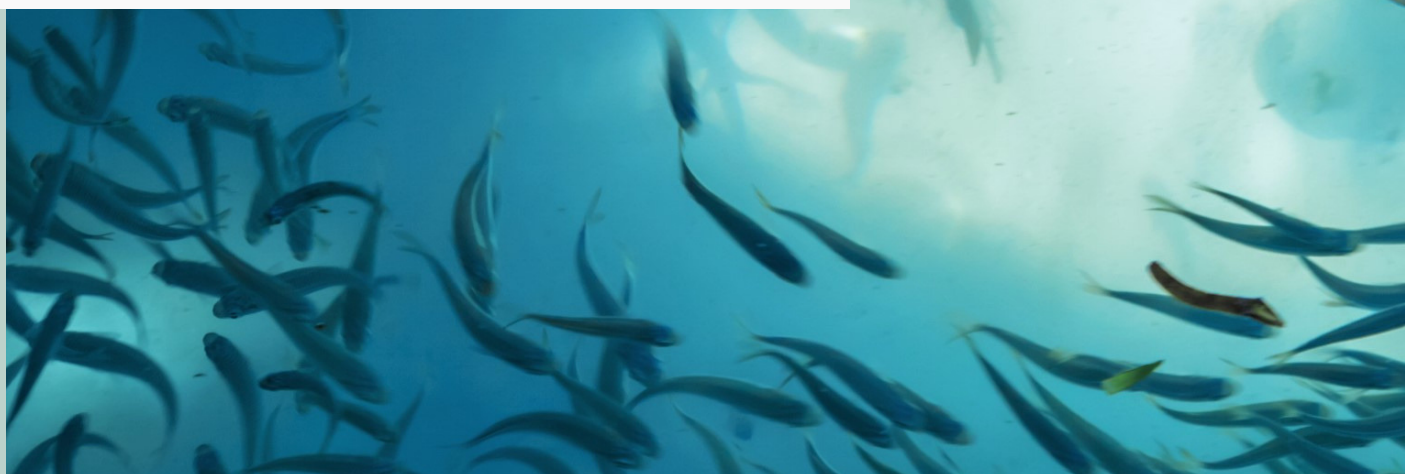




CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA 27-28 NOV 2017

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE SCIENCE- BASED ECOSYSTEMS APPROACHES IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE

MEETING REPORT



Empowered lives.
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Food and Agriculture
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United Nations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The meeting, 'Building International Partnership to Enhance Science-Based Ecosystem Approaches' was convened by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Education, Cultural and Scientific Organization (IOC-UNESCO), UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Government of South Africa, represented by its Department of Environmental Affairs, hosted the meeting, which was organized by the LME:LEARN project, together with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and convening partners.

The two-day meeting, attended by almost 150 participants, took place at the V&A Waterfront in the Port of Cape Town, South Africa, on 27 - 28 November 2017, and was directly followed by the 19th Annual Large Marine and Coastal Partners Meeting from 29 November - 1 December.

The meeting was convened in answer to the calls for implementation of commitments that emanated from the 'United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development' (UN Ocean Conference), held in New York in June 2017.

As such, the overall goal of the meeting was to enhance cross-sectoral, science-based ecosystem approaches to regional ocean governance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More specifically, the objectives of the meeting were to:

- Strengthen regional governance mechanisms through enhanced collaboration between Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programmes, Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations).
- Share examples of best practices of existing collaboration between Large Marine Ecosystem projects and programmes, Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans, Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) and other institutions and/or initiatives/projects providing relevant scientific knowledge.
- Propose regional partnerships that build on existing initiatives to strengthen regional ocean science and governance.
- Identify modalities to apply science-based ecosystem approaches at regional level in support of improved ocean governance.

The expected outcomes of the meeting were:

- Describe how regional institutions and projects are utilizing science and how they can support countries to implement ecosystem approaches that will contribute to the 2030 Agenda and associated Sustainable Development Goals (targets and indicators).
- Better collaboration among the LME programmes and projects, Regional Seas programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies;
- Better use of science to ensure harmonized regional ocean policies and regional cooperation in an ecosystem context;
- Improved sustainability and impact of Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other marine and coastal interventions;; and
- Proposals for future partnerships and/or project opportunities demonstrating cross-sectoral collaboration in regional ocean governance.

Key findings

The meeting allowed for in-depth discussion between the stakeholders that had come together out of common interest in seeking mutually agreeable mechanisms for achieving more efficient regional ocean governance. The following points summarize the key points and suggestions that emerged as a foundation for possible further elaboration:

1. The meeting reviewed numerous instruments and mechanisms for ocean governance implemented by various organizations, and highlighted the role of science as ‘the best collaborative point’ to establish connectivity for regional ocean governance.
2. It was noted that the Ecosystem Approach is an essential condition for the continued long-term science-based collaboration in regional ocean governance, and that continuing and strengthening collaboration is needed, while also including social and economic elements.
3. Capacity development, including institutional strengthening, is needed for implementing the Ecosystem Approach.
4. Interactions among relevant stakeholders towards better regional ocean governance should make use of best existing practices and respect existing mandates.
5. There is a need of open access scientific knowledge as a foundation for policy on all levels: national, regional and global. A mechanism of how to translate science into policy is needed.
6. The meeting recognized the importance of interregional collaboration for sharing lessons learned/experience and to create synergy among regional initiatives and/or activities.

7. The opportunities for collaboration in regional ocean governance should begin with cross-sectoral information and knowledge-sharing, discussion forums, and other actions that contribute to achieving improved ecosystem-based management.
8. An information-sharing platform should be established, which would assist in engaging stakeholders to improve regional ocean governance. This platform should help build up trust among regional ocean governance stakeholders, assist countries in strengthening their inter-ministerial cooperation in ocean matters, build up awareness on ocean matters, stimulate inclusion of private sector in regional ocean governance, identify capacity development opportunities, and assist in mobilizing financial resources. This platform would also assist countries in their reporting on SDG14 implementation at the regional level.
9. GEF LME:LEARN is willing to assist in building the information-sharing platform. To that end, a common structure of the platform should be developed, a specific website should be established, and current mechanisms and tools should be utilised.
10. A regional meta-database should be developed containing information on existing data sets, scientists' directories using IOC's Ocean Expert, information about institutions acting in the regions, existing projects and programmes, etc. The meta-database could be part of the information-sharing platform.
11. The immediate follow-up to this meeting should be preparation of a feasibility study to see if there is sufficient demand for the action proposed by this meeting, what are the existing platforms and how they could be utilised to complement the desired objective, and whether there is an adequate degree of sustainable for this initiative. The feasibility study should be followed by a guidance document that will:
 - help guide actions that match short-term and long-term goals of the platform;
 - communicate the logic and rationale for getting results at the end of a defined timeline by offering a shared vision (endpoint), where we are now, what are the options (steps and milestones) for getting there i.e. along the road, and show how each action will contribute to the planned outcomes; and
 - identify resources required to achieve the stated goal.
12. Transboundary interactions between LMEs, Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries Bodies and adjacent high seas areas are critically important. Therefore a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and interactive process is needed to identify what the priority issues are for LMEs and areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), who might be the key partners, and what potential conflicts and synergies there may be with other stakeholders.

Regional groups worked in break-away sessions to present examples of existing partnerships of regional collaboration in coastal areas and ABNJ, covering models for institutional collaboration as well as models of collaboration between institutions and other partners. Special focus was placed on how partnerships can strengthen scientific inputs to existing governance processes at regional level. Each regional session was designed to address three core questions. The questions and general outcomes were as follows:

1. What are the key elements of successful collaboration?

Common responses generated from the three regional sessions included the following: Generating trust; setting clear goals and the scope and scale of collaboration; aiming for “win-win” collaborations for countries and projects; more transparent decision-making processes; political will on all levels; focus on having a common ‘language’; understanding and recognizing roles and mandates through institutional mapping; using existing organizations and letting countries identify what they need; availability of sufficient funds; the need to move beyond paper agreements; engaging regional economic commissions; the need of all stakeholders to see value of their engagement.

2. How social science is integrated into regional management processes?

Recognizing that humans are part of the ecosystem; including economic considerations in management processes (blue economy, valuation of goods and services); engaging the private sector; inviting people from social science fields to regional ocean governance meetings; adding social science indicators such as stakeholder engagement, social justice and human wellbeing; including cultural, social and economic needs from the beginning of the process.

3. How can partnerships assist with addressing regional science priorities?

Sharing of data and knowledge exchange; establish links to academia to encourage collaboration between countries; local partnerships can be important at the regional level; consider how regional processes can benefit from global partnerships, especially in terms of capacity development; partnerships should leave behind a tangible legacy that showcase the partnership.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion focused on forward-looking conclusions and suggestions for follow-up actions. In terms of aligning the efforts of the major stakeholders and building on existing functional structures, the meeting recognized that:

- While the TDA/SAP approach has been useful in advancing ecosystem-based and cross-sectoral approaches, the way in which these principles are mainstreamed and sustained is up to the countries. In the medium to longer term, the Regional Seas Programmes or RFBs may be the ultimate custodians of the results the LME approach may have brought

to shared waters, such as the SAP, and may have to undertake efforts to maintain that LME-type momentum.

- Resources are essential, but in order to secure the sustainable flow it is important to bring in financial institutions as partners. Trust between parties, dialogue and transparency, engaging with local NGOs and local communities, and the voluntary approach are crucial. Science is a decision-making tool, and social and economic sciences should be included in this dialogue.
- There is a need both to promote cutting-edge science on the manifestations of climate change, and to spearhead capacity development.

Follow-up actions by the major stakeholders included:

- Focusing efforts to involve all nations in making contributions to the regional ocean governance process, and using appropriate supporting UN mechanisms.
- Developing new and strengthening existing collaborations with various partners on fisheries and aquaculture matters, continuing to contribute as requested to appropriate platforms, and encouraging their expansion to improve cross-sectoral representation in these collaborations.
- Finding areas for joint action, particularly on fisheries, marine spatial planning, protected species and water quality.
- Aligning with the CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative, ensuring mutual engagement and building on the work already done rather than starting a parallel process.
- There is a need for Regional Seas, RFBs and LMEs to share experiences on a regional level, while the current meeting would be a useful forum if held on alternate years.
- Build upon the existing and emerging portfolios of LMEs, Regional Seas and RFBs, with the aim of identifying "win-win" opportunities for collaboration between them.
- Assess partners' portfolios' project work plans and budgets to see if activities can be further aligned for cross-mechanism cooperation.
- Find resources to conduct institutional mapping – defining geography, mandates and thematic focus – which could be used to inform future discussions like the current meeting, as well as day to day interactions.

Summaries of the sessions

Day 1 – Monday 27 November 2017	Day 2 – Tuesday 28 November 2017
<p>Session 1: Opening ceremony</p> <p>Session 2: Key institutions responsible for ocean governance</p> <p>Session 3: Best practices of regionally based science partnerships supporting ocean and coastal governance</p> <p>Session 4: Science-policy interface: How science can inform effective regional ecosystem-based ocean governance</p>	<p>Session 5: Regional partnerships to strengthen ocean governance</p> <p>Breakout regional sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Africa▪ Latin America & Caribbean▪ Asia & Pacific <p>Session 6: Sustaining regional collaboration for ocean governance</p> <p>Session 7: Closure: The way forward</p>

Session 1 – Opening ceremony

The meeting began with an opening ceremony arranged by the Government of Sweden and UN Environment, which included a short performance by young dancers from Project Playground, a local non-profit organization co-founded by Princess Sofia of Sweden. Welcome addresses were made by the Ambassador of Sweden to South Africa Cecilia Julin, by the Deputy Director-General: Oceans & Coasts within South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs Judy Beaumont, and by representatives of the convening partners.



Session 2 – Key institutions responsible for ocean governance

Constraints to solving the multitude of problems facing oceans can be largely addressed through improved collaboration and cooperation, with the forging of strong cross-sectoral partnerships. Representatives of the key international institutions responsible for ocean governance outlined initiatives to foster cooperation around specific global issues or at a regional level. The existing regional bodies can play a valuable role, for example, in implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), and reporting on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDGs. They also allow member countries to address topics of common interest, exchange information and share data.

Session 3 – Best practices of regionally-based science partnerships supporting ocean and coastal governance

Best practices in fostering cooperation at a regional level and supporting existing regional partnerships include sharing knowledge and data, developing common approaches, providing technical assistance, conducting capacity-building activities such as training cruises and summer schools, as well as building trust. Regular and sustained interactions are important for building trust between partners, while transparent and efficient organizational structures help to instil the confidence of donors and funders.

Session 4 – Science-policy interface: How science can inform effective regional ecosystem-based ocean governance

Mechanisms for translating scientific findings into information that could be used by policymakers and resource managers were presented. In most regional governance bodies, management decisions relating to sustainable fishing and conservation of the marine environment are based on advice from a scientific committee, informed by specialist working groups. Ecosystem status reports, stock assessments and trend analyses are useful products for conveying scientific information, but require quality assurance, transparency and inclusiveness to ensure they are trusted and accepted by managers. Regional assessments are important in addressing transboundary resources and ocean basin phenomena that might be overlooked in national assessments; their appropriate scale is that which captures the critical processes.

Session 5 – Regional partnerships to strengthen ocean governance

A wide variety of partnership models were presented in the breakout regional sessions. A common theme was that successful collaboration is based on trust, honesty, transparency and equitable decision-making, with partners having mutual confidence that both will benefit ('win-win'). Providing opportunities for people to meet and form personal relationships was recognized as a key factor in building trust.

- In the **Latin America and the Caribbean** session, participants heard about the intention by member states of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) to develop an Integrated Regional Ocean Policy once they had advanced their own policies. Mechanisms to strengthen ocean governance in the Caribbean include getting fishers' input to policymaking via the multi-level Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations, and establishing the CLME+ Alliance and Partnership to cater for different levels of commitment to achieving the vision and objectives of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME. The State of the Marine Environment and Associated Socio-Economics in the CLME+ region (SOME) assessment will inform decision-making and create a bridge between the fisheries and environment sectors and other sectors of society.
- In the **Africa** session, it was stressed that there is no 'one size fits all' institutional arrangement for promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the appropriate model should be

decided by the countries and organizations involved. There is often reluctance to set up new bodies that cannot be sustained without donor funding. A number of partnership platforms already exist within the region, focussing on research and management in coastal and offshore waters within EEZs, while efforts to promote connectivity to areas beyond natural jurisdiction (ABNJ) are in the early stages. The need to incorporate social and cultural aspects in regional management processes is recognized, and there is a special concern for small-scale artisanal fisheries. Marine Spatial Planning and State of the Coast reporting present opportunities to bring natural and social scientists together.

- In the **Asia and Pacific** session, the presenters showcased examples of partnerships addressing issues such as conservation and management measures for tuna fisheries; the effect of climate change on tuna fisheries and coral reefs; integrated coastal zone management to reduce the risks of coastal erosion and sediment movement; overexploitation of fish stocks, habitat degradation and pollution; and management of ABNJ fisheries resources and ecosystems. During the discussion it was noted that the economic valuation of ecosystem services can be used to convince countries of the benefits of regional collaboration. In the East Asian Seas, for example, coral reefs are important for sustaining fisheries and tourism revenues. Socio-ecological systems analysis was identified as a useful approach for including the human dimension in ocean governance. Gender was further mentioned as an important element to take into account.

Session 6 – Sustaining regional collaboration for ocean governance

The session began with a report-back from the regional breakout sessions, summarising their responses to the guiding questions on key elements of successful collaboration, the integration of social science in regional management processes, and the potential for partnerships to assist in addressing regional science priorities. Discussion took place about the feasibility of identifying voluntary regional champions or platforms to take the lead in pushing forward the agenda of collaboration. This was followed by a panel session on key factors for sustained collaboration.

The session concluded with a discussion around a number of elements and issues arising from the preceding sessions. This included the proposal to establish an information-sharing platform that could assist in engaging stakeholders to improve regional ocean governance, and also assist countries in their reporting on SDG14 implementation at the regional level. The platform could potentially include a meta-database identifying what datasets are available in the regions. GEF LME:LEARN is willing to assist in building the information-sharing platform. It was noted that CLME+ already has plans to develop a platform giving access to training tools and materials, so funds could perhaps be pooled to expand the scope of the platform.

Session 7 – Closure

Representatives of the convening partner organizations were invited to share their ‘take-home message’ from the meeting, and indicate their follow-up actions to further the goal and objectives of the meeting. Opportunities for wider engagement and further collaboration include the Communities of Action emanating from the UN Ocean Conference, the declaration of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), the various initiatives to increase governance of ABNJ, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative’s next Global Dialogue in April 2018, and the linkages between LME programmes, Regional Seas and RFBs.



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FOREWORD

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The health of ocean ecosystems is intricately linked with the ability to manage the national and shared resources being guided by national politically anchored regional policy frameworks and agreements. This has most recently been highlighted by the Transboundary Water Assessment Program, as well as by the global community at the UN Oceans Conference in New York earlier in 2017.

The GEF funded portfolio of Large Marine Ecosystem projects, sub regional fisheries projects and large river basins investments offers a unique platform, essential for attracting the needed finance from governments and private sector alike. GEF interventions catalyse cooperation among sectors and nations, but also enabling identification of priorities and increasing capacity, which in turn leads to long-term target setting and catalyses cooperation among sectors and nations.

