## Application Guidance Notes

## Large Marine Ecosystem Management Effectiveness Scorecard

By Conservation International

The **Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Management Effectiveness Scorecard** provides LME managers and stakeholders with a tool to quickly evaluate management effectiveness to help improve decision making in LME implementation. Once completed by users, the scorecard will provide basic guidance that allow users to prioritize their efforts and determine tools to improve towards management targets.

The goal of the scorecard is to provide LME managers and stakeholders with a dynamic approach for assessing their management performance against conservation and sustainable use standards, anchored on ecosystem-based management principles. The tool is tailored to relate with the ecological, governance, and social context of LMEs. The tool can be applied both at national, subnational scales, and at LME level, allowing the tool to provide a regional vision for effective management according to regional and national goals.

The scorecard **should be completed by the LME manager either with a core set of relevant actors, or with comprehensive group representative of all the stakeholders within the LME area.** The application of this tool not only allows LME stakeholders to consolidate a baseline of the current management status of the area and to monitor management effectiveness over time, but also provides a vehicle to strengthen stakeholder engagement and participation to strengthen integrated and effective management of an LME.

**HOW THE SCORECARD WORKS:**

The following is an outline that will guide users during the application of the scorecard.

The scorecard includes four key sections:

1. **LME Data Sheet: Description and Characteristics of the LME**
2. **LME Management Effectiveness Scorecard: A Rapid Evaluation of LME Progress**
3. **Summary Assessment Results: A Summary of Relative Progress on Each LME Management Modules**
4. **Priority Actions Based on Results: Identifying Actions to Fill Gaps and Strengthen Management**
5. **Multi country average results**

## 1. LME Data Sheet: Description and Characteristics of the LME

Acknowledging that each LME has differences in its governance structure, implementation level, conditions, and availability of data, in this section the user will create a profile of their LME according to information available for their specific region. The Data sheet should include information about the different countries within the LME.

In each part of this section, the user would be able to reference and link to management objectives, targets and tools that have already been articulated in key LME documents such as action plans, diagnostics and strategies (e.g. GEF tracking tool, Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Strategic Action Programs and National Action Plans). Inputs, targets and priorities defined in the TDA and the SAP should be referred to in order to complete the information in this section. The data provided in this section is critical as it will be explicitly link to specific indicators within the scorecard.

## 2. LME Management Effectiveness Scorecard: A Rapid Evaluation of LME Progress

The rapid evaluation, which is the core of the scorecard, is composed of four categories, which correspond to four of the modules under which Ecosystem based management approach is implemented in the LMEs: Governance, Socioeconomic, Fish and Fisheries and Ecosystem Health and Pollution.

Whilst the LME approach consist of 5 modules, effective management of the LME does not impact the fifth module, which tracks primary productivity. As a result, the rapid evaluation does not include a section on primary productivity. However, the scorecard does provide a place for users to include values of the productivity indicators for the LME in the **LME Data Sheet.**

Each of these categories include a set of core indicators which should be answered <u>in all cases at all scales</u>, as well as optional indicators that may or may not be applicable depending on the context of the specific LME that is being assessed.

**Assessment Level:** For each indicator, the users should select the level at which the indicator is being assessed: either subnational, national or LME (meaning both national for all countries in the LME and for the LME overall).

**Rating Criteria:** Each indicator has rating criteria. The users will select the rating that best fit for their LME, on a scale from 0 to 5. The ratings selected have to be determined in agreement among the stakeholders participating in the assessment. All core indicators should be rated. Optional indicators may also be rated or if they are not relevant to the LME that is being

assessed they can be marked as Non-Applicable. The applicability or non-applicability of the indicators have to be determined by consensus of the group completing the assessment and have to be justified in the notes linked to the indicator. Non-applicability should be determined based on which actions, objectives or targets are not considered or included on the Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment (TDA), the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) or National Action Plan (NAP).

Under each indicator, the user should include important notes from the discussion that was held to determine the rating. It should include all relevant references, data or resources used to determine the rating. It should also be used to record if there were significant scoring differences from each of the stakeholders and provide the reasoning to achieve the final agreed score. **Note:** For all specified indicators, the user should indicate in the notes the target/objective/threats/metrics correspond to the national and regional information provided in the LME datasheet.

| 1.2 Regulatory frameworks: policies, legislation | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Core indicator** | | | |
| 1.2.1 | | Ocean management policies are adequately integrated to allow for achievement of LME objectives | 0 = Existing policies are not integrated in any way<br>1 = Existing policies are minimally integrated<br>2 = Existing policies are partially integrated<br>3 = Existing policies are moderately integrated<br>4 = Existing policies are mostly integrated<br>5 = Existing policies are fully integrated |
| **Indicators based your LME (Refer in notes to the LME info sheet)** | | | |
| 1.2.2 | | Policy target #1 Adequacy of commercial fisheries policies to achieve food security targets (including permits, bi-catch, gear, seasonality, fleet size, quotas, eliminate subsidies, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.) | 0 = No policies exist<br>1 = Existing policies enable achievement of none of the food security targets<br>2 = Existing policies enable achievement of few of the food security targets<br>3 = Existing policies enable achievement of some of the food security targets<br>4 = Existing policies enable achievement of most of the food security targets<br>5 = Existing policies enable achievement of all of the food security targets |
| 1.2.3 | | Policy target #2 Adequacy of artisanal fisheries commercial policies to achieve food security targets (including permits, bi-catch, gear, seasonality, fleet size, quotas, eliminate subsidies, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.) | 0 = No policies exist<br>1 = Existing policies enable achievement of none of the food security targets<br>2 = Existing policies enable achievement of few of the food security targets<br>3 = Existing policies enable achievement of some of the food security targets<br>4 = Existing policies enable achievement of most of the food security targets<br>5 = Existing policies enable achievement of all of the food security targets |

