEF LME:LEARN PCU			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session

11:15 11:30	Cumulative effects of multiple human stressors in marine systems	Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa, INVEMAR	Plenary, presentation	Presentation will discuss ecosystem responses to human activities and with a view to operationalize ecosystem-based management and possible actions within the coastal and marine projects. Brief presentation of INVEMAR.
11:30 11:45	Recent advances in understanding the effects of climate change on the world's oceans	Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES	Plenary, presentation	Key messages on the consequences of different levels of 21st century climate change for ocean ecosystems and ocean dependent communities. Focus on what the LME projects can achieve during their implementation
11:45 12:00	A Civil Society Action Programme for the Wider Caribbean	Nicole Leotaud, CANARI	Plenary, presentation	Showcasing how civil society made its own Strategic Action Programme, aligned with the CLME+ SAP
12:00 12:15	UN Decade on the Ocean Science: Progress Report	Julian Barbiere, IOC-UNESCO	Plenary, presentation	How to involve LMEs in the decade: how to frame LMEs contribution and what are the benefits for the Decade.
12:15 12:30	A new phase of GESAMP	David Vousden	Plenary, presentation	A view on the revised GEAMP role by its newly elected president.
12:30 13:00	Discussion		Moderator: Cesar Toro, IOCARIBE	Discuss possible new themes to be included in future meetings and ways and means to transform scientific results into policy proposals.

Lunch break 90 minutes (13:00-14:30)

8 – Closing session

Session Chair	Julian Barbiere, IOC-UNESCO			
Rapporteur	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN			
Time	Title	Name	Format of the session	Objectives of the session
14:30 14:45	Medium term LME Community Strategic Framework: Presentation of the framework and discussion	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN PCU	Plenary, presentation	Medium Term Strategic Framework will be presented, outlining the format and potential subjects for discussion. Relevant key messages from LME21 sessions will be summarized. Discussion on the strategy and approval.
14:45 15:30	Discussion on the Medium-Term Strategy	Moderator: Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN PCU	Plenary, discussion	Proposals will be sought to amend the strategy.
15:30 16:00	Discussion on the strategy to address the important ocean events in the near future	Moderator: Mish Hamid, GEF LME:LEARN PCU	Plenary, discussion	The meetings that the message will be transmitted to are: Marine Regions Forum (Germany), Our Ocean 2019 (Norway), UN Oceans Conference in 2020 (Portugal)

Coffee break 15 minutes (16:00 – 16:15)				
16:15 17:30	Closing discussion	Panel members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isabelle Vanderbeck, UN Environment • Yinfeng GUO, YSLME • Sombon Siriraksophorn, SCS • Chris Severin, GEF • Jada Anderson • Jesus Garcia, Aguacar Moderator: Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP	Panel	Reflections on the meeting; date and place on the next meeting; subjects to be discussed at the next meetings
17:30	Closure of the meeting			

5 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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