The SDGs in general and SDG 6 and 14, in particular, provide a clear set of targets that the GEF and its partners will work towards delivering against. However, the ultimate key to success will be the ability of the GEF International Waters partnership to illustrate, to all levels of society, that the myriad of ecosystem services provided by the marine ecosystems, not only depend on cooperation frameworks and agreed actions, but also hold the key to local, national and regional economic development.

We, from the GEF, are happy that this conference focuses on strengthening the international partnership that in turn will further sound ecosystem based management, towards ensuring, that these mesmerizing marine environments will sustain their health and vibrant nature for current and future generations.

Christian Holde Severin

International Waters Focal Area Coordinator and Senior Environmental Specialist

The GEF

The arena of regional ocean governance is a crowded and complex one, including regional seas programs, regional fisheries management organizations, and regional Large Marine Ecosystem programs. In many cases, the mandate, geographic scope and thematic focus of these different mechanisms overlap or even conflict. Underlying many of these regional structures are national and local level actions including Integrated Coastal Management, Marine Protected Areas, Marine Spatial Planning and Locally Managed Marine Areas, some directly linked to the regional arrangements, others not. There are also a range of binding and non-binding instruments guiding implementation of these regional mechanisms, from conventions to agreements to action plans and programs. Lastly, while there is broad agreement on the need to take integrated, ecosystem-based, cross-sectoral approaches, based on sound science, towards truly sustainable utilization of these often very large marine spaces, the mandate and attention to such approaches varies widely across the many regional mechanisms.

This meeting is the first attempt to bring together many of the key stakeholders representing the regional ocean mechanisms described above. While it would be unrealistic to expect substantive near-term changes in the mandate or geographic focus of various regional mechanisms (many enshrined in legal frameworks), there should still be opportunities to identify good examples of and opportunities for cooperation and coordination between the different regional ocean mechanisms that could have scope for replication elsewhere. Furthermore, proven and innovative new ideas for inter-mechanism partnership and cooperation could be developed and even advanced as concepts for future GEF (7) or other donor financing. Lastly, as this effort continues, UNDP would suggest a comprehensive mapping of all the known regional ocean governance mechanisms, including geography (via GIS), mandate, thematic focus, etc. By identifying selected areas of commonality, such a mapping could be a valuable tool for facilitating future partnership and cooperation, as well as avoidance of potential conflicts.

Andrew Hudson
Head of Water and Ocean Governance Programme
UNDP

The future of our civilization strongly depends on how we manage the ocean since we are so heavily reliant on it. We get food, oxygen, health benefits and prosperity from the ocean. We use it subconsciously as a refrigerator for climate and a carbon sink, and quite consciously, as a garbage bin. The ocean can no longer sustain such an attitude. The Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOAON) described the current state of the ocean as “hot, sour and breathless”. I would add two more qualifications: dirty and half-dead.

We need to continue our use of the ocean, but only in such a way that does not deprive future generations of the same right. To safeguard our oceans, two approaches are required. Firstly, clear governance decisions banning unsustainable modes of the ocean exploitation and curbing pollution, and secondly, scientific solutions to some less well-known issues, such as ocean acidification, deoxygenation, and many other factors acting individually and jointly as multi-stressors.

This requires coordination of work between key stakeholders in ocean research and management. The dialogue between relevant UN agencies, such as UN Environment, FAO, IMO, World Bank, GEF, UNDP, and, of course, IOC of UNESCO, exists, and is global. However, in essence, problems of the ocean are regional, and we need therefore to move the focus to engaging in collaboration with key regional authorities and partners. A promising platform for finding a common language is offered by the notion of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and the large scientific community studying their intricacies and ways to manage them. Hence, a dialogue among the LMEs, Regional Seas and Regional Fisheries Commissions offers an encouraging way forward. Establishing such a partnership is the main objective of this meeting, and I fully support it.

Vladimir Ryabinin

Executive Secretary

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

UN Environment

The collaboration work between the Large Marine Ecosystem Programmes, Regional Seas Conventions and Regional Fisheries Bodies is essential for the sustainable management of ocean resources and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. UN Environment is making a pollution free ocean as its priority goal for the year ahead.

Lisa Svensson
Director/Coordinator
Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch
UN Environment

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

The first UN Oceans Conference, held in New York City, 5-9 June 2017, clearly articulated the many challenges we all face in ensuring we have healthy oceans, including sustainable fisheries now and for future generations. The outcome of the Conference reiterated a clear message to the fisheries sector and FAO that the challenges ahead included addressing sustainable management of fisheries, including overfishing, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing; dealing with subsidies; ensuring access for small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets; and implementing international law, also as reflected in SDG14 targets. Ocean governance cuts across the interventions that are needed to address these fisheries challenges, as in other sectors such as transport and seabed mining.

FAO has a long history of working with member states, other agencies and stakeholders to strengthen national, regional and global capacity, so that fisheries is a part of the ocean governance agenda. We are pleased to be a part of this Conference which has, from the beginning, embraced fisheries as part of the ocean governance seascape, and that evidences that fisheries policy makers, managers and researchers have much to contribute to the debates and discussions that are part of this event.

I wish you a successful and fruitful Conference.

Árni M. Mathiesen
Assistant Director-General
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem	MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
BCLME	Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MPA	Marine Protected Area
CCLME	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem	NAP	National Action Plan
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CNRS	National Centre for Scientific Research, France	NPAFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
CPPS	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific	OFMP	Oceanic Fisheries Management Project
CRFN	Caribbean Regional Fisherfolk Network	PCU	Project Coordination Unit
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization	PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa	RFB	Regional Fisheries Bodies
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	SAP	Strategic Action Programme
EBM	Ecosystem-based Management	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	SWIOFC / P	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission / Project
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System	TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	UCT	University of Cape Town, South Africa
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	UNESCO	United Nations Education, Cultural and Scientific Organization
IOI-SA	International Ocean Institute – South Africa	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated	WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Introduction

The meeting, 'Building International Partnership to Enhance Science-Based Ecosystem Approaches' was convened by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Education, Cultural and Scientific Organization (IOC-UNESCO), UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Government of South Africa, represented by its Department of Environmental Affairs, hosted the meeting, which was organized by the GEF-funded, UNDP-implemented and UNESCO-IOC executed LME:LEARN project, together with the International Ocean Institute and convening partners.

The two-day meeting took place at the V&A Waterfront in the Port of Cape Town, South Africa, on 27 - 28 November 2017 to coincide with the first stopover of the [2017-18 Volvo Ocean Race](#), and was directly followed by the [19th Annual Large Marine and Coastal Partners Meeting](#) from 29 November - 1 December as well as the Regional Seas annual meeting on November 29.

The meeting was convened in answer to the calls for implementation of commitments that emanated from the 'United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development' ([UN Ocean Conference](#)), held in New York in June 2017.

As such, the overall goal of the meeting was to enhance cross-sectoral, science-based ecosystem approaches to regional ocean governance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More specifically, the objectives of the meeting were to:

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- Share examples of best practices of existing collaboration between Large Marine Ecosystem projects and programmes, Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans, Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) and other institutions and/or initiatives/projects providing relevant scientific knowledge.
- Propose regional partnerships that build on existing initiatives to strengthen regional ocean science and governance.
- Identify modalities to apply science-based ecosystem approaches at regional level in support of improved ocean governance.
- Describe how regional institutions and projects are utilizing science and how they can support countries to implement ecosystem approaches that will contribute to the 2030 Agenda and associated Sustainable Development Goals (targets and indicators).

The expected outcomes of the meeting were better collaboration among the LME programmes and projects, Regional Seas programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies; better use of science to ensure harmonized regional ocean policies and regional cooperation in an ecosystem context; improved sustainability and impact of Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other marine and coastal interventions, as well as proposals for future partnerships and/or project opportunities demonstrating cross-sectoral collaboration in regional ocean governance.

The meeting was attended by almost 150 participants, including representatives from government ministries and institutions, transboundary and regional bodies, non-governmental organizations, project managers and staff members, donor agencies and LME: LEARN partner agencies, as well as the private sector.



Session 1: Opening Ceremony

Adnan Awad (IOI-SA) welcomed the participants to the meeting, co-hosted by the GEF, IOC-UNESCO, UNDP, UN Environment and FAO, in collaboration with the government of South Africa and local partners. This was followed by an opening session arranged by UN Environment and the Government of Sweden. It included a short performance by young dancers from Project Playground, a local non-profit organization co-founded by Princess Sofia of Sweden.

Cecilia Julian (Ambassador of Sweden to South Africa) commended the hosts for convening the meeting in Cape Town – the ‘ocean city of ocean cities’. She noted that the meeting was an important follow-up activity to the UN Ocean Conference, which was co-hosted by Sweden and Fiji. The Call for Action issued at the conclusion of the UN Ocean Conference included actions to strengthen cooperation and coordination amongst international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships. Sweden participates in two Regional Seas programmes, namely the North East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and the Baltic Sea (HELCOM/Helsinki Convention), and the cooperation is proving beneficial in advancing marine litter issues, ecosystem-based management and marine spatial planning. Ambassador Julian stressed the need for political commitment, science-based decision-making and cooperation between sectors, before wishing all participants good luck for the meeting.

Judy Beaumont (Deputy Director General: Oceans & Coasts, South Africa) noted that Cape Town was experiencing its worst drought on record, and both the intensity and frequency of such extreme events are predicted to increase with climate change. Strong ocean science and enhanced partnerships will lead to a better understanding of climate change, as well as more effective ocean governance. The impact of economic exploitation of the seas and of land-based activities is also recognized, and needs to be built into ocean governance. South Africa’s Operation Phakisa: Ocean Economy programme aims to unlock the economic potential of the oceans, while ensuring effective ocean governance and protection. Activities include the development of a network of offshore MPAs, currently in the negotiation process, and the drafting of a marine spatial planning Bill, which is being debated in Parliament. Regional partnerships through LME and fisheries programmes focus on common regional priorities. Ms Beaumont wished the participants well for their deliberations.

Vladimir Ryabinin (Executive Secretary, IOC/UNESCO) remarked that SDG14 had provided an incentive to address the multitude of problems facing the oceans, but to do so successfully we need to organize ourselves. The UN wishes to help nations to act on a regional level, but recognizes that they have different arrangements for ocean governance. More dialogue is also needed between the various regional and international agreements, and the current meeting is a result of discussions taking place between the host organizations. One of the IOC’s four high-level objectives is to review and enhance knowledge of emerging ocean science issues, such as ocean acidification. The IOC is the custodian agency for the two SDG14 indicators relating to ocean acidification and to scientific knowledge, research capacity and technology transfer, and for the latter is also the focal point for the Community of Action emanating from the UN Ocean Conference.

Andrew Hudson (Head of Water and Ocean Governance Programme, UNDP) noted that the landscape of regional ocean governance has become complex over the years, with overlaps or conflicts in mandates sometimes occurring. There is wide agreement on the need to take a science-based, cross-sectoral, ecosystem-based approach, but capacity to deliver on this varies

across regions. An analysis was undertaken of the frequency of appearance for these three key terms in the framework documentation of the regional ocean governance mechanisms, including Regional Seas Conventions/Action Plans, Regional Fisheries Conventions, Regional Fishery Agreements and the LME Strategic Action Programmes (SAP). The term 'science' was high across all four mechanisms, 'ecosystem-based' was high in SAPs, present in the others but quite limited in the Regional Fishery Agreements, while 'cross-sectoral' or 'intersectoral' coordination was low in all four, apart from a few mentions in the SAPs. This analysis could help identify partnerships and/or avoid conflicts.

Christian Severin (International Waters Focal Area Coordinator and Senior Environmental Specialist, GEF) delivered a welcome address via video. He noted that he was particularly pleased the conference focus was on partnerships, because catalysing long-lasting partnerships with governments, civil society organizations, academia and increasingly the private sector has been critical to the success of the GEF International Waters investments. Partnerships are essential not only for supporting learning and sharing between the freshwater and marine ecosystems, but also for ensuring that the economic potential of the marine, freshwater and open ocean ecosystems is fully unlocked. The GEF wants to ensure that its investments continue to catalyse sustainable development through vibrant regional and national partnerships, with strong buy-in from both the public and private sector.

Lisa Svensson (Director/Coordinator, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UN Environment) shared her 'past, present and future' perspective on ocean governance. In the past a key problem was the lack of governance, and the fact that the science, government and industry (fisheries, shipping, tourism) sectors operated in silos. There was a lack of transparency and public engagement, a fragmented approach to ocean issues, and political buy-in was absent. At present, however, the severity of ocean issues relating to water (droughts, storms and floods), plastic pollution and the depletion of fish stocks have brought the global community together, resulting in the Call for Action at the UN Ocean Conference. Consideration now needs to be given as to how the actions identified can be implemented at the regional level. The Regional Seas programmes are developing protocols on marine litter, but more technology, knowledge, private sector engagement and science is needed. Looking to the future, the question is how we can create an innovation partnership between science, industry and governance, and strengthen collaboration both within Regional Seas programmes and between them? There is much to do with limited resources, so a collaborative approach is essential.

Jacqueline Alder (Programme Coordinator ABNJ and CFI, FAO) welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending. She noted that the UN Ocean Conference had done much to raise awareness about the need for ocean conservation and sustainability. The FAO is the co-focal point for the Community of Action relating to sustainable fisheries, which will deal with issues such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, access of fisheries to new markets, and international law. Ocean governance cuts across sectors, highlighting the need to form strong partnerships. The FAO has a long history of working with stakeholders to strengthen national and regional capacity, and seeks to strengthen and build upon its partnerships.



Matjaž Malgaj (Unit Head: Marine Environment and Water Industry, European Commission) noted via video that the global community had demonstrated its commitment to SDG14 at the UN Ocean Conference, and it is now time to implement the agreed actions to make the world's seas clean, healthy and productive. The Regional Seas have a key role to play in this regard.

Session 2: Key institutions responsible for ocean governance

Session Chair:	Lisa Svensson (UN Environment)
Rapporteur:	Harry Coccossis (University of Thessaly, Greece)
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Present existing roles and responsibilities of regional organizations and scientific networks- Identify possible areas of future cooperation- Discuss objectives for regional cooperation

Summary:

Despite numerous laws, programmes and treaties relating to ocean governance at various levels, the oceans face a multitude of problems. Constraints to solving such problems can be addressed through improved collaboration and cooperation, as well as the evolution of strong partnerships, ranging from informal interaction to formal legal agreements.

Representatives of the key international institutions responsible for ocean governance outlined initiatives to foster cooperation around specific global issues or at a regional level. The existing regional bodies can play a valuable role, for example, in implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), and reporting on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDGs. They also allow member countries to address topics of common interest, exchange information, and even share data. In terms of achieving policy change, regional bodies can potentially achieve more by working together on joint communication, advocacy and public outreach activities.

The concept of a regional platform for collaboration to advance ecosystem-based management was mooted, but while there was clearly interest in strengthening coordination mechanisms, further discussion would be needed about what form this should take to be beneficial to countries, regional bodies and partner organizations.



Ivica Trumbic (GEF LME: LEARN PCU) opened the session by reviewing the agenda and objectives of the meeting, highlighting the following key words from the five objectives: *collaboration*, *best practices*, *ecosystem approach*, *science* and *platform*. He noted that discussing regional experiences and possible areas of collaboration would help to identify elements for the collaborative platform and guide future actions. [[Presentation](#)]

Gail Lugten (University of Tasmania, Australia) gave an overview of instruments and mechanisms for ocean governance, from the 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention to more recent treaties and management measures, as well as programmes and projects such as UN Environment's Regional Seas Programme and Large Marine Ecosystem projects. Improved ocean governance does not necessarily require additional treaties, but can benefit from regionalism and collaboration, using science as the collaborative starting point. [[Presentation](#)]

David Vousden (Rhodes University, South Africa) defined ocean governance as ‘an organised system for the administration of coastal and offshore waters within a legal framework’, and explained its function. He highlighted the importance of collaborative governance in achieving adaptive ocean management, wherein policy is continually reviewed on the basis of new information, monitoring of indicators, and data analysis. Improving this science-policy interface requires interaction and collaboration between the scientific community at the global, regional and national levels, as well as engagement and partnerships with multiple stakeholders. [[Presentation](#)]



Panel Session

Adnan Awad (IOI, South Africa) moderated a panel session on opportunities for cooperation between major stakeholders through institutional perspectives. Each of the panellists first gave a brief introduction to the institution they represented.

Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC-UNESCO) reported that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission was established in 1960 and now has 148 member states. Strategic objectives for the period 2014-2021 focus on healthy ocean ecosystems and sustained ecosystem services; effective early warning systems (e.g. tsunami); resilience to climate change and variability by science-based services, adaptation and mitigation; and emerging ocean science issues. The UN Ocean Conference has achieved a new level of awareness and commitment, and resulted in the launch of nine Communities of Ocean Action, including one on marine and coastal ecosystems management. This awareness will be sustained through the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). [[Presentation](#)]

Merete Tandstad (FAO) noted that collaboration is encouraged by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which guides the work of the Food & Agricultural Organization’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries provides opportunities in this regard because it requires coordination, consultation, cooperation and joint decision-making to achieve its sustainability goals. The Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations facilitate collaboration, which can occur at various levels, as described in the ‘Ladder of coordination’ (Hanssen et al. 2013 & 2014). The optimal coordination level depends

on the specific objectives, problem fields and other contextual factors, as there are costs related to higher levels of coordination. [[Presentation](#)]

Andrew Hudson (UNDP) reported that the most recent strategic plan for the UNDP Water & Ocean Governance Programme includes a formal commitment to strengthen regional collaboration by supporting regional bodies. This could take the form of, for example, helping to integrate their databases, bringing regional bodies together to address unrealized policies and actions, sharing knowledge of best practice in marine spatial planning and integrated coastal management, or mainstreaming ecosystem approaches into offshore mining or coastal aquaculture. Joint communication, advocacy and public outreach may be more effective in reaching decision-makers and achieving policy change.

