

AGENDA ITEM 10: OVERVIEW OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION PROGRAMME

Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Ecosystems (CLME+ C-SAP), 2018 - 2030

1. Background

The CLME+ SAP, which has been politically endorsed by more than 20 countries, provides a roadmap towards sustainable living marine resources management, to be achieved by strengthening and consolidating cooperative governance arrangements at the regional and sub-regional levels.

At the time of developing the CLME+ SAP, efforts were made to ensure that there was widespread consultation with all relevant societal stakeholders. Despite these efforts, the CLME+ SAP mainly contains priority actions that would be undertaken from a governmental/public sector perspective. However, successful governance of the region's shared living marine resources demands the involvement of not just public-sector actors, but also those societal groups that have a direct stake in the management and use of shared living marine resources.

The UNDP/GEF *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 project* (CLME+ Project) seeks to promote broader participation of, and contributions from civil society groups in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. Specifically, Component 2 aims at enhancing the capacity of key institutions and stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels to effectively implement knowledge-based ecosystem-based management (EBM)/ ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) for sustainable shared living marine resources use in the CLME+ region.

Development of a *Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Ecosystems* (CLME+ C-SAP) that is aligned with the politically endorsed CLME+ SAP is a critical strategy to raise the profile of civil society and guide civil society capacity building for strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society in implementation of the CLME+ SAP. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is one of the 25 key regional organisations involved in ocean governance in the CLME+ region, and was selected to lead the process for development of the CLME+ C-SAP.

2. Main Content

The objective of the CLME+ C-SAP is to contribute to strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society actors in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP and CLME+ Project to achieve the long-term vision for the marine environment in the CLME+ region.

Catalyzing implementation of the
Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and
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The target civil society actors are defined as:

- Formal and informal civil society organisations (CSOs)¹ at the regional, national and local/community levels (including environmental, fisherfolk, women and youth groups)
- Small and micro enterprises (SMEs) which have a role to play and/or are likely beneficiaries in the achievement of the long-term vision for the marine environment in the CLME+ region.

The process for development of the draft CLME+ C-SAP included:

1. Development of a *Participation and Communication Strategy* to guide effective engagement of key stakeholders in development of the C-SAP
2. Preparation of a database of CSOs and SMEs which have a role to play and/or are likely beneficiaries in the achievement of the long-term vision for the marine environment in the CLME+ region
3. Preparation of a database of existing projects, programmes and initiatives targeting CSOs and SMEs relevant to achieving the overall objectives of the CLME+ SAP and with replication and scaling-up potential
4. Facilitation of consultations to identify stakeholder priorities under the CLME+ SAP
5. Collaborative development of the C-SAP
6. Outreach and consultations to promote formal endorsement of the C-SAP by (as a minimum) the civil society stakeholder groups that participated in its development
7. Outreach and consultations to raise awareness and promote use of the C-SAP by end users (e.g. governments and regional agencies) to guide engagement of civil society in development and implementation of activities under the CLME+ SAP.

The draft CLME+ C-SAP has 8 Strategies and 88 associated Actions. Strategies 1-3 are specifically focused on engaging and enabling civil society to contribute to the implementation of EAF/EBM approaches in the management of the three key ecosystem types (reef, pelagic, and continental shelf) identified in the CLME+ SAP. Strategies 4 – 7 are overarching Strategies that focus on strengthening civil society's role in participatory governance and management of all three ecosystem types. Strategy 8 addresses implementation of the C-SAP. The draft C-SAP includes a combination of broad-based and specific Strategies and Actions to address the diversity of issues and challenges impacting the marine environment in the CLME+ region. It also outlines a capacity building strategy and requirements for strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society in implementation of the CLME+ SAP.

To track progress of C-SAP implementation, including capacity building of stakeholders, achievement of desired outcomes, and lessons learnt and recommendations for updating and refining the C-SAP, a participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMEL) framework will have to be developed.

¹ CANARI defines CSOs as non-profit, non-governmental organisations operating at international, regional, national or local levels. They include non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs). They may be formal organisations or informal groups. Media and academia are considered separately.

The C-SAP can serve as a guide for both civil society seeking to prioritise and focus their work as well as donors, governments and others who provide financial and technical support to civil society. Together, this contributes to supporting civil society to play an effective role in implementation of the CLME+ SAP to improve governance and management of shared living marine resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems.

3. Way Forward and Next Steps

The next steps include:

- establishing a technical review panel consisting of CSOs in the CLME+ region (including from among participants at the January 2018 workshop) to review the first draft of the C-SAP
- once the project budget permits, arranging a few review and endorsement workshops with CSOs and SMEs
- furthering the conversation with donors and intermediaries on the establishment of a Small Grants Coordinating Mechanism aimed at increasing the coordination and synergies amongst the many different small grants initiatives in the CLME+ region to support implementation of the C-SAP.
- finalising the C-SAP taking into account input from CSOs, SMEs and external partners by June 2018.

4. Proposed Action:

The Steering Committee Meeting is invited to:

Note the achievement of civil society organizations (CSOs) in developing a draft *Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Ecosystems*, which is aligned with and supports CLME+ SAP implementation in achievement of the shared vision.

Note also the ongoing efforts to include other CSOs and SMEs in the review and finalization of the C-SAP

Urged to encourage key CSOs and SMEs in their respective countries to participate in the process to finalize the C-SAP.