

### **Panelist Abstract**

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**Name of Session:** Session III. Experience With GEF Strategic (SAP) Projects Plenary

**Presentation Title:** Benguela Current

#### **Summary of Key Issues and Best Practices/Lessons Learned**

As part of as PDF Block B grant development process, a detailed Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and framework for the development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the integrated management of the Benguela Current large marine ecosystem (BCLME) was formulated at two regional workshop held in 1998 and 1999.

Three major areas of activities were analysed within the TDA process. These were a) Utilisation of Resources b) Environmental Variability and c) Ecosystem Health and Pollution. The essential elements of the TDA were formulated and prioritised by workshop working groups as per path: issues >problems >causes >impacts >tasks/uncertainties >socio-economic consequences >transboundary consequences > activities/solutions > priorities >outputs >costs. The key objectives of the BCLME programme activities identified during the TDA process were as follows:-

- a) Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Resources
  - Facilitation of Optimal Harvesting of Living Resources
  - Assessment of Seabed Mining and Drilling Impacts and Policy Harmonisation
  - Responsible Development of Mariculture
  - Protection of Vulnerable Species and habitats
  - Assessment of Non-Harvested Species and their Role in the Ecosystem
- b) Assessment of Environmental Variability, Ecosystem Impacts and Improvement of Predictability
  - Reducing Uncertainty and Improving Predictability
  - Capacity Strengthening and Training
  - Management of Consequences of Harmful Algal Blooms
- c) Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution
  - Improvement of Water Quality
  - Prevention and Management of Oil Spills
  - Reduction of Marine Litter
  - Retardation/Reversal of Habitat Destruction/Alteration
  - Conservation of Biodiversity

The SAP was subsequently developed by a small working group and consensus achieved through further discussions and consultations with government ministries and other stakeholder groups. In February 2000, seven Ministers (representing the fisheries, environment and mines and energy sectors) from Angola, Namibia and South Africa signed the SAP which laid out guidelines and a policy framework for the integrated and sustainable management of the BCLME. The SAP spells out the challenges and principals fundamental to integrated marine ecosystem management of the Benguela Current region and specifies the nature, scope and timetable whereby policy actions are to be implemented. It also details the institutional arrangements and structures necessary to ensure delivery of the objectives of the TDA, promote wider co-operation with external institutions and

programmes and addresses mechanisms of long-term sustainable funding for the integrated management of the BCLME.

The principals co-operative action agreed to by the three governments in the SAP are as follows:-

- The precautionary principal to apply
- Anticipatory actions to be developed and promoted (e.g. oil spills and harmful algal blooms contingency plans)
- Use of clean water technologies to be stimulated
- Use of economic and policy instruments that foster sustainable development to be promoted (e.g. polluter pays principal)
- Environmental and health considerations to be included into all relevant policies and sectoral plans
- Co-operation among states bordering the BCLME to be promoted
- Interests by other states in the southern African region to be encouraged
- Transparency, public and private participation within BCLME Programme to be fostered
- The three governments to actively pursue a policy of co-financing with industry and donor agencies

A key component of the institutional arrangements outlined in the SAP is the establishment of an Interim Benguela Current Commission (IBCC) to strengthen regional co-operation. The IBCC will operate for the first five years of the programme and will then become a permanent Benguela Current Commission (BCC). The IBCC will be act as a steering committee and will be supported by a Programme Co-ordination Unit (PCU) which will later become the Secretariat to the BCC. A stakeholders consultative committee will also be established to provide input to the IBCC. The PCU will play a key role in co-ordination, networking, communication and information exchange for the BCLME Programme and will be supported by Advisory Groups based in three Activity Centres, one located in each member state. The Activity Centres will facilitate co-ordination within the partner countries and serve as foci for specialist BCLME actions in relation to resource assessment, regional environmental monitoring, pollution and ecosystem health.

The SAP will encourage the three countries to individually and jointly address priority transboundary issues and enhance co-operation with other regional and international bodies, UN agencies and programmes e.g. the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), non-governmental organisations (NGO's), donor agencies and other states with interest in the BCLME i.e. The Guinea Current LME countries. The existing regional initiative, the Benguela Environment, Fisheries Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) will also be an important stakeholder in BCLME and will undertake key transboundary marine science and technology activities e.g. fisheries/environmental linkage research and training within the framework of the programme.

The following are some of the key policy actions and time framework for achieving some of the objectives outlined in the SAP.

- The three countries will endeavor to harmonise the management of shared stocks through joint surveys and assessment of key species. These activities will be undertaken co-operatively between 2001 and 2005 to demonstrate the benefit of this approach

- The three government will commit themselves to compliance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing
- A regional framework for consultation to mitigate the negative impacts of seabed mining and oil/gas exploration and production activities will be developed by December 2002 and that such policies relating to shared resources and cumulative impacts be harmonised.
- A regional HAB reporting network be implemented in 2001
- Waste water quality criteria for receiving water be developed by June 2002 for point sources.
- A regional mariculture policy to be developed by December 2002
- A regional biodiversity conservation management plan and framework to be developed by December 2003
- A comprehensive regional strategic programme for capacity development and maintenance of health of the BCLME to be finalised by June 2001

The experience gained in developing the TDA and SAP for the BCLME Programme indicated the importance of the participatory process and full stakeholder involvement in the regional workshops which formulated and defined the framework documents. An important part of achieving consensus and successful workshop outputs was having an experienced facilitator and using the Logic Framework Analysis (LFA) approach in the project planning process. Of great assistance in developing the SAP and subsequently drafting the Project Brief was the specialised input and guidelines provided by two UNDP-GEF consultants who attended the TDA/SAP regional workshop. The implementation of the PDF Block B development phase of the BCLME greatly contributed towards building and establishing trust, communication, and co-operation between the relevant ministries and agencies in Angola, Namibia and South Africa. This was achieved through effective programme management and co-ordination, strong attendance by stakeholders at regional workshops, exchange of visits by national managers and government ministry personnel between countries, co-operative actions through working groups and management committees and the promotion of the BCLME Programme within the region through the framework of the SADC Sectoral Co-ordinating Committee for Marine Fisheries in Namibia. The BCLME PDF Block B initiative has stimulated discussion and encouraged the development of other such programmes within the SADC region i.e. along the east coast of Africa and has forged information exchange and co-operative links between other LME projects such as the Gulf of Guinea and the Canary Current.

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