Lisa Svensson (UN Environment) remarked that a platform for engagement is needed to take the ecosystem approach forward and build political will, and the Regional Seas could function as that platform. The Regional Seas action plans are guided by a global framework, and there is buy-in from governments, but collaboration is needed to build trust, share knowledge and obtain the financial resources required to mobilise the actions.

Nick Bax (on behalf of CBD) noted that the CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) had convened a Global Dialogue in Seoul in September 2016 to facilitate the exchange of experiences and identify options and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs). The goal was to support RSOs and RFBs in their key role in accelerating progress on the Aichi biodiversity targets and the relevant SDGs, which guide the CBD's strategic plan for the period 2011-2020. The 'Seoul Outcome' of the Global Dialogue stressed the need for enhanced cooperation and collaboration at the regional level, and identified a number of follow-up steps. The second SOI Global Dialogue will take place in April 2018. [[Presentation](#)]



Moderated Discussion

Andrew Hudson (UNDP) moderated the discussion, posing the following questions to the panellists:

- Q** How is ocean governance transferred into programmes relating to SDG14?
- Q** How can the private sector and local NGOs be engaged to implement ocean governance?
- Q** What specifications should the platform take to build on the Seoul meeting and the current one as part of an ongoing process to enhance collaboration?
- Q** How does this governance framework foster an enabling environment for ancestral knowledge as a key input to decision-making?



Key points from the discussion:

- Scientists could assist in improving the indicators against which the SDG targets are measured.
- The consideration of regional context in the SDG process should be encouraged in order to facilitate regional ocean governance.
- Marine Spatial Planning is a useful tool both in defining the use structure in regional ocean space and in achieving a sustainable blue economy.
- The FAO's small-scale fisheries guidelines encourage collaboration with local communities, recognize the important role of civil society organizations, and suggest structures for engagement. Community/NGO involvement is especially helpful in obtaining socio-economic information that should be integrated into management discussions, as promoted by the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.
- There is a clearly a groundswell of interest in strengthening coordination mechanisms, but guidance is needed from regional bodies and partner organizations about what kind of information sharing is beneficial.
- Collaboration can be in the form of two parties agreeing to work on several thematic issues, and maintaining a dialogue of information exchange, as in the case of the long-standing OSPAR-NEAFC collaboration.
- Meetings such as the current one are important in providing opportunities for collaboration, sharing knowledge and building trust.

- It is important to include traditional fish markets as a means of accessing socio-economic information and ancestral knowledge, because the lack of organization within small-scale fisheries often hampers efforts to get adequate representation.

Session 3: Best practices of regionally-based science partnerships supporting ocean and coastal governance

Session Chair:	Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC/UNESCO)
Rapporteur:	Katrin Eitrem Holmgren (UN Environment)
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present best practices in fostering regional science cooperation - Show how scientific research and associated frameworks provide advice to decision-making mechanisms
Summary:	<p>Examples presented in this session to show how regional partnerships provide scientific advice to decision-making mechanisms included the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, Global Ocean Oxygen Network, Global Ocean Observing System, Regional MPA Networks, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, as well as the ocean governance framework developed for the first phase of the Caribbean LME project.</p> <p>Best practices in fostering cooperation at a regional level and supporting existing regional partnerships include sharing knowledge and data, developing common approaches, providing technical assistance, conducting capacity-building activities such as training cruises and summer schools, as well as building trust. Regular and sustained interactions are important for building trust between partners, while transparent and efficient organizational structures help to instil the confidence of donors and funders.</p> <p>Challenges include regional differences in knowledge and expertise on stock status, socio-cultural differences that hamper collaboration, the lack of interest by some researchers in policy issues, the limited appreciation of scientific time-frames by fisheries officers, the gap between academics and consumers, and the availability of funding for facilitating personal interaction between potential partners.</p>

Kirsten Isensee (IOC/UNESCO) gave an introductory presentation on key findings from the Global Ocean Science Report – covering aspects such as national expenditure on ocean science, access to data, and national strengths in different ocean science categories – and then focussed on two issues for scientific collaboration. The first, ocean acidification, is being addressed via the nine regional hubs of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, various regional organizations/conventions, and partnerships with shellfish hatcheries. The second, the Blue Carbon Initiative, supports national and international efforts to protect, conserve and restore coastal carbon sinks in the form of mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses as a means of mitigating climate change. [[Presentation](#)]

Panel Session

Jacqueline Alder (FAO) moderated a panel session on key aspects and experiences in building effective science cooperation mechanisms. Each of the panellists first gave a brief perspective on the topic.

Veronique Garçon (CNRS) gave a presentation on regional scientific cooperation around the issue of deoxygenation in coastal waters and the open ocean. Eastern boundary upwelling systems such as those in the Humboldt and Benguela LME regions are particularly vulnerable due to their high productivity, and especially important because they release greenhouse gases. A number of international initiatives have focussed attention on the issue, and in 2016 the Global Ocean Oxygen Network (GO₂NE) was established by IOC-UNESCO to improve knowledge and collaboration. The deoxygenation issue requires multi-scale science support, and innovative solutions are needed, such as the Abalobi app developed for small-scale fishermen by UCT and DAFF in South Africa to increase cooperative governance. [[Presentation](#)]

Merete Tandstad (FAO) delivered a presentation on behalf of **Abdellah Srour** (GFCM). The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean has four subregional committees, as well as working groups and ad hoc workshops on thematic issues including stock assessment, management strategy evaluation, data collection, and specific resources such as eel, red coral and sharks. Scientific research is the foundation for fisheries management decision-making, but there are regional differences in knowledge and expertise on stock status. Two of the five targets of the Mid-Term Fisheries Strategy (2017-2020) therefore focus on strengthening scientific advice and enhancing capacity-building and cooperation. FishForum2018 will be convened in December 2018 to build a lasting network, discuss research trends, integrate scientific knowledge in decision-making and identify research priorities for the coming decade. [[Presentation](#)]

Nick Bax (CSIRO) spoke about the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), which is structured into 13 regional alliances as well as Southern Ocean and Arctic systems. The network of Argo floats, for example, provides real-time observations of temperature and salinity from 2000 m depth to the surface every 10 days, and the data is made available within 24 hours of collection for use in ocean and climate research and prediction. Coordinated monitoring is now also being developed for biological components, to increase understanding of ocean ecosystems and how they change. Recognising that ongoing coordination and capacity development are essential, GOOS is exploring additional opportunities for collaboration. [[Presentation](#)]

Lauren Wenzel (NOAA) discussed the role of regional MPA networks, such as MedPAN, NAMPAN and CaMPAN, in delivering science for ocean governance. Their activities typically include developing regional strategic direction and transboundary priorities, building capacity and developing technical guidance, hosting regional databases, and engaging in policy discussions on MPA issues. Regional MPA networks play a key role in connecting sites to regional and global institutions and policies, and since they share common challenges they benefit greatly from collaboration. The Trans-Atlantic MPA Network was set up by the EU to promote cooperation between MPA managers from both sides of the Atlantic,



partnering in twinning projects to stimulate exchange and the sharing of best practice for effective MPA management. [[Presentation](#)]

Robin Mahon (CERMES) shared experience from the Caribbean in setting up collaborative research goals to support the implementation of ecosystem-based management. There are 147 tertiary-level institutions in the region, but the challenge is to connect science with policy processes. In accordance with an MoU with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies in Barbados established an ocean governance framework for the first phase of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project (2009-2014). Challenges include the lack of interest by some researchers in policy issues, the limited appreciation of scientific time-frames by fisheries officers, and the gap between academics and consumers. It is not clear whether there is a need for a 'middle man' /science translator to bridge this gap. [[Presentation](#)]

Julius Francis (WIOMSA) noted that the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association operates in the 10 countries that are contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention. It was established to provide a platform for addressing common challenges, sharing resources, and linking the scientific community with decision-makers and donors. Initially research was mainly on biological and ecological issues, but good progress has been made in attracting social scientists to work on coastal issues, and its Marine and Coastal Science for Management (MASMA) programme has focussed on the interface between science and management/policy. Building trust between collaborating partners, and also between WIOMSA, its members and potential donors, is facilitated by regular and sustained interaction, WIOMSA's focus on coordination rather than implementation, and a transparent organizational structure incorporating regular elections for Board members and country coordinators. [[Presentation](#)]



Moderated Discussion

Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC-UNESCO) moderated the discussion in response to questions from the floor and the following guiding questions:

- Q** What science (i.e. biological, physical, chemical, and social, cultural and economic) is available to support marine resource management in an ecosystem context? Where are the gaps?
- Q** How can regional observation/monitoring programmes be better aligned and sustained to deliver data to inform regional processes and contribute to global level. What kind of data-sharing mechanisms are needed?
- Q** How do we move away from simple multi-disciplinary (modular) application of the identified science elements and products to achieve a fully integrated (across disciplines) ecosystem-based approach to management? What are the gaps or challenges to achieving this integration? What are the opportunities to advance it?
- Q** How can we ensure stronger involvement from the science and academic communities in supporting the science and capacity development needs of regional organizations and their Member States?
- Q** Is there a need for a dedicated scientific cooperation mechanism at the regional level?



Key points from the discussion and the Chair's wrap-up:

- Sharing research results with fisherfolk can be facilitated through legitimate representative structures that ensure information is taken back to communities. In some areas, the local fishery forums invite scientists to present relevant research.
- Partnerships between both the Mediterranean Action Plan and Black Sea Commission with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are examples of collaboration and science influencing policy-making at the regional level. In the Mediterranean, this has resulted in significant progress on integrated monitoring and assessment of the ecosystem approach, while efforts in the Black Sea have focussed on IUU fishing and regional indicators for fisheries.
- Examples of data-sharing in the Pacific include discussions between SPREP and regional fisheries bodies about collaborating on ocean observations and sharing fisheries surveillance and monitoring data for law enforcement purposes, while oceanographic data and information on IUU fishing is shared between the CPPS countries.
- The LME process has been pivotal in encouraging data-sharing and cooperation, given that both are necessary to produce a TDA. In the Western Indian Ocean the TDA and SAP were jointly done by the ASCLME and SWIOFP, through input from the countries and involvement of other organizations such as the FAO, resulting in strong regional

partnerships. In the BCLME, data-sharing and cooperation between scientists and fisheries paved the way for governmental collaboration between countries that were previously at war.

- Work is in progress to establish mechanisms for sharing data between Regional Fisheries Bodies, Regional Seas and LMEs for operational purposes and State of Marine Ecosystem reporting.
- Socio-cultural differences may create challenges for regional collaboration in science and management, but this can largely be resolved by providing opportunities for people to interact regularly.
- Although fisheries science and management is investigating the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on fish biology and species distribution, the emergence of new ecosystem models has potential to provide more predictive capability.
- There is a need to involve social scientists in our initiatives, and grow networks such as Future Earth, so that they can help translate science into knowledge.
- The Ocean Health Index rolled out by Conservation International in 30 countries is an effort to turn multi-sectoral science into an integrated ecosystem-based management framework. The challenges include the need to balance scientific validity and scope, because there is a trade-off in being large enough to get to the scale of the pressures, but not so large that the science loses meaning.
- Good progress has been made by GOOS in defining essential ocean variables that are measurable, feasible and have an impact, and are also useful for assessments conducted in terms of CBD requirements, for example, but this process could be enriched by including fisheries examples.
- With regard to the need for a dedicated scientific cooperation mechanism at the regional level, there are already some established regional bodies, which should be assisted and supported where possible. A mechanism to facilitate the exchange of information about how requirements for SDGs could be met would be useful, however, as well as possibly allowing the exchange of data that is needed to address the problems facing oceans.



Session 4: Science-policy interface: How science can inform effective regional ecosystem-based ocean governance

Session Chair: Ned Cyr (NOAA)
Rapporteur: Ivica Trumbic (GEF LME: LEARN PCU)
Objectives: - Explore how regional science programmes and assessments contribute to the science-policy interface

Summary:

A variety of mechanisms for translating scientific findings into information that could be used by policymakers and resource managers was presented. In most regional governance bodies, management decisions relating to sustainable fishing and conservation of the marine environment are based on advice from a scientific committee, informed by specialist working groups. Managers nowadays have a better understanding of the questions to ask, and scientific committees are better at responding to their needs. Ecosystem status reports, stock assessments and trend analyses are useful products for conveying scientific information, but require quality assurance, transparency and inclusiveness to ensure they are trusted and accepted by managers.

Regional assessments are important in addressing transboundary resources and ocean basin phenomena that might be overlooked in national assessments, and their appropriate scale is that which captures the critical processes. The current requirements for national, regional and global assessments are straining the scientific community's capacity, however, suggesting that either rationalization or improved scheduling is needed.

Robin Brown (PICES) gave an introductory presentation on PICES, an intergovernmental scientific organization that promotes and coordinates marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas. Its main research programme, FUTURE (Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Marine Ecosystems), uses data obtained from a variety of sources and partners to produce ecosystem status and trend reports, providing information needed for planning and managing fisheries and other activities. However, the plethora of global assessments is straining the scientific community's current capacity, highlighting the need for better coordination. This includes negotiation around indicators and methodology, more efficient scheduling as well as rationalization of assessments, and possibly support in the form of a Technical Support Unit. [[Presentation](#)]

Panel Session

Julian Barbieri (IOC/UNESCO) moderated a panel session on implementing effective science-policy mechanisms, comprising brief presentations by the following panellists.

Hashali Hamukuaya (Benguela Current Commission) noted that the Benguela Current Convention addresses all transboundary environmental problems, rather than only fisheries, and operates on the principle of applying management measures based on the best scientific evidence available. Various regional working groups – focussing for example on small pelagic fish, demersal fish, data information and marine spatial planning – channel scientific advice via the Commission's

Ecosystem Advisory Committee to the Ministerial Conference to inform policy actions at national and regional levels. The participating States recognise the advantages of a regional approach for eventual joint or aligned policies governing maritime activities. [[Presentation](#)]

Jacqueline Alder (FAO) spoke on behalf of **Chris O'Brien** (IOTC) on the topic of science mechanisms in regional fisheries bodies (RFBs). Although there are some 50 RFBs worldwide, only about 20 regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and agreements have a mandate and the capacity for members to adopt binding conservation and management measures based on best scientific evidence. In most RFMOs management decisions relating to sustainable fishing and marine conservation are based on advice from a scientific committee, informed by one or more specialist working groups. The science-management interface is evolving, so nowadays managers have a better understanding of what to ask, and science committees are better at responding to Commission needs. The RFB scientific processes produce datasets that are highly relevant to reporting on Aichi and SDG targets. [[Presentation](#)]

Gaetano Leone (MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat) shared experience of science-policy processes within the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). Although there is no formal science-policy interface (SPI) structure, experience over the past four decades reflects the sound scientific basis of policy- and decision-making, and various protocols and instruments contain provision for SPI. Cooperation between scientists and policy-makers became more important during the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, and the second phase (EcAp MED II project 2015-2018) focusses heavily on SPI strengthening. A science-policy gap analysis was conducted, with policy makers and researchers agreeing on a list of priority scientific gaps that need to be addressed, and proposing means of doing so. The coastal risk index developed for the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework is another example of SPI in practice. [[Presentation](#)]

Merete Tandstad (FAO) reported that the EAF Nansen Programme, funded by Norway and implemented by the FAO in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), has supported developing countries in fisheries research and management for more than 40 years. The programme has evolved from the early exploratory and later resource monitoring surveys using the research vessel *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* to a focus, since 2006, on supporting implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. The current phase, beginning in 2017, gives additional attention to the impact of climate variability and change, pollution and other anthropogenic stressors. Capacity-building remains a major component of the programme, with Africa being the main area of intervention. The science plan was developed in a participatory way with UN agencies and partner countries. [[Presentation](#)]

Gro van der Meeren (IMR/ICES, Norway) spoke about ecosystem-related monitoring, assessments and management advice for the Norwegian, Barents and North Seas. Extensive monitoring surveys on a variety of aspects are conducted, with results reported through ICES Working Groups, and a pressure chart produced every third year. Together with Norwegian ecosystem-based management plans that assess anthropogenic activities, particularly valuable or vulnerable areas can be identified for management action. However, advice from natural scientists in the form of ecosystem status and trends generally lack inclusion of legal, social or economic research, hampering unified measures across management bodies. The Transboundary Water Assessment Programme drew some inaccurate conclusions about the Barents Sea, highlighting the need for global assessments to always include local expertise involved in regional LME assessments. [[Presentation](#)]

Hannah Thomas (UN Environment/WCMC) gave a presentation on strengthening regional governance of the high seas, or areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), which make up 64% of the ocean's surface. The ABNJ Deep Seas Project aims to achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and improve biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: (i) improving sustainable management practices for Deep Sea Fishing (DSF), taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems, (ii) improving the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) and enhanced conservation and management of components of Ecologically or Biologically Sensitive marine Areas (EBSA), and (iii) testing area-based planning tools for deep-sea ecosystems. The project is using two areas in the South-East Pacific and Western Indian Ocean as case studies to develop appropriate assessments and tools, share knowledge and build capacity, and provide the necessary drivers and opportunities for cross-sectoral engagement. It also aims to increase understanding about which approaches, such as marine spatial planning, ecosystem services evaluation and trade-off analysis, are suitable for specific governance contexts. Partnerships and collaborations at all levels are fundamental to improving ABNJ governance. [[Presentation](#)]

Moderated Discussion

Ned Cyr (NOAA) moderated the discussion in response to questions from the floor and the following guiding questions:

- Q** What is the right scale for 'regional' ecosystem assessments and status reports that are intended to influence policy and management?
- Q** What are the most effective forms of regional science-based ecosystem advice and information for policy makers and resource managers? Many different forms exist including ecosystem status reports, integrated ecosystem assessments, stock assessments, etc. Which are truly influential and why?
- Q** What is needed to evolve existing governance structures and institutions to receive and effectively apply integrated ecosystem science products?
- Q** How can partnerships between LME projects, Regional Seas, RFMOs, regional science bodies (e.g., ICES, PICES, IOC subcommissions) be better coordinated to deliver science results to policy and management? Should we be looking to integrate and standardize regional science products to improve effectiveness and reduce overlap and redundancy?

