

AGENDA ITEM 11 – SAP M&E FRAMEWORK AND SOME

SUB-AGENDA ITEM 11.3 – STATE OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ASSOCIATED ECONOMIES

Development and Institutionalization of a holistic reporting mechanism: State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies (“CLME+ SOME”)

1. Background

Under the previous UNDP/GEF “Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem” Project (CLME Project; 2009-2014), a 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) *for sustainable living marine resources management* was developed and subsequently endorsed by over 30 government ministers representing 25 countries and 6 overseas territories. The CLME+ SAP (2015-2025) includes Strategies and Actions to address the priority transboundary issues of *unsustainable fisheries exploitation, habitat degradation, and marine pollution*, and the associated root causes which were identified by the CLME Project Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses. Currently, the 5-year UNDP/GEF “CLME+” Project (2015-2020) helps catalyzing the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. But, how will we know if the SAP Actions are having the desired impact, whether progress is being made towards achieving the SAP Objectives and its over-arching Vision of a *“healthy marine environment benefiting the people from the region”*, and where better performance is needed?

To this end, the current CLME+ Project has embarked on the development of an overarching framework for monitoring and evaluating progress in SAP implementation as well as the preparation of an integrated, sustainable and institutionalized *“State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies”* (CLME+ SOME) assessment and reporting mechanism. This is called for in Action 1.11 of SAP Strategy 1 (*establish and enhance the capacity for monitoring, assessment, and reporting on the state of the marine environment*). Through the SOME process, available data and information on the state of the marine environment, associated governance mechanisms/processes and socio-economics, will be transformed and made accessible to regional and national-level policy and decision-makers, as well as the global donor and development aid community, thus providing the basis for informed decision-making in support of enhanced marine resources governance.

2. Content

CLME+ SOME: Purpose and approach

The SOME mechanism is conceived as a collaborative regional assessment mechanism, to be institutionalized within the Intergovernmental Organisations that form the foundation for the CLME+ Regional Ocean Governance Framework. SOME will provide a comprehensive and integrated assessment of the state and governance of the

CLME+ marine environment as well as its ecosystem goods and services and related socio-economic aspects, to guide decision-making and trigger action for enhanced environmental planning and management.

SOMEE is mainly directed to governmental and non-governmental audiences with a formal mandate for, or recognized sustained contributions to sustainable living marine resources governance and management in the wider Caribbean/CLME+ region.

The overall aim of SOMEE is to:

1. Raise awareness and inform Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations, and other stakeholders (incl. private sector) about the status of the marine environment, its governance, and associated economies;
2. Integrate the different existing (or emerging) sectoral reporting mechanisms on marine-related matters in the wider Caribbean (e.g. those under the Cartagena Convention, the reporting by Regional Fisheries Bodies,...), in order to promote policy coherency and provide a more holistic status overview
3. Allow to periodically track progress and visualize distance-to-target, e.g. in the achievement of the vision and long-term objectives of the SAP and other relevant goals established at the sub-regional, regional, and global levels (including the SDGs), by providing a formal, standardized long-term reporting mechanism;
4. Provide early warning and analysis of potential environmental problems;
5. Provide a credible scientific basis for leveraging support from donors;
6. Build institutional capacity in the region for environmental monitoring, assessment, and reporting;
7. **Trigger action among decision-makers and others to address current and emerging issues relating to the sustainable use of the marine environment;**

SOMEE will use the Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework (GEAF) and the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses (DPSIR) methodology, with focus on the three priority transboundary problems and their associated root causes. Among the concrete SOMEE outputs will be a static report accompanied by a more dynamic online version. The first edition of the CLME+ SOMEE report is to be formally endorsed and published during the 2019-2020 biennium.