In the next column, the users are able to specify the priority that each particular indicator has for the LME on a scale from 1-3, where 1 is low priority, 2 is medium priority, and 3 is high priority. The overall score for each indicator will be calculated based on the relative priority of the indicator and the rating from 0 to 5 that is selected. The score for all the indicators under each module will be averaged to calculate a total out of a maximum of 100 for the each of the four categories of the scorecard. Those categories are the modules: Governance, Socioeconomics, Fish and Fisheries and Ecosystem Health and Pollution.
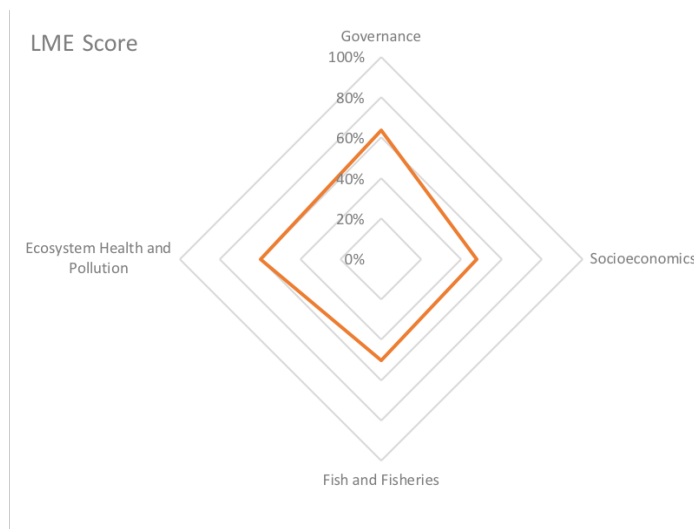
Indicators that are high priority are more heavily weighted than those that are low priority. This is because high priority activities where there has not yet been much progress are generally more important to achieve effective management of the LME. For example, considering that priority is rated 0-3 and indicators are scored on a 0-5 point scale (low ratings indicating less progress on the indicator and high ratings indicating more progress), an indicator with a score

of 4 and a priority of 3 (80%) will have a bigger weight towards the module average score than an indicator with a score of 4 and a priority of 1.

**Note** that in the LME Modules Indicators tab within the spreadsheet there are some cells are prefilled in all four modules as examples, so the formulas can be validated. Users should clear these cells before beginning their exercise

3.    **Summary Assessment Results: A Summary of Relative Progress on Each LME Management Module**

The score card uses pre-programmed formulas to calculate a percentage for each of the four scorecard categories:  Governance, Socioeconomics, Fish and Fisheries and Ecosystem Health and Pollution. These categories are aligned with the LME Modules a progress in each of them is essential to have management effectiveness. The results are summarized on a table and graphically presented in a spider or radar diagram such as the example below:



The percentages for each category presented in the spider diagram provide an overview of relative progress for all the indicators in that category. As mentioned indicators that are high priority but received low ratings on the 0 to 5-point scale are weighted more heavily to reduce the overall percentage for the category. This is done simply to emphasize that the category has some high priority indicators that have not been sufficiently pursued or completed to date.

### 4. Priority Actions Based on Results: Identifying Actions to Fill Gaps and Strengthen Management

The scorecard automatically populates the Priority Actions tab with the indicators from the LME Management Effectiveness Scorecard tab with a priority of 3 and a score of 3 or lower. This is done with the assumption that LME managers will want to prioritize interventions on indicators that are deemed of high priority, but which received medium to low scores.

**Note**: all indicators with priority of 3 and a rating of 3 or lower will automatically appear in the its corresponding row in the priority tab. Users should scroll all the way down to row 141 to see all relevant 'priority indicators,' and then hide all blank rows.

For each indicator, it's important for **users to fill out** the Barriers to Implementation column which provides a place to reflect on any challenges or barriers to making progress on the indicator. Next there is a Column to summarize Proposed Activities/Actions followed by a column to summarize the Difficulty of Implementing the proposed activities/actions.

As users complete this section, it's very important to consider that not all indicators that receive a low score are necessarily priorities for activities or actions. Some indicators may be high priority but extremely difficult to pursue. There may be major barriers that are difficult for the LME to overcome. Likewise, there may be some indicators that receive very high scores and do still require activities or actions to maintain the progress or success that has been achieved under the indicator. Users must decide for themselves which indicators need the most work.

### 5. Multi country average results

If the scorecard is applied at LME level, in this tab the users can include the name of the countries of the region, the total scores each country received in the scorecard, and their respective area extension (in km2) within the LME. The prepopulated formulas will calculate an area-weighted average for the entire LME, will be area- weighted to indirectly reflect how much of weight each country has.

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