Key points from the discussion and the Chair's wrap-up:

- The right scale for regional ecosystem assessments and status reports is the scale that captures the critical processes, but there has to be latitude to design programmes according to regional drivers and needs.
- Good examples of products that translate ecosystem advice and information for use by policymakers and resource managers exist. Successful products had quality control processes, transparency and inclusiveness in common, ensuring they were trusted and accepted by managers.

- The basic requirement for existing governance structures and institutions to deliver and/or apply integrated ecosystem science products is establishment of a multisectoral framework that will facilitate collaboration and interaction among the above mentioned agencies, as well as time and exposure for managers to consider how best to use the products. Social science can play a critical role in helping managers understand what is important and relevant to society.
- There is geographical overlap in regional programmes, with some successful partnerships, but room for improvement in terms of coordination between them. Careful bottom-up and top-down negotiation is needed to develop effective indicators and methodologies. Regional and global assessments should be better scheduled, perhaps using the IPCC as a model for organizing recurring global assessments.
- Participants noted that collaboration could occur along a spectrum of different activities, as described in the 'Ladder of coordination', and formal structures are not necessarily needed. The LME projects in many cases provided the foundation for ongoing collaboration between regional bodies, but partnerships are often forged by the need to address specific issues in the region. Competition for funding remains problematic.
- It was recognised that scientific links between ocean research and the agriculture, forestry and freshwater use research areas could be improved, but some progress has been achieved. Examples include an FAO webinar series on the ecosystem approach for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, initiatives by IOC-UNESCO to focus attention on the contribution of rivers to LMEs, and the GEF-funded Source to Sea Project. Reducing nutrient input from rivers is a key focus of the Black Sea Commission and the Gulf of Mexico LME. There was general agreement that catchment influences should be considered in regional marine ecosystem assessments.
- Scientific advice and regional policy often fail to get taken up by national policy and implemented because decisions at national level are influenced by unions and political imperatives, with jobs and revenues taking precedence over ecosystem health.



Session 5: Regional partnerships to strengthen ocean governance

Session Chairs: Merete Tandstad (FAO)

Lisa Svensson (UN Environment)

- Objectives:
- Breakout regional sessions will present examples of existing partnerships for regional collaboration in coastal areas and ABNJ, covering models for institutional collaboration as well as models of collaboration between institutions and other partners.
 - Special focus will be on how partnerships can strengthen scientific inputs to existing governance processes at regional level.

Summary:

The breakout regional sessions included a wide variety of partnership models, but a common theme was that successful collaboration is based on trust, honesty, and transparent decision-making, with partners having mutual confidence that both will benefit ('win-win'). Providing opportunities for people to meet and form personal relationships was recognized as a key factor in building trust.

- In the **Latin America and the Caribbean** session, participants heard about the intention by member states of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) to develop an Integrated Regional Ocean Policy once they had advanced their own policies. Mechanisms to strengthen ocean governance in the Caribbean include getting fishers' input to policymaking via the multi-level Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations, and establishing the CLME+ Alliance and Partnership to cater for different levels of commitment to achieving the vision and objectives of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME. The State of the Marine Environment and Associated Socio-Economics in the CLME+ region (SOME) assessment will inform decision-making and create a bridge between the fisheries and environment sectors and other sectors of society.
- In the **Africa** session, it was stressed that there is no 'one size fits all' institutional arrangement for promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the appropriate model should be decided by the countries and organizations involved. There is often reluctance to set up new bodies that cannot be sustained without donor funding. A number of partnership platforms already exist within the region, focussing on research and management in coastal and offshore waters within EEZs, while efforts to promote connectivity to areas beyond natural jurisdiction (ABNJ) are in the early stages. The need to incorporate social and cultural aspects in regional management processes is recognized, and there is a special concern for small-scale artisanal fisheries. Marine Spatial Planning and State of the Coast reporting present opportunities to bring natural and social scientists together.
- In the **Asia and Pacific** session, the presenters showcased examples of partnerships addressing issues such as conservation and management measures for tuna fisheries; the effect of climate change on tuna fisheries and coral reefs; integrated coastal zone management to reduce the risks of coastal erosion and sediment movement; overexploitation of fish stocks, habitat degradation and pollution; and management of ABNJ

fisheries resources and ecosystems. During the discussion it was noted that the economic valuation of ecosystem services can be used to convince countries of the benefits of regional collaboration. In the East Asian Seas, for example, coral reefs are important for sustaining fisheries and tourism revenues. Socio-ecological systems analysis was identified as a useful approach for including the human dimension in ocean governance.

Merete Tandstad (FAO) gave an overview of the objectives of the session, noting that the panellists for the breakout regional sessions had been asked to address the following:

- Examples of good practices in cooperation between institutional actors at coastal versus ABNJ level
- Examples of partnerships between existing institutions, LME projects, other projects and science networks
- What are the actual key scientific issues in the region, and examples of partnerships to improve knowledge and science in support of policies to improve management and governance
- Connectivity between coastal versus ABNJ?
- The role of indigenous regional stakeholders

By the end of each session, the panel moderator should be able to answer the following questions for the region:

- Q What are key elements of successful collaboration?
- Q How is social science integrated in regional management process?
- Q How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities?



Breakout session 5.1 Latin America and the Caribbean

Session Chair and Panel Moderator: Patrick Debels, CLME+
Rapporteur: Mish Hamid, GEF LME:LEARN PCU

Patrick Debels (CLME+) gave an introductory overview on the meeting's goal and objectives as well as the session's guiding questions. He listed possible topics for discussion for each of these questions, and highlighted the need to consider how the questions relate to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG14 targets. [[Presentation](#)]

CNRA Julián Augusto Reyna (CPPS) spoke about the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, created in 1952 to coordinate the ocean policies of its member states – Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The area of jurisdiction extends to the territorial seas and EEZs of the member states, including their islands in the Pacific. The CPPS also acts as the Executive Secretary of the Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas in the Southeast Pacific, which includes Panama. CNRA Reyna gave an overview of scientific focus areas in the region, the ocean policies of the member states and other applicable initiatives or international conventions, and explained that an Integrated Regional Ocean Policy would be developed once the member states had advanced their own national policies. [[Presentation](#)]

Robin Mahon (CERMES) shared experiences from the Caribbean in building the science-policy interface. Research conducted on constraints to the use of science in policymaking for marine ecosystem-based management in the Caribbean was published in 2016. It involved interviewing 102 policy advisors and decision makers in 24 countries to obtain their perspectives. Efforts are being made to get fishers' input to policymaking via the multilevel Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), while marine science laboratories are being engaged through the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC). Research has also been conducted on National Intersectoral Committees as a vehicle for ensuring stakeholder consultation and feedback. [[Presentation](#)]

Patrick Debels (CLME+) gave a presentation on the CLME+ experience in establishing the Global Alliance & Partnership for the sustainable management, use and protection of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LMEs. The core members comprise the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism and countries that have endorsed the CLME+ SAP, the CLME+ Partnership is made up of partner organizations that agree to collaborate and coordinate with the core members, while the Alliance members comprising the broader stakeholder community pledge to contribute to the achievement of the SAP Vision and objectives. A key project output is the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Socio-Economics in the CLME+ region (SOME), a comprehensive, institutionalized and collaborative regional assessment mechanism of the state and governance of the CLME+ shared living marine resources, ecosystem goods and services, and socio-economic aspects related to their use. [[Presentation](#)]

Moderated Discussion

Patrick Debels (CLME+) moderated the discussion, referring back to his introductory overview and highlighting the need to consider how the session's guiding questions relate to SDG14 targets. Key points from the discussion:

Q What are key elements of successful collaboration?

- Engendering trust across partners and stakeholders is important. When two parties collaborate, they should have mutual confidence that both will benefit (win-win).
- An understanding of the roles, mandates and capacity of organizations in a region, ideally through institutional mapping, will help define the need for and scope of collaboration, and avoid duplication of effort.
- Agreements between parties should be clear and transparent.
- The particular issue or cross-cutting theme determines the scope and scale of collaboration.
- Collaboration should help countries achieve their commitments to meeting global objectives.
- Building bridges between governments, civil society and 'blue economy' stakeholders, such as tourism and extractive industry, will require additional financing.
- Exchange of information, including catch statistics, would facilitate regional cooperation.

Q How is social science integrated in regional management process?

- The Ecosystem Approach includes the human dimension, and this should be limited to the evaluation of good and services.
- Implementation of even the best plans will not succeed if the behaviour or reaction of humans is not understood. Social scientists should be involved from the outset.
- Communities need to be empowered to take part in decision-making processes.
- Marine spatial planning provides scope for inclusion of social sciences.
- Additional indicators, such as social justice and human well-being, can be added to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks, such as the GEF Tracking Tool.

Q How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities?

- The partners should use a common definition of indicators that can report to the other frameworks, such as Aichi Targets or GEF Tracking Tool Targets.
- Countries with research vessels can make them available to those who do not.
- No single institution can address all the scientific priorities in a region, but capacity in the form of expertise and facilities can be shared through a network of institutions.
- Partnerships between countries can ensure ecological connectivity between MPAs.
- Partnerships can provide a holistic picture by linking national priorities to regional aspirations.



Breakout session 5.2 Africa

Session Chair and Panel Moderator: Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention/UN Environment
Rapporteur: Natalie Degger, GEF LME: LEARN PCU

Julius Francis (WIOMSA) addressed the guiding questions relating to how social science is integrated in regional ocean governance, and what opportunities exist for partnerships and cooperation among science institutions. The importance of social sciences has long been understood in Integrated Coastal Management, but more recently Marine Spatial Planning has involved social scientists to engage with stakeholders and implement the blue economy. Products such as Regional State of the Coast reports also bring natural and social scientists together. Science institutions in the region have many opportunities for partnerships and cooperation through, for example, the Nairobi Convention or the Group of Experts on Marine Protected Areas in Eastern Africa (GEMPA-EA). Additional opportunities will be provided through upcoming programmes on marine litter, ocean acidification and coastal cities, a new ocean, coasts and islands forum for the Western Indian Ocean region, and an Intellectual Assets Inventory currently being compiled.

David Vousden (Rhodes University, South Africa) shared lessons from the African LMEs concerning challenges and opportunities in cooperation between institutional actors, and reviewed governance mechanisms either adopted or under consideration. The latter either involve establishing a new institution in the form of a formal administrative arrangement with legal status, perhaps linked to a specific new international treaty or convention (a Commission), or using an existing legally-mandated body that already serves a region (a Regional Seas Programme or Regional Fisheries Body). Partnership options range from informal interactions, simple cooperative agreements, formal contractual agreements or a combination of the above, with the countries of the region being best suited to decide which approach to adopt. [[Presentation](#)]

Kwame Koranteng spoke about the role of partnerships for long-term monitoring and opportunities for collaborative research. A multi-faceted approach is needed to deal with all the issues affecting the marine environment, and initiatives such as the Regional Seas programme provide platforms for increasing collaboration between government research and management institutions, UN agencies, LME projects, NGOs and others. The FAO has been a key partner in the ASCLME, SWIOFP and SWIOFC programmes via its implementation of the EAF Nansen Project, and these programmes have also collaborated via the African LME Caucus. However, there are costs to managing partnerships, including unavoidable delays. [[Presentation](#)]

Birane Sambe (CCLME) noted that the CCLME project aims to reverse the degradation of the Canary Current LME caused by overfishing, habitat modification and changes in water quality by adoption of an ecosystem approach. It has eight working groups under three components – Process (TDA, SAP, climate change), Marine living resources, and Biodiversity, habitat and water quality. There is a coordination unit and steering committee at regional level, and national teams in each of the seven countries, as well as interministerial national committees. Collaboration facilitated the identification of the overarching transboundary issues in the TDA and development of the SAP, partnerships have been formed to implement demonstration projects, and a cooperative governance mechanism has been defined. [[presentation](#)]

Hannah Thomas (UN Environment/WCMC) gave suggestions as to where LME projects could be considering ABNJ issues, for example, where there are valuable fisheries, megafauna that are keynote species or have tourism potential, transboundary ocean productivity hotspots, and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), such as Walter Shoal and the Atlantic Seamount. The Agulhas Front is a dynamic EBSA that overlaps national waters, but understanding is needed about how it moves and how best to protect it to contribute to the health of national waters. A partnership is therefore being developed with Dalhousie University, as researchers there are interested in developing tools for dynamic ocean management. Consideration also needs to be given to the impacts of mining in ABNJ on national waters, and how to share benefits equitably.

Vasco Schmidt (SWIOFC) gave an overview of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission and its emerging collaboration with the Nairobi Convention. SWIOFC has a history of cooperating with partner organizations, and in June 2016 a scoping meeting on collaboration between the Regional Seas Body and Regional Fisheries Bodies was convened to explore areas of common interest, objectives and expected outcomes for collaboration. The present status is that SWIOFC and the Nairobi Convention are planning to build cross-sectoral cooperation, with enhanced regional and national collaboration for fisheries and environment management and research. The intention is for increased policy alignment with EAF and EBM, and small-scale artisanal fisheries at regional and national levels will become a major SWIOFC focus.

[presentation]

Moderated Discussion

Dixon Waruinge (Nairobi Convention/UN Environment) moderated the discussion, first asking each of the panellists to give their take-home messages in respect of the three guiding questions, and then opening the discussion to the floor. Key points from the discussion:

Q What are key elements of successful collaboration?

- There is no 'one size fits all' approach to regional collaboration. The countries and organizations involved should decide on the appropriate model and institutional arrangements, and it is the strength of partnerships and level of communication that will determine success.
- Regional Seas and other regional programmes should work with the regional economic commissions (RECs), such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), as well as the African Union (AU).
- Honesty, transparency, mutual trust and dialogue are necessary. Trust can be built by providing opportunities for people to meet and form personal links.
- A clear objective about the activities to be jointly implemented should be defined before collaboration begins. Formal letters of agreement are beneficial.
- An equitable decision-making process is important, with all sides feeling they are represented in the right way.
- Partnerships should be 'win-win', primarily to the benefit of the countries rather than the regional project or programme, and should capitalise on the strength of the partners. They should strive to leave behind a positive legacy.
- Funding is key for cross-regional collaboration.

Q How is social science integrated in regional management process?

- There should be more focus on community-based management of fisheries. Much can be achieved through better management before further investments are made in research.
- A working group dedicated to social sciences can facilitate integration.
- Cultural aspects must be taken into account, rather than only socio-economics.

Q How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities?

- Without partnerships and trust, the ecosystem-based approach will not be successful.
- For partnerships in projects, an emphasis on working at the national level would ensure that mechanisms of cooperation at regional level are more productive.
- Capacity constraints in the region highlight the need for partnerships and coordinated activity between projects, such as joint courses on marine spatial planning.
- The WIOMSA Symposium will be restructured to involve more managers and practitioners in future.
- Collaboration often begins at the national level, supported by universities and NGOs, and can outlast a regional project.



- Partnerships have proved useful in establishing joint platforms for tackling IUU fishing.

- The STRONG High Seas Project launched at the UN Ocean Conference and involving several international and regional partners aims to strengthen ecosystem-based approaches for ocean governance in ABNJ within the South-east Atlantic and South-east Pacific regions.

- Subject-specific working groups are an important vehicle for information exchange.

- Interested parties wanting to engage national governments should understand their mandates and priorities, and explain how these can be addressed by the partnership project.

- The African LME Caucus has been highly successful, and Africa is unique in having LMEs around the entire continent, providing an opportunity to expand regional partnerships to the continental level, with the involvement of the African Union (AU).