The added value of SOMEE

The SOMEE mechanism is the first ever region-wide collaborative assessment mechanism to provide stakeholders with a comprehensive and integrated overview of the progress towards marine-related global and regional/sub-regional commitments and targets. Further, by highlighting the importance of environmental management and protection in the development of sustainable blue economies, SOMEE will foster a regionally shared understanding of how human activities affect the region's marine environment and living resources, and how those impacts in turn affect industries, local livelihoods, and human well-being. Thus, it will also meet decision-makers' needs for a regionally integrated synthesis of the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the CLME+ region. Instead of duplicating existing efforts, SOMEE will aim to facilitate, harmonize and harness existing reporting obligations and initiatives, supporting as such the regional organizations in the execution of their mandates and activities, while fostering synergies with non-governmental partners. Importantly, in

alignment with the objectives of the CLME+ SAP, inter-institutional collaboration on SOMEЕ will help to further consolidate the CLME+ Regional Framework for Ocean Governance, and facilitate a more coordinated approach to policy development.

3. Current status

- The concept and annotated outline of the SOMEЕ report has been developed in collaboration with the key CLME+ partners. The outline was presented for endorsement in 2017 during intergovernmental meetings of the CLME+ SAP ICM members. To date, OSPESCA, CRFM, OECS, FAO, UN Environment, and IOC-UNESCO have endorsed the outline (endorsement by CARICOM and CCAD expected this year);
- Institutions and experts who will contribute to the report have been identified;
- In February 2018, a SOMEЕ inception workshop was held in Cartagena to bring together CLME+ SAP ICM and CLME+ Project Executive Group (PEG) members and others to elaborate the approach and methodology, define the contents of the SOMEЕ report, and to prepare and agree on the workplan, etc.;
- Key datasets and information sources for SOMEЕ have been identified;
- Despite the former, it is acknowledged that further advocacy and discussions will be required to achieve full buy-in for, and consensus on the SOMEЕ concept and way forward, from both the expected contributors/owners and beneficiaries;
- Chapter 1 of the SOMEЕ report has been drafted and is under review by the CLME+ PCU;
- Two experts (Senior Environmental Reporting Specialist, SERS, and Monitoring and Mapping Specialist, MMS) are being recruited¹ following the resignation of the previous EMRS.

4. Next Steps

The next step in the SOMEЕ process consists of drafting of the various chapters during 2018, with the first draft of the report to be completed by December 2018. However, for this drafting process to advance smoothly, a number of critical obstacles for the development of SOMEЕ must be addressed. Among these are the limited capacities within the ICM member institutions and divergent expectations and understanding among partners about the SOMEЕ.

The following are specific actions (and persons involved) for the immediate future (with priority on actions 1-7):

1. Development of advocacy/awareness building materials on the integrated SOMEЕ reporting mechanism (including an information booklet)
2. Conduct a detailed assessment with individual ICM and PEG members of their capacity and needs for preparing their contributions to SOMEЕ, and identify measures and options to address those needs, including funding sources (PCU, ICM, PEG);
3. Engage in further discussions with ICM and PEG members to clarify and agree on expectations and the next steps (PCU, ICM, PEG);

¹ Situation on 22 May 2018

4. Present the SOMEE outline and approach in meetings of CARICOM and CCAD in 2018 for endorsement (PCU);
5. Determine specific types of expertise required, develop Terms of Reference for specific consultancies, and identify potential experts (PCU);
6. Re-examine the SOMEE outline and clarify how the GEAF and DPSIR framework are linked and can be better integrated in the SOMEE process and report (PCU, CERMES);
7. Develop a detailed workplan with key intermediate targets and timeline for completion of SOMEE, and mitigatory measures to bring SOMEE back on track;
8. Complete the review of and finalize Chapter 1 (PCU);
9. Identify specific requirements for institutionalizing and sustaining the SOMEE mechanism, including institutional needs and commitments, and potential financial support.

5. Proposed Action

The meeting is being invited to (a) acknowledge the SOMEE development approach as presented as well as its importance for consolidating the CLME+ Regional Framework for Ocean Governance, called for under the CLME+ SAP; and to (b) endorse the proposal for its development and institutionalization as presented or amended.