

Terms of Reference (ToRs):

National Focal Points (NFP's) for the CLME+ Project

☞ see the second part of the document for key background information of relevance for the selection and nomination of NFPs

Responsibilities of the CLME+ National Focal Points (NFPs)

The CLME+ National Focal Point (NFP) will be a country's official representative to the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and as such will represent a country's interests during CLME+ Project execution.

NFPs will be expected to:

- actively prepare for, attend¹, participate/communicate and make decisions on behalf of their country at the CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meetings², where amongst other matters:
 - the project's overall direction and progress, workplan and budget will be presented for review, discussion/revision (as applicable) and approval
 - high-level discussions may be held on strategic aspects of key CLME+ Project outputs
 - proposals related to these project outputs may be submitted for adoption/approval by the Steering Committee

Given the fact that it is the responsibility of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee to **provide strategic policy and management direction** for the project, and considering the **project's strategic role as a catalyst for the implementation of the politically endorsed Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP)**, it is recommended that - wherever feasible - the role of CLME+ NFP **should be tied to a senior [technical] position within a relevant government Ministry. Individuals nominated as CLME+ NFP would be expected to have a good knowledge and understanding of their country's policies and strategies/action plans (incl. on transboundary matters) as these relate to, in particular: (a) fisheries and (b) the protection of the marine environment.**

Where possible, and given the cross-sectoral nature of the CLME+ Project and SAP, consideration should be given to the appointment of an **alternate NFP/deputy NFP**, to supplement and support the expertise/background of the main NFP, and to allow for a cross-sectoral representation and participation by their country in the project's activities.

¹ The NFPs of those countries that are eligible for financial support from the GEF may request such support from the CLME+ Project in order to facilitate their participation in the Meetings of the Project Steering Committee. Financial Rules & Regulations of the GEF/UNDP and UNOPS will apply. Notwithstanding the former, it is noted that all efforts by CLME+ countries and territories to self-finance participation of their NFPs will be greatly appreciated.

² The initial aim is to convey a total of 3 physical meetings of the Steering Committee during the CLME+ Project (Project inception Meeting, Project Mid-Term Meeting, and Project Closure Meeting). A strategy/mechanism will be further developed and implemented to provide a formal, cost-effective mechanism to address inter-sessional consultation & decision-making needs and further support country ownership over the project.

[It is further strongly recommended that] CLME+ NFPs [may] nominate **CLME+ Liaison Persons**³, which can support operational aspects, including the **day-to-day interactions** with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and/or Executing Partners.

With the support of these (formally appointed) CLME+ Liaison Persons (as desired), the NFPs will further be expected to:

- share information and decisions from the CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meetings with relevant national stakeholders through the applicable national inter-sectoral consultation and coordination mechanisms
- share information and decisions from the CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meetings with country focal points of the CLME+ Sub-Projects and ensure coordination between activities at national level, so as to avoid duplication and to optimize the use of financial and human resources
- liaise with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit on a regular basis in between the sessions of the CLME+ Steering Committee, as needed for the successful implementation of the CLME+ Project
- disseminate in a timely manner requests for support and/or news from the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit, and information on the CLME+ Project (incl. best practices, lessons learnt) to relevant national and local level stakeholders
- facilitate feedback and communication from relevant national levels stakeholders to the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and/or relevant CLME+ Project partners
- promote enhanced coordination and synergies among the CLME+ Project and related national and local -level activities, including those implemented under relevant international and regional conventions, and under other relevant programmes, projects and initiatives
- promote the adoption at the national level of EBM/EAF and encourage its integration into national development plans
- provide the CLME+ PCU periodically with reports on the functioning and status of their country's NIC, as agreed by the CLME+ Steering Committee
- support the monitoring & evaluation of the implementation of the CLME+ Project (and SAP)

In order to successfully exercise their role, NFPs (and, where applicable, their Liaisons) should therefore:

- have (or acquire during the project inception phase⁴), as a minimum a basic understanding of the role & functioning of the GEF and of the strategic approach and objectives of the GEF's International Waters Focal Area, as well as of the GEF-supported TDA/SAP⁵ approach adopted by the CLME and CLME+ Projects
- be familiar (or become familiar during the project inception phase⁴) with the objectives, scope and content of the CLME+ SAP
- be familiar (or become familiar during the project inception phase⁴) with key content of the CLME+ Project Document, with special attention to the project strategy, the expected outcomes and results, and the associated timeline

³ Individuals designated as CLME+ Liaison Persons should be given the authority by the CLME+ NFP or alternate/deputy to directly communicate with the CLME+ PCU on matters of relevance to the CLME+ Project

⁴ The CLME+ Project Coordination Unit can provide assistance in this context, where needed.