Breakout Session 5.3 Asia and Pacific

Session Chair and Panel Moderator: Merete Tandstad, FAO

Rapporteur: Ana Guzman, Conservation International

Valérie Allain (SPC) delivered a presentation by **Hugh Walton** (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency [FFA]) on regional cooperation in the governance of tuna fisheries. The FFA is implementing the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2), which aims to support Pacific SIDS in implementing and enforcing arrangements for the conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fisheries. The warm waters of the western and central Pacific support the world's largest tuna fisheries, which are highly important in terms of revenues and jobs. The FFA and OFMP 2 project contribute to and support meetings and committees of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Key issues currently being addressed are conservation and management measures for tropical tuna and southern albacore, the FFA port state measures proposal, longline monitoring and observer safety. [[Presentation](#)]

Rudolf Hermes gave an overview of Bay of Bengal LME partnerships. The eight countries of the LME and six international partners developed the BOB LME Project to address the major threats of overexploitation of fish stocks, habitat degradation and pollution. The first phase (2009-2015) was a foundational project, its two major outputs being the TDA and SAP. The second phase action programme to implement the SAP will now begin, following the SAP's endorsement by the 16 Ministries responsible for fisheries management and environmental conservation. In accordance with the Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM), project components can be undertaken by operational partners, including national government entities, academia, research and scientific institutions, NGOs, UN agencies or non-United Nations multilateral and intergovernmental organizations. [[Presentation](#)]

Jerker Tamelander (COBSEA/UN Environment) spoke about integrated management of critical coastal habitat in East Asian Seas. The East Asian Seas Action Plan, approved in 1981 and revised in 1994, is steered by the intergovernmental Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), with representatives from nine countries and the secretariat administered by UN Environment. The region contains the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand LMEs, and SAPs and NAPs have been produced for both. Two projects have been developed to implement the SAP for the South China Sea and a system of fisheries refugia in both LMEs. The latter project is executed through the RFO Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), and embodies an ecosystem-based approach. A key research and management focus is on coral reef climate refugia, given that coral reefs are important for both fisheries and tourism in the region. Although the various entities and mandates create governance challenges, there are good examples of integrated approaches based on national capacity, regional networking and partnerships. [[Presentation](#)]

Valérie Allain (SPC) gave a presentation on findings from the GEF-funded OFMP project about climate change impacts on tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Purse-seine effort for the tuna fishery has been shown to follow the El Niño-La Niña east-west movement of warm waters, and climate change is likewise expected to result in warmer seas, as well as increased ocean acidification and altered upwelling, oceanic circulation and nutrient supply. Skipjack, yellowfin, albacore and bigeye tuna have different habitat preferences linked to temperature, oxygen, predators and prey, the former two species favouring warm surface waters. Modelling undertaken during the project studies predict a decrease in skipjack and yellowfin tuna biomasses and an eastward shift in distribution, the main driver being warming sea temperature. The models

are now being refined to improve the accuracy and confidence of the forecast for better management and adaptation. [[Presentation](#)]

Anuja Shukla (IPE Global) discussed the use of science in coastal planning for the State of Odisha, India. An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan is being developed for two stretches of the coast – Paradeep to Dhamra (85 km) and Gopalpur to Chilika (97 km). The project components include a shoreline management plan to reduce the risks posed by coastal erosion and sediment movement. Consultation is taking place with stakeholders at all levels, although community consultation is a very challenging and continuous process. Marine spatial planning is being used to guide management options for human activities to ensure long-term sustainability of offshore resources and biodiversity protection. The project is a first for India, but successful implementation will pave the way for extension of ICZM planning to the rest of the Odisha coast and other areas of the country. [[Presentation](#)]

Aleksandr Zavolokin (NPFC) reviewed progress and challenges in the management of North Pacific ABNJ fisheries resources and ecosystems. The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) Convention entered into force in July 2015, after nine years of negotiation. The NPFC was formed to ‘bridge the gap’ that fell beyond the areas of jurisdiction of other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. To date the NPFC has adopted nine legally binding conservation and management measures (CMMs). The Scientific Committee has developed a research plan for the period 2017-2021 that focusses on stock assessments for target fisheries and bycatch species; the ecosystem approach to fisheries; vulnerable marine ecosystems; and data collection, management and security. Key partnerships are with the FAO, PICES and NPAFC. Data issues and monitoring control and surveillance are currently the main challenges. [[Presentation](#)]



Moderated Discussion

Merete Tandstad (FAO) moderated the discussion structured according to the three guiding questions. Key points from the discussion:

Q What are key elements of successful collaboration?

- Partners should seek to understand one another, identify joint interests and use them to set priorities for collaboration. These should be reviewed regularly to accommodate emerging issues or new priorities.
- Alternatively, partners could come together over a specific problem that needs to be addressed, and have a shared goal for how to approach it together.
- Principles for true sharing and collaboration include building trust and personal relationships, understanding common needs, sharing a common identity and agreeing on a future vision.
- Key challenges are the lack of financial resources, political will and access to data.
- Gaps and overlaps should be understood, and addressed where possible, but complementarity is more important.
- Compatible approaches between different partners or disciplines would strengthen collaboration and knowledge-sharing (e.g. same 'language', measurements).
- Coordination can occur at different levels, including within organizations and between them (e.g. fisheries vs ocean sciences).
- Parties should enter into collaboration with the approach that all will benefit from.
- Partners should express the need for collaboration.
- Partnerships should be forged with existing organizations that are trusted by the countries, rather than setting up new ones. If no suitable organization exists, the countries should be asked to specify their preferred approach.
- The nature of collaboration varies depending on the stage of the project and the goal. Less formal approaches can be taken for scientific collaboration compared to governance collaboration.
- Hanssen's 'ladder of cooperation' describes different levels of collaboration, from simple exchange of information and knowledge at the lowest level to joint measures at the top. Collaboration in support of successful regional ocean governance can be at different levels, depending on the situation at hand.

Q How is social science integrated in regional management process?

- Social science is important in strengthening collaborations and management processes, and should include economic analyses, which are useful in understanding the basis for decisions. Cross-sectoral collaboration involves both economic and social science, while cross sectoral management implies addressing different sectoral policies at all levels.
- The economic valuation of ecosystem services can be used to convince countries of the importance of regional collaboration, given that typically the 'regional management process' is in fact regionally harmonised national management.
- Socio-ecological systems analyses is a useful approach. The ICES Marine Socio-ecological Systems Symposium (MSEAS 2016) addressed this topic, with presentations available on the conference website, and papers in *J Mar Sci* 74: 7.

- The FAO guidelines on small-scale fisheries provide a good framework for social science inclusion, including for civil society and gender aspects. The supporting handbook 'Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development' was recently published.

Q How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities?

- Regional and global partnerships are needed to promote coordination and information-sharing.
- Partnerships can facilitate the regional implementation of global standards for addressing pollution or protecting vulnerable ecosystems and habitats, including mangroves and seagrass beds, and also the development of regional plans of action for fisheries.
- Partnerships with the private sector could result in financial support of regional scientific research. Countries in a region could also contribute funds to a joint 'pot/kitty' to achieve common research goals, or provide matching funds to GEF support.



Session 6: Sustaining regional collaboration for ocean governance

Session Chair:	Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)
Rapporteur:	Jill Raval (UN Environment)
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regional sessions' conclusions, with focus on opportunities for cooperation between regional bodies and finding new means to improve current levels of cooperation- Key factors for sustained cross-sectoral collaboration, drawing on existing experiences and examples- Outline of key principles and considerations for better use of science in support of regional ecosystem-based ocean governance

Summary:

The session began with a report-back from the regional breakout sessions, summarising their responses to the guiding questions on key elements of successful collaboration, the integration of social science in regional management processes, and the potential for partnerships to assist in addressing regional science priorities.

Discussion took place about the feasibility of identifying voluntary regional champions or platforms to take the lead in pushing forward the agenda of collaboration. A panel session then addressed opportunities and challenges for sustained collaboration; the contribution of NGOs to ocean governance; the use of research as a vector of regional cooperation; the ways in which global organizations can support regional cooperation; the mainstreaming of climate changes issues into projects; and the role of funding agencies in promoting sustainable Blue Economies.

The session concluded with a discussion around a number of elements and issues arising from the preceding sessions. This included the proposal to establish an information-sharing platform that could assist in engaging stakeholders to improve regional ocean governance, and also assist countries in their reporting on SDG14 implementation at the regional level. The platform could potentially include a meta-database identifying what datasets are available in the regions. GEF LME:LEARN is willing to assist in building the information-sharing platform. It was noted that CLME+ already has plans to develop a platform giving access to training tools and materials, so funds could perhaps be pooled to expand the scope of the platform.

Mish Hamid (GEF) gave a report-back from the regional breakout sessions, structured according to the three questions that guided their discussions.

Q What are the key elements of successful collaboration?

- Generating trust; equitable decision-making processes; win-win collaborations for countries and projects; setting clear goals and the scope and scale of collaboration; understanding and recognizing roles and mandates through institutional mapping; focus on having a common 'language'; use existing organizations and let countries identify what they need; political will on all levels; availability of sufficient funds; the need to move beyond paper agreements; engaging regional economic commissions.

Q How social science is integrated in regional management processes?

- Recognizing that humans are part of the ecosystem based approach; understanding how decisions are made; including economic considerations in management processes (blue

economy, valuation of goods and services); inviting people from social science fields to regional meetings; engaging the private sector; adding social science indicators such as stakeholder engagement, social justice and human wellbeing; including cultural, social and economic needs from the beginning of the process.

Q How can partnerships assist with addressing regional science priorities?

- Open sharing of data and knowledge exchange; use of surveys to involve countries in the region; establish links to academia to encourage collaboration between countries; local partnerships can be important at the regional level; consider how regional processes can benefit from global partnerships, especially in terms of capacity development; partnerships should leave behind a tangible legacy that showcase the partnership.

The Chair opened the discussion to the floor with a question as to whether there are there any voluntary regional champions or platforms that could take the lead in pushing forward the agenda of collaboration and ensure sustainability beyond the LME projects and the current conference. Key points from the discussion:

- It is difficult to identify one champion in a region because they each cover different issues, with specific mandates and geographical scope. It would be more appropriate to consider an issue or priority action, and then identify the most suitable champion for it.
- Existing frameworks should be used to identify champions, and if the issue is not being addressed by any of the collaborating partners, efforts should be made to strengthen capacity to empower one of them to act as the champion, taking care not to overlook or exclude other organizations in the region that might already be focussing on the issue.
- Government leaders as well as intergovernmental structures can play a critical role in establishing and supporting regional collaboration. However, the obligations of the proposed champions need to be articulated, so that the regional representatives can consult amongst themselves and obtain political and institutional approval before volunteering to take on the role.



Panel session

Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO) moderated a panel session on the feasibility/pragmatic aspects highlighted in the report from the three regions, noting opportunities and challenges for sustained collaboration (best practices for collaboration and key elements). Questions were posed to specific panellists before the discussion was opened to the floor in each case.

Q How do we plan to sustain cooperation between regional partners and ensure further engagement from the countries in the event that the funding dries up?

Gaetano Leone (UN Environment/MAP) responded that existing platforms – both formal and informal – can be built upon, rather than setting up new initiatives, as all that may be needed is facilitating a dialogue. In the Mediterranean, efforts are being made to identify new sources of funding by reaching out to international financial institutions. A strategic decision was made to mobilise resources jointly with existing partners, so the MAP is working with GFCM to approach donors for funding shared interests, such as marine litter and MPAs.

Input from the floor:

- Coordination within a region is advisable before approaching donors to ensure project proposals complement rather than overlap one another.

Q How are NGOs contributing to ocean governance, and are we involving them properly?

Johanna Polsenberg (Conservation International) noted that small, local and regional NGOs should be supported because they can make a real difference in addressing issues on the ground. The big NGOs play a role as boundary organizations, and can create tools like the Ocean Health Index from novel science and roll them out in many countries. They can also identify management needs and relay these to science organizations to help drive more management-based science. The mechanism to engage civil society is to define the context of an ocean governance activity (e.g. problem being addressed or geographical area), consider which stakeholders are most likely to be affected, and then actively reach out to them.

Input from the floor:

- Worldfish has set up a fisheries research development network in Myanmar that provides small grants to help fisherfolk address local problems with assistance from local universities or NGOs.
- In the Pacific, SPREP involves multiple large NGOs in its technical networks and Pacific Island Round Table, because the region's capacity constraints means that it needs all the help it can get, and the big NGOs make a huge contribution in terms of global perspective and skills.
- In the Caribbean, a multilevel fisheries governance structure (CRFN, CNFO) ensures good participation of fisherfolk in many of the regional initiatives taking place.

Q Why are regional partnerships important for researchers in South Africa, and what can we learn from you in setting up regional science priorities? What is the role of research as a vector of regional cooperation?

Mthuthuzeli Gulekana (DEA, South Africa) replied that the countries in the region have common interests in terms of conserving marine ecosystems, optimising resource use and involving all sectors. They decided to approach these issues together, but state their individual needs and priorities upfront. Funding agencies are being asked to engage with African countries as a collective, rather than giving small handouts to individual countries. Collaboration had been broadened through a recent three-month research and capacity-building cruise on the *SA Agulhas II*, conducted as part of the second International Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2), with researchers and young trainees from many different countries. Although collaboration had been difficult initially, it was now proving beneficial to all countries involved.

Input from the floor:

- In the Wider Caribbean Region, there are more than 400 ocean science products being offered by universities and Centres of Excellence, but more than 67% of capacity is held by five countries. IOC is therefore promoting the development of networks of experts and facilities so that all member countries have access to knowledge.
- In the Western Pacific, an ocean acidification observing network was set up two years ago by Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, and these countries are now acting as champions in the region, helping to build capacity within their neighbours and expand the network.
- In the Mediterranean, a postgraduate course on ocean governance is being developed as a regional capacity-building initiative, with the intention that support will be provided to students from eligible countries.

Q How do you plan to implement regional cooperation, and what support do you need from the global organizations to make that collaboration effective?

Jon Lansley (Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement) noted that the SIOFA Agreement provides for contracting parties to cooperate closely with other international fisheries-related organizations, particularly SWIOFC, on matters of mutual interest. In addition, all coastal states with waters adjacent to the area, non-contracting states, relevant intergovernmental organizations (particularly FAO, SWIOFC and RFMOs) and NGOs have automatic observer status at SIOFA meetings, and can participate in discussions and submit relevant documents. A good partnership has been established with the FAO via the ABNJ project. Other global organizations could potentially assist in terms of provision of data and financial support for meeting attendance and project participation.

Input from the floor:

- One possible model for implementing the intergovernmental agreement on ABNJ area-based management that is in the process of being negotiated is to use existing regional organizations to build data-sharing, capacity development, and technology transfer mechanisms.

- In collaboration with partner organizations, PICES is building capacity in the region by taking in early career professionals to give them experience in working in international organizations, which are typically difficult to break into. GOOS is taking the approach of helping countries to build capacity to monitor and manage resources in their own EEZs, and in the process equip them to engage more fully in international negotiations.
- Intergovernmental regional organizations, such as SPREP, do not currently have a mandate to work beyond the member countries' borders, and would need to build capacity in order to implement ABNJ area-based management. The ABNJ Deep-Seas Project is working with willing organizations to explore how this can be addressed, and to find practical ways of delivering an ecosystem-based approach in ABNJ areas.

Q How are we mainstreaming climate change issues at project level? Can we build regional cooperation into these projects?

José Vicente Troya (UNDP) explained that national fisheries or environmental authorities are asked in the early stages of project development to identify conservation or management issues likely to be affected by climate change, potential long-term solutions to build resilience, and the barriers to implementing those solutions. Climate variability needs to be factored into the management of shared stocks, to allow for adjustment of fishing quotas. If a regional approach is not taken in addressing the impacts of climate change, there is a risk of affecting the integrity of transboundary ecosystems and resources.

Input from the floor:

- A regional approach to mainstreaming climate change adaptation has been taken by contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. Since the Convention applies to coastal areas of the Mediterranean, the ICZM Protocol was a natural tool to mainstream climate change adaptation into plans and programmes. A regional climate change adaptation framework was also developed, and various projects are now being considered.
- Annual research cruises have long been conducted within the CPPS region to monitor El Niño-La Niña conditions, but a new five-year project is being developed to understand recent extreme climate events that do not coincide with El Niño.
- The Benguela Current Commission has a GEF-funded project focussed on coastal communities that depend on fisheries resources for food security and livelihoods. The aim is to develop adaptation strategies that can be mainstreamed into the national governments' own plans.
- The Nairobi Convention reviewed the national climate strategies and found very little related to oceans, so it prepared a regional climate change strategy to complement the national strategies.

Q How you can be sure what you are putting into YSLME will be rewarded?

Yinfeng Guo (YSLME/UNOPS) noted that the TDA/SAP process for the Yellow Sea LME project had ended in 2009, and PR China and Republic of Korea are working together to implement the SAP targets, one of which is a 25-30% reduction in fishing effort. Fish stocks were seriously overexploited, to the point that feeding behaviour of some species had changed. The countries

are taking joint measures to address this, such as extending closed seasons. Management challenges include how to maintain ecosystem-based management, as promoted by the project, to create a long-term sustainable mechanism, overcoming concerns about data-sharing, dealing with transfer of responsibility between departments, and communication problems.

Q How can financial institutions help strengthen regional cooperation, and through these mechanisms can we develop a regional approach to promote sustainable Blue Economies?

Xavier Vincent (The World Bank) replied that, in short, we can and we must. An integrated regional approach is needed if we want to promote Blue Economies, to avoid the activities in one country adversely affecting another. The World Bank provides financing at a national level for projects that support the long-term regional vision. It can also play a role in breaking down silos, by promoting fisheries management with the Ministry of Finance, for example. Innovative financing mechanisms will have to be identified in order to scale up activities. We need to find new sources of funding such as philanthropies, and explore financial instruments such as debt swap and regional funds.



Elements for a discussion on aspects of closer collaboration in regional ocean governance

Ivica Trumbic (GEF LME: LEARN PCU) reiterated that the meeting was a result of the common desire of several stakeholders to get together to discuss issues of common interest that will lead to better and more efficient regional ocean governance. Much had been discussed over the two days, and the following summary points had been collated as a result. They are not recommendations, but simply ‘elements for discussion’:

1. The meeting reviewed numerous instruments and mechanisms for ocean governance implemented by various organizations, and highlighted the role of science as ‘the best collaborative point’ to establish connectivity for regional ocean governance.
2. It was noted that the Ecosystem Approach is an essential condition for the continued long-term science-based collaboration in regional ocean governance, and that continuing and strengthening collaboration is needed.
3. Capacity development, including institutional strengthening, is needed for implementing the Ecosystem Approach.
4. Interactions among relevant stakeholders towards better regional ocean governance should make use of best existing practices and respect existing mandates.
5. There is a need of open access scientific knowledge as a foundation for policy on all levels: national, regional and global. A mechanism of how to translate science into policy is needed.
6. The meeting recognized the importance of interregional collaboration for sharing lessons learned/experience and to create synergy among regional initiatives and/or activities.
7. The opportunities for collaboration in regional ocean governance should begin with cross-sectoral information and knowledge-sharing, discussion forums, and other actions that contribute to achieving improved ecosystem-based management.
8. An information-sharing platform should be established, which would assist in engaging stakeholders to improve regional ocean governance. This platform should help build up trust among regional ocean governance stakeholders, assist countries in strengthening their inter-ministerial cooperation in ocean matters, build up awareness on ocean matters, stimulate inclusion of private sector in regional ocean governance, identify capacity development opportunities, and assist in mobilizing financial resources. This platform would also assist countries in their reporting on SDG14 implementation at the regional level.

9. GEF LME:LEARN is willing to assist in building the information-sharing platform. To that end, a common structure of the platform should be developed, a specific website should be established, and current mechanisms and tools should be utilised.
10. A regional meta-database should be developed containing information on existing data sets, scientists' directories using IOC's Ocean Expert, information about institutions acting in the regions, existing projects and programmes, etc. The meta-database could be part of the information-sharing platform.
11. The immediate follow-up to this meeting should be preparation of a feasibility study to see if there is sufficient demand for the action proposed by this meeting, what are the existing platforms and how they could be utilised to complement the desired objective, and whether there is an adequate degree of sustainable for this initiative. The feasibility study should be followed by a guidance document that will:
 - help guide actions that match short-term and long-term goals of the platform;
 - communicate the logic and rationale for getting results at the end of a defined timeline by offering a shared vision (endpoint), where we are now, what are the options (steps and milestones) for getting there i.e. along the road, and show how each action will contribute to the planned outcomes; and
 - identify resources required to achieve the stated goal.
12. Transboundary interactions between LMEs, Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries Bodies and adjacent high seas areas are critically important. Therefore a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and interactive process is needed to identify what the priority issues are for LMEs and areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), who might be the key partners, and what potential conflicts and synergies there may be with other stakeholders.

Moderated Discussion

Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP) noted that the IW:LEARN portal currently has information only on GEF projects, but the intention is to expand this to include Regional Seas programmes, fisheries organizations and other partners. No data would be added, only information on what datasets are available in the regions (metadata). The discussion was then opened to the floor, and the following suggestions and comments made:

- In the second bullet, add capacity development for implementing the Ecosystem Approach.
- The language needs to be stronger, so consider changing 'could' throughout to 'should' or 'it is proposed that'.
- CLME+ intends developing a platform that gives access to training tools and materials, so funds could perhaps be combined with IW: LEARN to develop this into something bigger.

- On the capacity development issue, we need to prepare the upcoming generation on how these regional processes work, and get the right people into training programmes.
- A MOOC on Large Marine Ecosystems assessment and management is being developed by UCT and NOAA, with support from IW:LEARN and contributions from the global community of LME partners and projects. This online course will be useful for capacity development, and an annotated bibliography of LME-relevant publications has also been developed, which can be added to the IW:LEARN meta-database.
- The mention of stimulating inclusion of the private sector in the 6th bullet should be more specific on how to do that, perhaps putting some relevant sectors in brackets, and indicating that these would be win-win partnerships.
- The private sector is more amenable to forming partnerships around social and economic issues than the ecosystem-based approach, so if we want to engage them we should be moving towards a socio-ecological systems approach in future.
- Socio-economic factors already feature strongly in the LME approach, which is built on five modules – productivity, fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socio-economics and governance. Furthermore, the ecosystem-based approach strives to find a balance between ecosystem well-being and social well-being through good governance.
- There needs to be some mention of ABNJ, perhaps stating that we need to identify what the priority issues are for ABNJ, who might be the key partners we should be working with, and what conflicts there may be with other stakeholders.
- Transboundary interactions between LMEs and adjacent high seas areas are critically important, so ABNJ issues must be included.
- Perhaps in the capacity development bullet or elsewhere, there should be an explicit declaration of who we believe the stakeholders are, and ensure it includes traditional and local ecological knowledge. Science must be translated to marine users on the ground, in addition to decision-makers.
- A list of experts on a common digital platform would allow transboundary and intersectoral interactions to be continued beyond these kind of meetings.
- The bullets should include an explanation of what is meant by governance. A definition was provided in the presentation ‘Delivering adaptive ocean management through collaborative governance’ in Session 2.
- In addition to capacity development, career development should be considered, and this could possibly benefit from cooperation at a global scale. The opportunity to grow in a job and have promotion prospects (‘HR issues’) are as critical as skills for sustaining capacity.
- Institutional strengthening should be highlighted as an important component of capacity development.
- The bullet about the information-sharing platform mentions that it could assist in mobilizing financial resources. This would be useful, because it is still not clear how to engage private sectors and what kind of approach should be taken when seeking financing from them.
- Marine spatial planning is a relatively new field, so job/project opportunities may need to be opened up to people from outside a region to attract those with the necessary skills.

- Stakeholders from the shipping, mining and other sectors have not been included in these discussions, so no recommendations should be made before consulting them, although for ABNJ issues a process is already taking place.
- The Chairman concluded the session by inviting all participants to suggest national, regional and global stakeholders who could be involved in such processes to help implement ecosystem-based management.



Session 7: Closure of the meeting: The way forward

Session Chair: Andrew Hudson (UNDP)

Rapporteur: Mish Hamid (GEF LME:LEARN PCU)

Objectives: - Present conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

Summary:

Representatives of the convening partner organizations were invited to share their ‘take-home message’ from the meeting, and indicate their follow-up actions to further the goal and objectives of the meeting. Opportunities for wider engagement and further collaboration include the Communities of Action emanating from the UN Ocean Conference, the declaration of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), the various initiatives to increase governance of ABNJ, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative’s next Global Dialogue in April 2018, and the linkages between LME programmes, Regional Seas and RFBs.

Panel session

Adnan Awad (IOI-SA) moderated a panel session based on the following questions:

Q What is your ‘take-home message’?

Q What will be the follow-up actions of your organization to implement the recommendations of the meeting?

Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC/UNESCO) noted that the problems are complex and IOC will continue to provide support in trying to find solutions. For example, earth system models can now resolve many processes, but education is needed to ensure this information can be used by operators on the ground, which could be facilitated by the proposed CLME+/IW:LEARN platform. There is a need both to promote cutting-edge science on the manifestations of climate change, and to spearhead capacity development. The IOC and GEF are going to be focal points for a Community of Action focusing on capacity development in ocean science. Opportunities to engage more widely will also be presented by the UN General Assembly’s expected adoption [adopted 5 December 2017] of the ‘Oceans and the Law of the Sea’ resolution, which has a strong capacity-building and ocean science focus, and will declare the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development beginning in 2021. Having obtained support at the UN level, efforts can focus on getting all nations contributing to the process.

Jacqueline Alder (FAO) said the take-home message to FAO management is that the meeting had confirmed the FAO is making progress on collaborating on the Ecosystem Approach, but still has some way to go, especially with certain potential collaborators. It had also confirmed that regional specificities determine the scope, scale and content of any collaboration. FAO has committed to work with others to ensure fisheries contribute to overall development goals, and also committed to collaborating on projects, programmes and initiatives where FAO can support and strengthen the delivery of the Ecosystem Approach, especially when it relates to fisheries and aquaculture. As requested by countries, FAO stands ready to support building of capacity and creating the enabling conditions for the Ecosystem Approach, including meeting their commitments related to regional ocean governance. It recognizes that capacity development and other support may be at both national and global levels. While FAO can use its influence in its existing networks and

regional bodies, decisions to take action are ultimately theirs. The FAO is already working closely with UN Environment to implement LME and other Ecosystem Approach projects, as well as linking the Regional Seas, RFMOs and RFBs in CBD initiatives. It is responsible for the GEF ABNJ programme, which includes the Deep Sea Project that is exploring the notion of integrated management of specific ABNJ regions with regional secretariats and other relevant agencies, such as IMO and the International Seabed authority. Follow-up action will focus on developing new and strengthening existing collaborations with various partners on fisheries and aquaculture matters, continuing to contribute as requested to appropriate platforms, and encouraging their expansion to improve cross-sectoral representation.

Lisa Svensson (UN Environment) presented five take-home messages:

- (i) Regional Seas Programmes and RFMOs provide a good framework for collaboration and action. The first step of successful partnerships should be a formal agreement outlining mutual expectations and priorities.
- (ii) The LMEs could be used for scaling up implementation of the mandates agreed by the parties in the context of those regional bodies.
- (iii) Science and policy interaction would benefit from a semi-formal process and structure.
- (iv) Resources are essential, but how do we get financial institutions as partners. Trust between parties, dialogue and transparency, and the voluntary approach are crucial. Engaging with local NGOs and local communities is essential. Science is a decision-making tool, and social and economic sciences should be included in this dialogue.
- (v) We need to draw attention to political blocks of organization, such as the EU, to get political and economic buy-in and credibility.

Follow-up actions:

- (a) Could we find joint action, particularly on fisheries of mutual interest, marine spatial planning, protected species and water quality?
- (b) The CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative has a Global Dialogue scheduled for April 2018. How do we make sure we engage them in this process, not start a parallel process, and build on the work already done?
- (c) Engage civil society in regional proposals.
- (d) There is a need for Regional Seas and RFBs and LMEs to share experiences on a regional level, while the current meeting would be a useful forum if held on alternate years.
- (e) How do we take this meeting forward? It should be formalized a bit more.
- (f) We should encourage regional meetings between fisheries and LME organizations that also involve the member states, who are the stakeholders behind our organizations.
- (g) We should be reporting on this pilot as we move forward to a permanent mechanism.

Andrew Hudson (UNDP) listed the following take-home points:

- (i) Money talks – financing is important in driving the relevant cooperation activities
- (ii) 'Win-win' – clarity and agreement on the outcomes of cooperation between parties involved, so they both see net benefits, is crucial. Avoid cooperation for cooperation's sake.
- (iii) SDG14 – a key driver because it explicitly references ecosystem-based approaches.
- (iv) Socio-economics – regional mechanisms could possibly put together cogent, persuasive socio-economic analyses to present to decision-makers in making the case for ocean governance and management reforms.
- (v) Focus – given resource constraints, regional mechanisms should perhaps limit themselves to working on transboundary issues rather than national ones.
- (vi) Freshwater – important to ensure cooperation between downstream ocean management organizations and upstream river-basin organizations.

(vii) Outcomes – while the TDA/SAP approach has been useful in advancing ecosystem-based and cross-sectoral approaches, the way in which these principles are mainstreamed and sustained is up to the countries. In the medium to longer term, the Regional Seas programmes or RFBs may be the ultimate custodians of the values the LME approach may have brought to shared waters, and may have to take responsibility for maintaining that LME-type momentum.

Follow-up actions:

- (a) The UNDP will strive to build upon its existing and emerging portfolio of support to LMEs, Regional Seas and RFBs, with the aim of identifying win-win opportunities for collaboration between them.
- (b) It will look at project workplans and budgets to see if activities could be tweaked to further cross-mechanism cooperation. In GEF7 there will be more scope to include specific activities in projects to build and strengthen cooperation linkages.
- (c) It will discuss with LME:LEARN the idea of finding resources to conduct institutional mapping – defining geography, mandates and thematic focus – which could be used to inform future discussions like the current meeting, as well as day to day interactions.

The meeting was brought to a close after a round of thanks to all participants for their attendance and input, and to the organizers and support staff for their assistance.



Annex 1: Agenda

27-28 NOVEMBER 2017
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



**BUILDING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE SCIENCE-BASED
ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES IN SUPPORT OF
REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE**

Organizers of the Meeting

GEF, IOC, UNDP, UN Environment, FAO

Main venue of the Meeting

Workshop17, The Warehouse, 17 Dock Road, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town

Meeting's Goal

To enhance cross-sectoral, science based ecosystem approaches to regional ocean governance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objectives of the Meeting

- To strengthen regional governance mechanisms through enhanced collaboration between Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programmes, Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations).
- To share examples of best practices of existing collaboration between Large Marine Ecosystem projects and programmes, Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans, Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) and other institutions and/or initiatives/projects providing relevant scientific knowledge.
- To propose regional partnerships that build on existing initiatives to strengthen regional ocean science and governance.
- Identify modalities to apply science-based ecosystem approaches at regional level in support of improved ocean governance.
- Describe how regional institutions and projects are utilizing science and how they can support countries to implement ecosystem approaches that will contribute to the 2030 Agenda and associated Sustainable Development Goals (targets and indicators).

Expected Outcomes

- Better collaboration among the LME programmes and projects, regional seas programmes and regional fisheries bodies achieved.
- Better use of science to harmonized regional ocean policies and regional cooperation in an ecosystem context.
- Improved sustainability and impact of Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other marine and coastal interventions.
- Proposals for future partnerships and/or project opportunities demonstrating cross-sectoral collaboration in regional ocean governance.

Invited organisations, projects and experts

- Representatives of the Regional Seas Programmes
- Representatives of the Regional Fishery Bodies including Regional Fishery Management Organizations
- Representatives of the Large Marine Ecosystems projects and transboundary commissions
- Representatives of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation, UN Environment, United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, International Maritime Organization, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, Global Environment Facility and other GEF agencies implementing GEF LME projects, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, World Bank. Regional Development Banks
- LME: LEARN Partners
- Representatives of GEF Projects on ICM, MSP, MPA, ABNJ, fisheries, and other, as relevant

Sunday 26 November 2017

Registration

Time	15:00 – 17:00
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Venue	Workshop17
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Welcome and ice-breaker (Sponsored by: International Ocean Institute – African Region, Cape Town & Western Cape Convention Bureau and WorldSport)

Time	17:00 – 19:00
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Venue	WorldSport Hospitality Pavilion
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MONDAY 27 November 2017

Registration

Time	08:00 – 09:00		
Venue	Workshop17		
Session (Plenary)	1-Opening session		
Session Moderator	Adnan Awad, IOI		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the Session
09:00 09:20	Performance	NGO Project Playground	
09:20 09:35	Opening speech	Cecilia Julian, Ambassador of Sweden to South Africa	
09:35 09:50	Opening speech	Representative from the Ministry of Environment, South Africa	
09:50 10:20	Welcome addresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vladimir Ryabinin, UNESCO • Andrew Hudson, UNDP • Global Environment Facility (GEF) 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lisa Svensson, UN Environment• Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	
10:20 10:30	Closing of opening ceremony: Short performance	NGO Project Playground	
Networking coffee break 15 minutes (10:30 – 10:45)			
Session (Plenary)	2 – Key institutions responsible for ocean governance		
Session Chair	Lisa Svensson, UN Environment		
Rapporteur	Harry Coccossis, University of Thessaly, Greece		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the Session
10:45 10:50	Review of the agenda and objectives of the meeting	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME: LEARN PCU	Present existing roles and responsibilities of regional organisation and scientific networks. Identify possible areas of future cooperation. Discuss objectives for regional cooperation.
10:50 11:05	Overview of existing instruments and mechanisms for ocean governance and major stakeholders	Gail Lugten, University of Tasmania, Australia	
11:05 11:20	Delivering Adaptive Ocean Management through collaborative Governance	David Vousden, Rhodes University, South Africa	
11:20 12:00	Panel discussion: Opportunities for cooperation between major stakeholders through their institutional perspectives Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC-UNESCO• Merete Tandstad, FAO• Andrew Hudson, UNDP• Lisa Svensson, UN Environment• Nick Bax (on behalf of CBD)	Panel Moderator : Adnan Awad, IOI	
12:00 12:30	Moderated discussion on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples of best practices of existing collaboration• What is the role of regional organisations/initiatives in the implementation of the ocean related SDGs	Discussion Moderator: Andrew Hudson, UNDP	
Lunch 90 minutes (12:30-14:00)			
Session (Plenary)	3 – Best practices of regionally-based science partnerships supporting ocean and coastal governance		
Session Chair	Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO		
Rapporteur	Katrin Eitrem Holmgren, UN Environment		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the session

14:00 14:15	Setting the stage: Regional science partnerships and networks in LMEs, RSs, and RFMOs	Kirsten Isensee, IOC/UNESCO	Present best practices in fostering regional science cooperation.
14:15 15:15	<p>Panel session: Key aspects and experiences in building effective science cooperation mechanisms (5-6 minutes each).</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional scientific cooperation on Eastern Boundaries upwelling impacts: Example from the Humboldt and Benguela LME region (Veronique Garçon, CNRS) 2. Science processes within regional fisheries organizations: Example from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean – GFCM (Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive Secretary) 3. Sustained ocean observation networks and applications to strengthen understanding of ecosystem function and biodiversity changes at regional level (Nick Bax, CSIRO, Australia) 4. Role of regional MPA networks in providing a regional approach for science to support effective MPA management (Lauren Wenzel, NOAA) 5. Setting up collaborative research goals to support EBM implementation: From regional science plan to Action plan - Experience from the Caribbean (Robin Mahon, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies –CERMES, Barbados) 6. Regional Science Networks: Example of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, (Julius Francis, WIOMSA) 	Panel moderator: Jacqueline Alder, FAO	Show how scientific research and associated frameworks provide advice to decision-making mechanisms.