⁵ TDA = Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis; SAP = Strategic Action Programme

- have a good general understanding of the state of fisheries and/or the status of the marine environment, nationally and regionally
- be familiar (or become familiar during the project inception phase) with, and supportive of the concepts of EBM/EAF, which the CLME+ Project is seeking to promote throughout the CLME+ Region
- have a good knowledge and understanding of their country's policies and strategies/action plans (incl. on transboundary matters) as these relate to the marine environment and living marine resources
- be supportive of the principle of interactive participatory governance, and be involved (as relevant) in country-level inter-sectoral consultation & coordination mechanisms/processes
- provide input for, and be informed of the outcomes of such relevant processes
- be an active spokesperson for the CLME+ Project at national and international levels, and a general advocate for inter-sectoral coordination and for enhanced synergies among PPIs relevant to the objectives of the CLME+ Project and SAP
- be entitled to take decisions, on behalf of their country, or to communicate on decisions taken by the corresponding authorities of their countries, at the CLME+ Steering Committee, or to communicate in relation to key CLME+ Project outputs on behalf of their country

KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

of relevance for the selection & nomination of NFPs

The 10-year CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (the “CLME+ SAP”)

In 2013 and with financial support from the GEF⁶, a 10-year “*Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*” (the “CLME+ SAP”) was prepared collaboratively by CLME+ countries and regional organizations.

By early 2014, the CLME+ SAP had been **politically endorsed by more than 30 Ministers⁷, representing more than 20 countries** from the CLME+ region⁸. The SAP consists of 6 Strategies, 4 sub-Strategies, and a total of 76 priority actions covering matters relating to **marine habitats, fisheries, pollution** and the cross-cutting issue of **climate variability & change**.

Transboundary and cross-sectoral governance of shared living marine resources

The SAP recognizes “*gaps & weaknesses in governance arrangements*”, “*insufficient coordination*” and “*inadequate stakeholder participation*” as major root causes behind the 3 key transboundary environmental problems in the CLME+ region (unsustainable fisheries; habitat degradation and community modification; and pollution).

Hence, the need is articulated for enhanced **interactive governance**, described as “*the whole of interactions taken to solve societal problems and to create societal opportunities; including the formulation and application of principles guiding those interactions and care for institutions that enable and control them*”.

In this context, a specific call is being made for better communication, collaboration and coordination of actions among:

- *the different countries & territories that share the CLME+ Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs)*
- *the different Institutions (regional, sub-regional, national and local) with a mandate relating to the marine environment*
- *the different sectors in Government, with a stake in the marine environment (Ministries and other public/state entities with responsibility for Environmental, Fisheries, Foreign Affairs, Planning etc.)*
- *the different societal actors with a stake in the marine environment (Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia)*

⁶ The “CLME Project”, UNDP/GEF; GEF ID 5542; 2009-2014

⁷ The invitation for other countries and/or sectoral representatives to endorse the CLME+ SAP remains open, and additional formal endorsements of the SAP by CLME+ Project participants will be especially welcomed.

⁸ The region composed by the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

Attention is further brought to the fact that the CLME+ countries and region can obtain substantial benefits from:

- *a better articulation and coordination of actions among the different programmes, projects and initiatives (PPI's) related to the sustainable use and protection of the marine environment in the CLME+*
- *the alignment of such PPIs with national and international priorities and obligations, incl. those under existing regional and global conventions (as applicable)*

The 5-year CLME+ Project (2015-2020)

In early 2015, renewed financial support was confirmed by the GEF (grant of USD 12.5 million with more than USD 130 million in co-financing commitments from countries and partners), to help kick-start the implementation of the CLME+ SAP through a **new 5-year UNDP/GEF Project titled: "CLME+: Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems"** (GEF ID 5542; 2015-2020).

The CLME+ Project will seek to facilitate the adoption and implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM) and of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) across the wider CLME+ region, in such a way that a sustainable and climate-resilient provision of goods and services from living marine resources can be secured.

Successful implementation of EAF/EBM at the CLME+ level **will require good integration and coordination of efforts across key thematic areas (e.g. fisheries and environmental protection), and across the relevant geographic levels (e.g. local, national, sub-regional and regional).**

The above **will require that CLME+ countries establish, or enhance (as applicable) mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination.**

Country ownership over CLME+ implementation

At the national level, arrangements to oversee, coordinate, support, contribute to, and benefit from the implementation of the CLME+ Project will be expected to consist of:

- a CLME+ Project **National Focal Point (NFP)**, formally appointed and [ideally] tied to **a senior [technical] position within a relevant government Ministry**
- operational **National Inter-sectoral Consultation & Coordination Mechanism(s) ("NIC")**

Countries with dependent territories are encouraged to ensure that NFPs are nominated from those dependent territories as appropriate.