15:15 16:00	Moderated Discussion: Wrap up and “take-home” message from the Session Chair.	Moderator: Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO	
Networking coffee break 15 minutes (16:00 – 16:15)			
Session (Plenary)	4 - Science-policy interface: How science can inform effective regional ecosystem-based ocean governance		
Session Chair	Ned Cyr, NOAA		
Rapporteur	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME : LEARN PCU		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the Session
16:15 16:30	Setting the Stage: Bridging the gap between policy and science in assessing marine ecosystems	Robin Brown, PICES	How regional science programmes and assessments contribute to the science-policy interface.
16:30 17:10	<p>Panel session: Implementing effective science/policy mechanisms (5-6 minutes each).</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Case of LME Benguela Current (Hashali Hamukuaya, Executive Secretary, BCLME Commission) 2. Science -policy issues in tuna bodies (Chris O’Brien, IOTC Executive Secretary) 3. Science-policy processes within Mediterranean Action Plan (Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan- Barcelona Convention Secretariat) 4. Building regional knowledge and technical capacity for Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries: Example of the EAF Nansen Programme (Merete Tandstad, FAO) 5. Ecosystem-related monitoring, assessments and management advice for the Norwegian and Barents Seas (Gro van der Meeren, IMR/ICES, Norway) 6. Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas (Hannah Thomas, UN Environment/WCMC) 	Panel moderator: Julian Barbieri, IOC/UNESCO	

17:10 18:00	Moderated Discussion: General discussion on way forward and “take-home” message from the Session chair.	Moderator: Ned Cyr, NOAA	
Collaborating4Oceans and Reception (Sponsored by UN Environment)			
Time	19:00 – 21:00		
Venue	WorldSport Hospitality Pavilion		



TUESDAY 28 November 2017

Session (Plenary)	5 – Regional partnerships to strengthen ocean governance		
Session Chairs	Merete Tandstad, FAO Lisa Svensson, UN Environment		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the Session
09 :00 09 :30	Objectives and outputs of the breakout regional sessions	Merete Tandstad, FAO Lisa Svensson, UN Environment	Each regional session will present examples of existing partnerships for regional collaboration in coastal areas and ABNJ covering models for institutional collaboration as well as models of collaboration between institutions and other partners. Special focus will be on how partnerships can strengthen scientific inputs to existing governance processes at regional level.
Breakout Session 5.1	Latin America and the Caribbean		
Session Chair	Patrick Debels, CLME+		
Rapporteur	Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, IOC/UNESCO		
Venue	The Commodore Hotel, American Cup Room		
Time	Title	Name	
09:30 11:00	Panel session (panelists TBD): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples of good practices in cooperation between institutional actors at coastal versus ABNJ level• Examples of partnerships between existing institutions, LME projects, other projects and science networks• What are the actual key scientific issues in the region, and examples of partnerships to improve knowledge and science in support of policies to improve management and governance• Connectivity between coastal versus ABNJ?• The role of indigenous regional stakeholders	Panel Moderator: Patrick Debels, CLME+	
Networking coffee break (11:00 – 11:15)			
11:15 12:30	Moderated discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are key elements of successful collaboration?• How is social science integrated in regional management process• How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities?	Discussion Moderator: Patrick Debels, CLME+	

Breakout Session 5.2	Africa	
Session Chair	Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention/UN Environment	
Rapporteur	Natalie Degger, GEF LME :LEARN PCU	
Venue	Workshop 17 Room 1	
Time	Title	Name
09:30 10:15	Panel session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julius Francis (WIOMSA): How is social science integrated in regional ocean governance and what are the opportunities for partnerships and cooperation among science institutions? • David Vousden (Rhodes University, South Africa): Challenges and opportunities in cooperation between institutional actors at regional ocean level and within LMEs • Kwame Koranteng: Role of partnerships for long-term monitoring and opportunities for collaborative research 	Panel moderator: Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention/UN Environment
10:15 11:00	Panel session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abou Bamba: Potential for partnerships and integration/synergy between LMES/Regional Seas/Regional Fisheries Bodies • Birane Sambe, CCLME: Environment and Fisheries Partnership for the implementation of the CCLME project • Vasco Schmidt, SWIOFC: Emerging collaboration with the Nairobi Convention 	Panel Moderator: Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention/UN Environment
Networking coffee break 15 minutes (11:00 – 11:15)		
11:15 12:30	Moderated discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are key elements of successful collaboration? • How is social science integrated in regional management process • How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities? 	Discussion Moderator: Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention/UN Environment

Breakout Session 5.3	Asia and Pacific		
Session Chair	Merete Tandstad, FAO		
Rapporteur	Ana Guzman, CI		
Venue	Workshop 17 Room 2		
Time	Title	Name	
09:30 09:45	Regional cooperation in the governance of tuna fisheries	Hugh Walton, Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	
09:45 10:00	The BOB LME partnership	Rudolf Hermes	
10:00 10:15	Integrated management of critical coastal habitat in East Asian Seas	Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA/UN Environment	
10:15 10:30	Climate change impacts in the Pacific, lessons learned from the GEF-OFMP project	Valerie Allain, SPC	
10:30 10:45	Use of science in coastal planning: ICZM Plan of the State of Odisha, India	Anuja Shukla, IPE Global	
10:45 11:00	Bridging the gap in management of fisheries resources and ecosystems in the North Pacific ABNJ: Progress and challenges	Aleksandr Zavolokin, North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)	
Networking break 15 minutes (11:00 – 11:15)			
11:15 12:30	Moderated discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are key elements of successful collaboration? • How is social science integrated in regional management process • How can partnerships assist with addressing the regional scientific priorities? 	Discussion Moderator: Merete Tandstad, FAO	
Lunch 90 minutes (12:30-14:00)			
Session (Plenary)	6 - Sustaining regional collaboration for ocean governance		
Session Chair	Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP		
Rapporteur	Jill Raval, UN Environment		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the Session
14:00 14:30	Report from the three regional breakout sessions with a focus on the shared practices for interacting with regional bodies and the key elements of successful collaboration	Mish Hamid, GEF LME: LEARN PCU	Regional sessions' conclusions with focus on opportunities for cooperation between regional

14:30 15:45	<p>Panel discussion: Reflections on the feasibility/pragmatic aspects that are highlighted in the report from the 3 regions noting opportunities and challenges for sustained collaboration (best practices for collaboration and key elements). Panelists will focus on key factors for sustained collaboration (with one panelist focusing on one of financial, institutional, technical, scientific, managerial and other subjects), based on experience shared by partners present at the meeting</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP • Mthuthuzeli Gulekana, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa • Xavier Vincent, The World Bank • José Vicente Troya, UNDP • Jon Lansley, Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement • Yinfeng Guo, YSLME/UNOPS • Johanna Polsenberg, CI 	Panel moderator: Julian Barbiere, IOC/UNESCO	<p>bodies and finding new means to improve current levels of cooperation.</p> <p>Key factors for sustained cross sectoral collaboration drawing on existing experiences and examples.</p> <p>Outline of key principles and considerations for better use of science in support of regional ecosystem-based ocean governance</p>
Networking coffee break 15 minutes (15:45 – 16:00)			
16:00 16:15	Elements for a discussion on aspects of closer collaboration in regional ocean governance	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME: LEARN PCU	
16:15 17:30	Moderated discussion	Discussion Moderator: Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP	
Session (Plenary)	7 – Closure of the meeting: The way forward		
Session Chair	Andrew Hudson, UNDP		
Rapporteur	Mish Hamid, GEF LME:LEARN PCU		
Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the Session
17:30 18:00	<p>Closing Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO • Jacqueline Alder, FAO • Lisa Svensson, UN Environment • Andrew Hudson, UNDP 	Panel Moderator: Adnan Awad, IOI	Present conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

Annex 2: List of Participants

Please refer to the meeting Photobook for contact details, which can be downloaded from the meeting [webpage](#).

Last Name	Title	First Name	Affiliations
Akester	Mr	Michael	Bay of Bengal LME Project & Country Director: WorldFish -Myanmar
Akrofi	Ms	Joana	Programme Officer: Assessment Division, UN Environment
Alder	Dr	Jackie	Programme Coordinator: ABNJ and CFI, UN Food and Agriculture Organization
Allain	Dr	Valerie	Secretariat of the Pacific Community & Pacific SIDS Fisheries Conventions
Andersson	Mr	Tomas	Senior Analyst: International Coordination Unit, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
Avila	Mrs	Aylem Hernandez	Cuba Environmental Considerations and Economic Implications & National Centre of Protected Areas, Cuba
Awad	Mr	Adnan	Director: International Ocean Institute - Africa
Bamba	Mr	Abou	Coordinator: Abidjan Convention Secretariat, UN Environment -
Barbiere	Mr	Julian	Head: Marine Policy and Regional Coordination, UNESCO-IOC
Bax	Mr	Nicholas	Director: NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub, CSIRO
Bealey	Mr	Roy	Regional Project Coordinator: Caribbean Billfish Project, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
Bernard		Brou Yao	Environmental Management Information System for Coastal Development in Cote d'Ivoire, UNDP
Birchenough	Mr	Andrew	Global Maritime Transport Industry Transformation & Technical Officer: International Maritime Organization
Brander	Dr	Luke	The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Brown	Dr	Bradford	Independent Consultant
Brown		Robin	Executive Secretary: The North Pacific Marine Science Organization
Chalen	Mr	Xavier	Ecuador Marine Coastal Area Protected Area Network & Director: Marine Conservation Programme, CI
Coccosis	Mr	Harry	Professor: University of Thessaly, Greece
Cyr	Dr	Ned	Director: Office of Science and Technology, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA
David	Dr	Sevillo	East Asia Seas Integrated River Basin Management & Ex. Director: Philippines National Water Resources Board
Davies	Ms	Helen	Coordinator: Regional Seas, Ecosystems Division, UN Environment - DEPI
Debels	Mr	Patrick	Regional Project Coordinator: Caribbean LME SAP Implementation, UNOPS

Last Name	Title	First Name	Affiliations
Degger	Dr	Natalie	Deputy Project Manager and Training Specialist, GEF IW:LEARN/LME:LEARN, UNESCO-IOC
Donkor	Mr	Stephen	Independent Consultant, LME:LEARN
Duarte Mora	Mr	Jaime Federico	Venezuela Strengthening MPAs & Venezuela Ministry of People's Power Ecosocialism and Waters
Duna	Mr	Elethu	Benguela Current Convention Implementation & Benguela Current Commission
Eitrem Holmgren	Miss	Katrin	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), UN Environment
Ekau		Werner	Director: International Ocean Institute - Germany
el Bataineh	Mr	Bashar	Coordinator: Component 3 of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden SEM Project, UN Environment
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Felix	Mr	Fernando	Eastern Pacific Tropical Seascape & Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
Fihaki	Ms	Eliala	Consultant PMU Advisor: Pacific Ridge to Reef Project – Palau & Nauru Ridge to Reef Project
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Garcon	Dr	Veronique	Senior Scientist: National Centre of Scientific Research, France
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Grønnevet	Mr	Lidvard	Institute Marine Research, Norway
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Last Name	Title	First Name	Affiliations
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Last Name	Title	First Name	Affiliations
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Resture		Alan	Tuvalu Coastal Area Resilience
Reyna Moreno	Sec.	Julián Augusto	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
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Ross	Miss	Kelli	University of Cape Town
Ryabinin		Vladimir	Executive Secretary: UNESCO-IOC
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Salvador	Ms	Susana	Executive Secretary: OSPAR Commission
Sambe	Mr	Birane	Regional Project Coordinator: Canary Current LME & Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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Shukla	Ms	Anuja	India Odisha Coast ICM Project , IPE Global
Sigüenza	Ms	Raquel	Guatemala Marine Protected Areas, UNDP
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Škaričić	Ms	Željka	Adriatic Sea Marine Spatial Planning & Director: PAP/RAC
Susan	Mr	Christan	Gulf of Mexico LME SAP Implementation & Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO
Svensson	Ms	Lisa	Director: Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit, DEPI, UN Environment
Tamelander	Mr	Jerker	Coordinator: Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia & Head: Coral Reef Unit, UN Environment
Tandstad	Ms	Merete	Fishery Resources Officer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Thomas	Miss	Hannah	Senior Programme Officer: UN Environment – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Toro	Mr	Cesar	Head: UNESCO-IOC Regional Office for IOCARIBE
Troya Rodriguez	Mr	Jose Vicente	Regional Technical Advisor for Water and Oceans, Latin America and Caribbean, UNDP

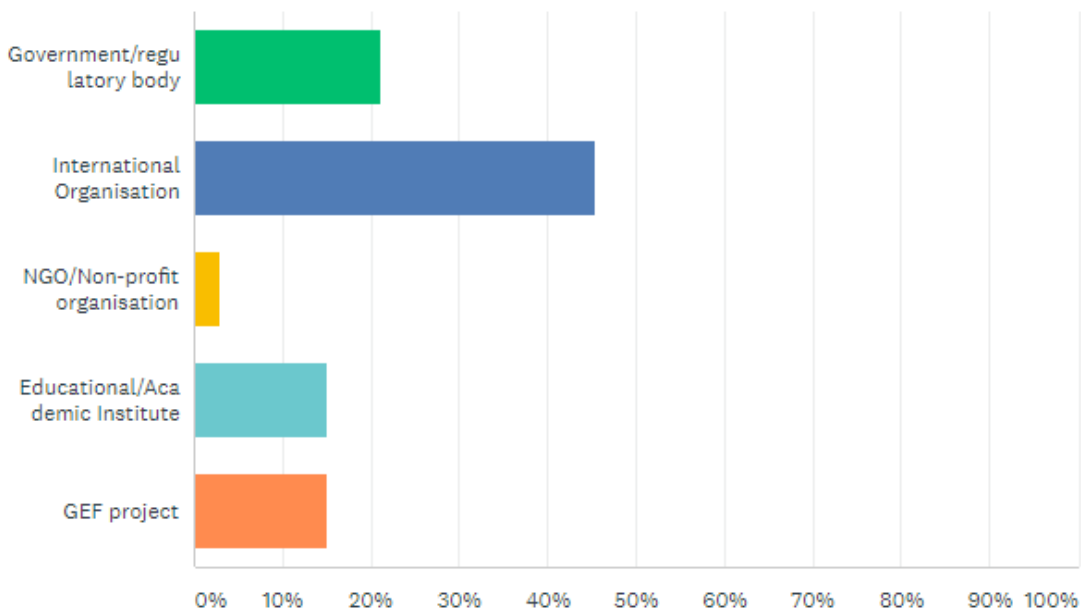
Last Name	Title	First Name	Affiliations
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Volovik	Mr	Yegor	Senior Programme Manager: UN Environment
von Quillfeldt	Dr	Cecilie	Norwegian Polar Institute
Vousden	Prof.	David	AfriCOG Coordinator & Rhodes University, South Africa
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Wawrzynski	Dr	Wojciech	Head of Science Programme: International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)
Wenzel	Ms	Lauren	Director: National Marine Protected Areas Centre, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, United States
Wibianto	Mr	Andie	Communication and Information Manager: Coral Triangle Initiative-CFF Regional Secretariat
Williams	Mr	Johan	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway
Zavolokin	Dr	Alexander	Science Manager: North Pacific Fisheries Commission

Annex 3: Meeting Evaluation Summary

Participants of the meeting received an online questionnaire generated by Survey Monkey which included 10 questions. All responses were anonymous and received from 1 December up to 31 December 2017 after which the poll was closed.

Question 1: Please indicate your affiliation

Participants were asked to indicate their affiliation based on a selection of 5 choices. Majority of the participants who attended were from International Organisations (45.5%), followed by Government/Regulatory Bodies (21.2%). The number of Academics and GEF projects in attendance were similar (15.15%), while the lowest representation was by the NGO sector (3.03%).



Question 2: What is your overall assessment of the meeting?

The second question focused on the overall assessment of the meeting as perceived by participants. A rating scale was used where 5 was perceived as excellent and 1 perceived as poor. The overall rating given by participants was Very Good (51.52%), Good (21.21%), Excellent (15.15%) and Satisfactory (9.09%). Only a small percentage of participants felt the meeting was Poor (3.03%)

POOR (1)	SATISFACTORY (2)	GOOD (3)	VERY GOOD (4)	EXCELLENT (5)
3.03%	9.09%	21.21%	51.52%	15.15%

Question 3: How would you rate the content of the meeting?

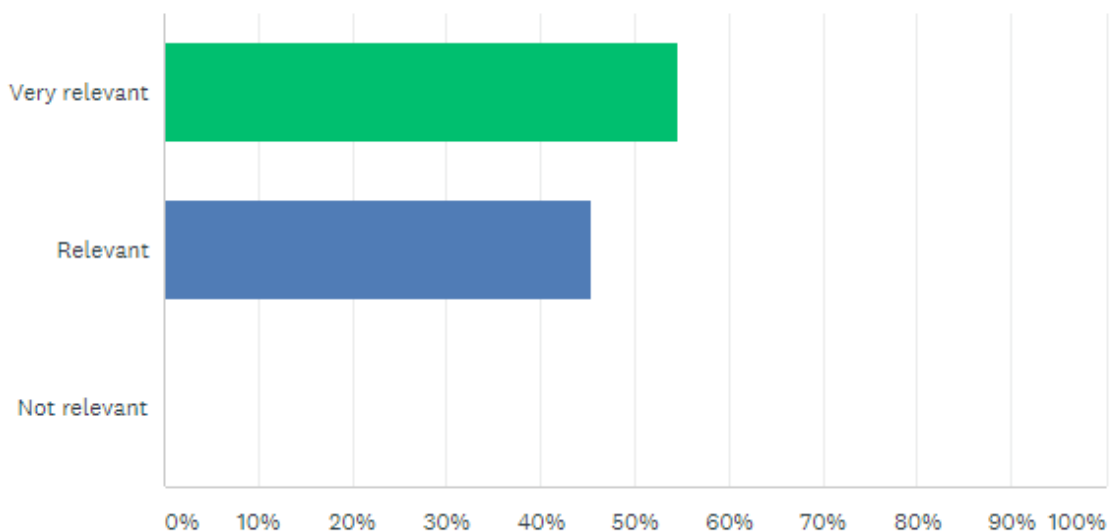
Participants were asked to evaluate the content of the meeting. Again, a rating scale was used where 5 was perceived as excellent and 1 perceived as poor.

Majority of the participants felt that the content of the meeting was Very Good (57.58%) or Good (21.21%). The remainder of the respondents indicated that the content ranged from Excellent (9.09%) to Satisfactory (6.06%) with a similar percentage rating the content as Poor (6.06%).

POOR (1)	SATISFACTORY (2)	GOOD (3)	VERY GOOD (4)	EXCELLENT (5)
6.06%	6.06%	21.21%	57.58%	9.09%

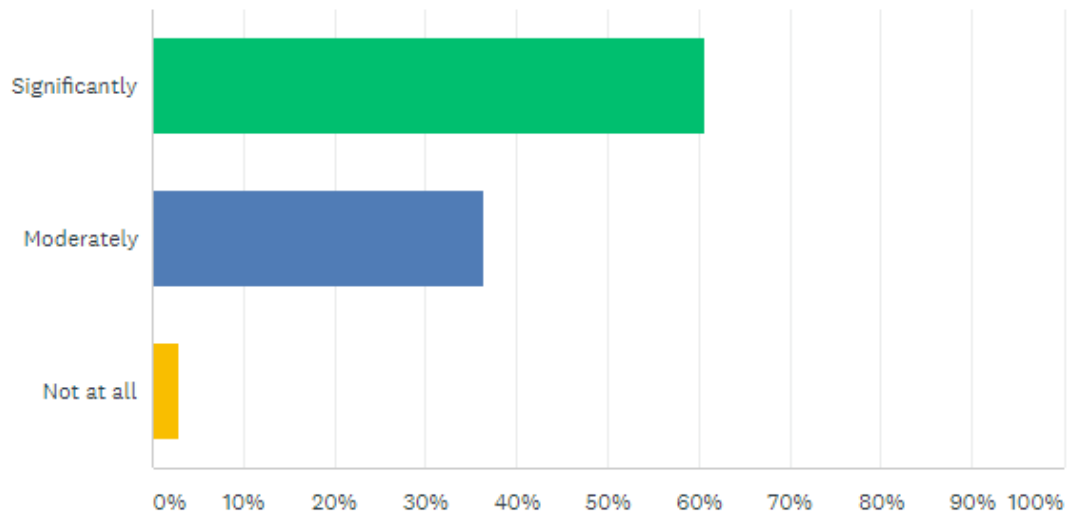
Question 4: How relevant were the topics of discussion to your organisation/institute/project?

The fourth question looked at the relevance of the topics of discussion to the organisations/institutes/projects which attended the meeting. According to the respondents majority found the topics Very Relevant (54.55%) and Relevant (45.45%).



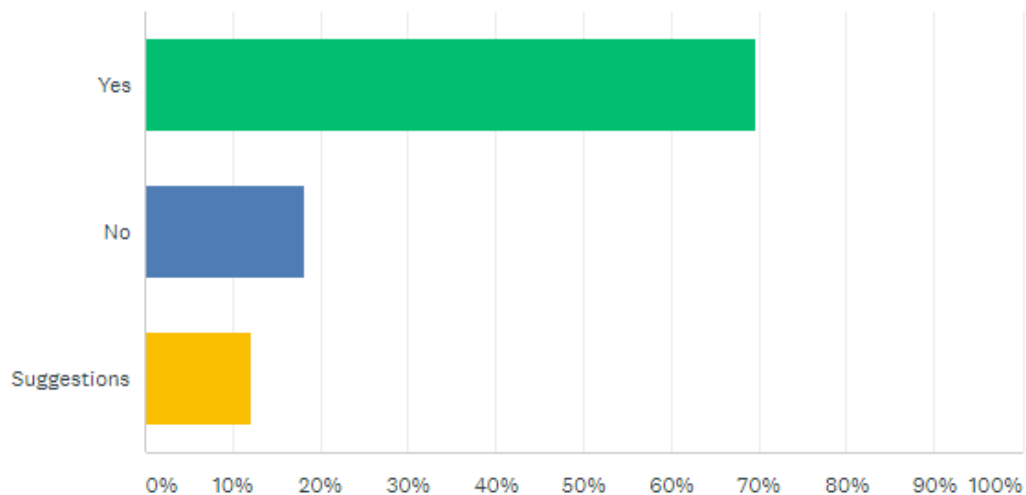
Question 5: To what extent did the meetings increase your awareness of activities of LMEs, Fisheries Bodies and Regional Seas?

The participants were asked to evaluate to what extent the meetings increased their awareness of activities of LMEs, Fisheries Bodies and Regional Seas. The results indicate that majority of the respondents felt that as a result of the meeting their awareness had increased Significantly (60.61%) and Moderately (36.36%) with a small percentage indicating that their awareness had not been raised (3.03%).



Question 6: Do you think options for regional cooperation have been well defined?

The question focused on the whether or not the options for regional cooperation were well defined. Majority of respondents felt that it had been well defined (69.7%), whereas some had said no (18.18%).



The remaining 12.12% of the respondents had chosen to leave comments or suggestions. Some suggestions are included below and quoted verbatim:

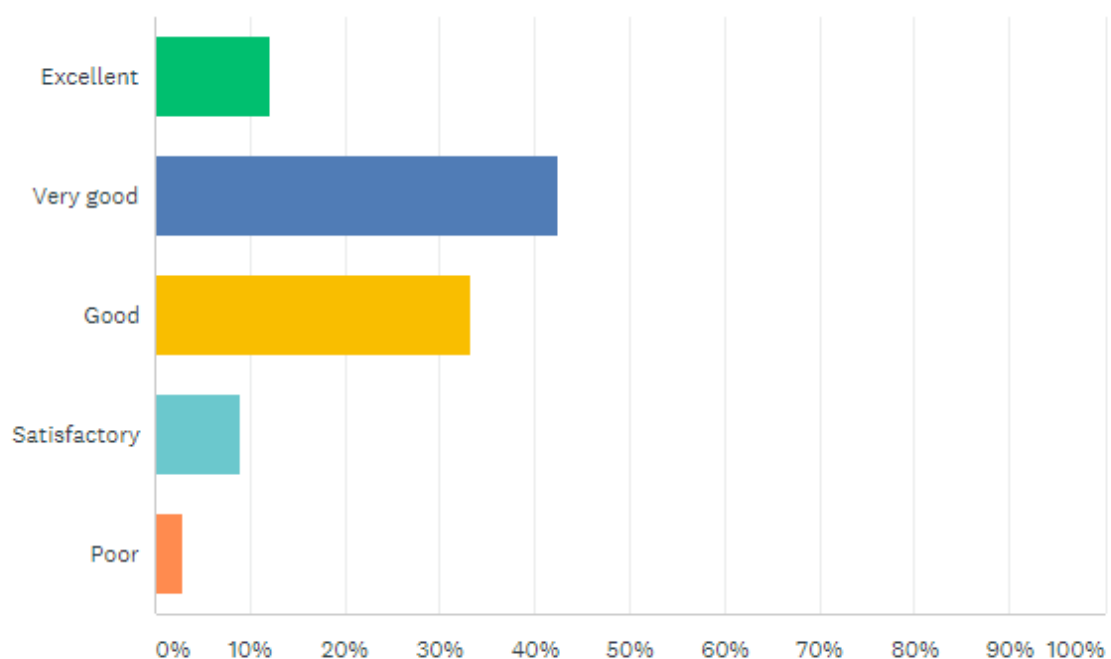
- ☐ "I think there is the need to develop a global picture of what regional cooperation looks like and could look like"
- ☐ "The options were not sharp though there were plenty of suggestions. I was hoping to find out how we can formalize and strengthen regional cooperation of LMEs in Asia and Pacific similar to

what is being initiated under the Convention of Migratory Species and Ramsar. I was hoping to entice and encourage neighbours within the ASEAN Region particularly China to cooperate under the flag of conservation the various coastal ecosystems in the Region as a response to the wide scale reef destruction in the area. More importantly there are a number of transboundary threats in the region which a regional cooperation can possibly work together.”

- ☐ “More details about advantage and disadvantage of programmes which were held and solutions for difficulties. Entrance of LMEs programme in Red Sea region.”

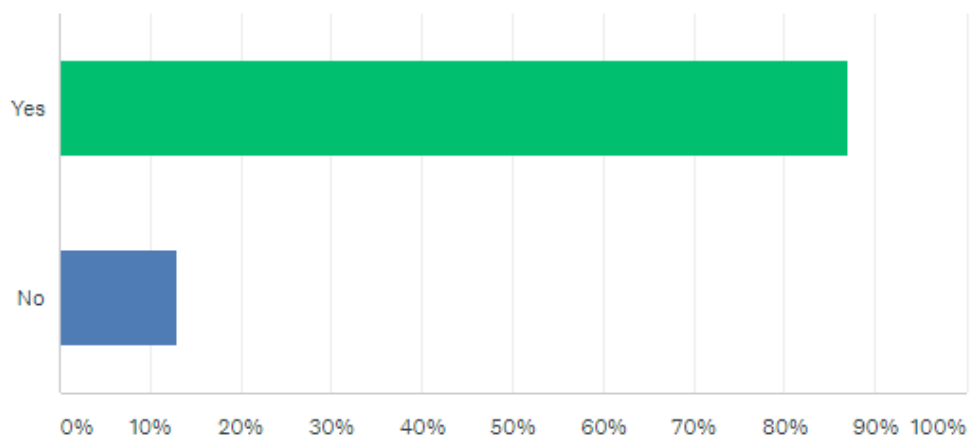
Question 7: How would you rate the structure and format of the sessions of the meeting?

Participants were asked to rate the structure and format of the sessions of the meeting. Majority of the respondents felt that the structure and format was Very Good (42.42%). The remaining responses gave a rating of Good (33.33%), Excellent (12.12%), Satisfactory (9.09%) and Poor (3.03%).



Question 8: Are the outcomes of the meetings likely to influence your future work and/or programmes?

The participants were asked if the outcome of the meeting was likely to influence their future work and/or programmes. According to 87.1% of the respondents it would, while 12.9% said no it would not.



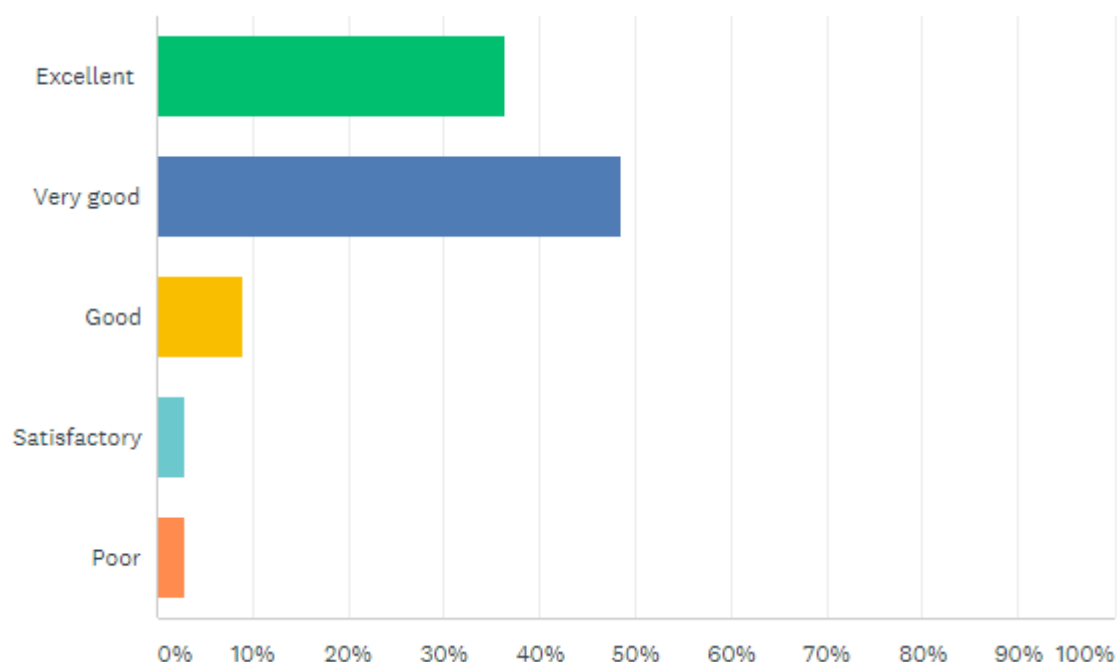
Question 9: What specific actions will you undertake as a result of the meeting?

Participants were asked what specific actions (if any) they would take as a result of the meeting. A total of 26 responses to this question were received. Some of the most relevant (i.e. answers that did not stipulate None, No, or Yes responses) are included below and are quoted verbatim:

- ☐ "Promote outreach by UNDP/GEF LME projects to regional seas and regional fisheries bodies to discuss opportunities for cooperation and collaboration."
- ☐ "I will continue to develop a global picture that gives appropriate prominence to home-grown regional organisation in addition to the big three (IOC, UNEP, FAO, btw where was IMO?)"
- ☐ "networking; follow link to knowledge platforms to learn more on projects and approaches"
- ☐ "Follow training network. and revise SAP to earn programme in Red Sea Region to enter LMEs network"
- ☐ "explore further policy issues in MSP and ICZM"
- ☐ "Join activities with other organizations"
- ☐ "Within our SMARTSeas PH Project, we try to influence position of the Philippines within the Coral Triangle Initiative to develop and pursue transboundary efforts to curb and reduce all forms of threats to the marine environment based on a connectivity study the Philippines had initiated. We are discussing with Malaysia and Indonesia currently."
- ☐ "Would recommend very active involvement of Philippine Government in the discussions on LMEs considering the Philippines as an archipelagic country and the importance of the sustainable management of the marine ecosystems"
- ☐ "Better coordination with local partners to achieve LME project goals."
- ☐ "Be sure to follow up in the increased network this meeting gave me. Also check out the last reports on TWAP"

Question 10: How would you rate the networking opportunities of the meeting?

The final question focused on the networking opportunities of the meeting. Majority of the respondents felt that the networking opportunities were Very Good (48.48%) or Excellent (36.36%). The remaining ratings ranged between Good (9.09%), Satisfactory (3.03%) and Poor (3.03%).



The **Global Environment Facility** (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided over \$17 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$88 billion in financing for more than 4000 projects in 170 countries. Today, the GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues

The **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) works in more than 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through the sustainable development of nations. It helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results. Its three main focus areas are sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and climate and disaster resilience. In all its activities, the UNDP encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable.

The **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** of the United Nations Education, Cultural and Scientific Organization (IOC-UNESCO) promotes international cooperation and coordinates programmes in marine research, services, observation systems, hazard mitigation, and capacity development in order to understand and effectively manage the resources of the ocean and coastal areas. By applying this knowledge, the Commission aims to improve the governance, management, institutional capacity, and decision-making processes of its Member States with respect to marine resources and climate variability and to foster sustainable development of the marine environment, in particular in developing countries.

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UN Environment) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. Its strategic objectives are to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; reduce rural poverty; enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; and increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

The **LME:LEARN** project is managed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Its goal is to improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners and supporting south-to-south and north-to-south learning.