

AGENDA ITEM 15 – CLME+ HUB

1. Background:

As per the CLME+ Project Document and associated Results Framework, the CLME+ PCU has oversight for the development (Project Component 2) and coordinated implementation (cross-cutting; all other Project Components) of a CLME+ Communication, Knowledge Management and Dissemination Strategy.

As part of this overarching Strategy, and in response to requirements under Project Component 5, an on-line gateway (the CLME+ HUB: www.clmeplus.org) is being developed. The Hub will act as a globally accessible communication and knowledge management instrument for policy-makers, decision makers, marine resource managers and users from the region, the international donor and development aid community, and others. It will facilitate access to relevant information, data and knowledge on key subject matter relating to marine resources management and governance. Further, it is designed to share knowledge, insights and best practice and learn from experiences, to enhance oversight of what is being done, to inspire innovation and better coordination and to find new ways of collaborating towards the long-term Vision behind the CLME+ SAP: a healthy marine environment benefiting human societies in the CLME+ region.

2. Progress and Current Status:

The traditional approach for projects is to develop a project website. This is generally a specific requirement under the Results Frameworks of GEF projects. This situation is not different in the case of the CLME+ Project. The CLME+ PCU however, observing the limitations in scope and issues of sustainability of the traditional approach to project website development under the GEF Portfolio, has adopted a more innovative approach. While still addressing the formal requirement of a project website under the Results Framework, the approach taken by the PCU to expand on this arises from the recognition, explicitly contained in the CLME+ SAP, that such a highly ambitious SAP cannot be implemented through a single project or initiative, but will require the collaboration of the many projects and stakeholders active in the region.

Such recognition gave rise, under the CLME+ Project, to, on one hand, the conceptualization of the CLME+ Alliance and Partnership (See Agenda Item 9), and, on the other hand, the conceptualization of the CLME+ Hub as a platform not only within which to embed the project website, but also as a gateway to online resources and tools supporting the full-scale implementation of the 2015-2025 CLME+ SAP, the associated Goals and Targets under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and the achievement of the 20-year SAP Vision for the region.

The CLME+ Hub is therefore to survive the CLME+ Project in time, and a sustainability plan for the HUB to be delivered towards the project's end. Uptake of the Hub by the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM)

for Ocean Governance (see Agenda Item 8), and shared ownership among the ICM and CLME+ Partnership Membership, is one of the possible options for ensuring such sustainability that may be suggested in due course. As a central portal, the HUB also addresses the concern for avenues in which partners can formally engage / showcase their individual project / institutional contributions to the governance and management of CLME+ marine resources.

Through a broader perspective the value added benefits derived from the HUB can be summarized as follows:

- help facilitate avenues for global partnerships and financial support over a longer period of time, allowing for deeper more significant and lasting results;
- facilitate data/knowledge access and sharing;
- enable a sustainable and extensive research base, tools and methods for capitalizing results;
- increase scientific and governance excellence among all LME practitioners;
- enable the transfer of critical knowledge specific to the CLME+ region to other regions and vice versa;
- facilitate innovative measures in addressing unique issues in CLME+ marine governance;
- enhanced communication and visibility throughout the CLME+ region; and
- deliver knowledge for policy making, anticipate scientific, financial and technological needs and provide efficient support for strategic and political decision-making.

Besides being a communication, awareness raising and collaboration platform, the HUB will allow for knowledge generated from the CLME+ Project and partner initiatives, to be stored and shared among key beneficiaries. Knowledge management features on the Hub will include among others listed below, a database of projects that support SAP implementation, and a Documents Library.

Proposed to be embedded within the HUB are some specific CLME+ decision making and management support tools including but not limited to:

1. online version of the SAP M&E framework, with an advanced Graphical User Interface (GUI) that will facilitate oversight and tracking of progress with SAP implementation;
2. online, dynamic version of the SOMEE reporting mechanism (refer to Meeting Agenda Item 11)
3. online databases, with advanced GUI, on efforts undertaken in the region towards the SAP Vision and SDG14 (projects, programmes, initiatives and CLME+ Partnership members, Civil Society initiatives, status of National Inter-sectoral Coordination etc)
4. online Documents L, providing easy access to documents relevant to the CLME+ SAP and its objectives, including but not limited to those created by the CLME+ Project
5. dynamic linkage to the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2) Geonode, OHI, knowledge and learning portal (IW and LME Learn) and other marine related governance portals

6. multi-partner meeting calendar, providing oversight of relevant meetings and workshops taking place in the region and beyond
7. training portal: linking those in need of training with providers of training workshops and materials
8. press room with the ability for CLME+ partners to send media releases and other media related content to regional and global journalists, influencers and bloggers and to then obtain in-depth reports on coverage obtained. Given the identified need to engage the public at large in addressing the root causes of environmental degradation, an industry leading media news room will be integrated with the ability for partners and others authorized to do so, to send via the HUB media releases or any newsworthy material to a database of regional and global journalists, influencers and bloggers and to then track results in terms of media coverage, audience reach and top reporting outlets as but some reporting metrics. **An example of a daily updated media monitoring report on selected search terms can be found by clicking [here](#) noting the password CLME+**

To complement the array of decision making tools embedded within the HUB a menu of other items and related sub-menus will be included to help users navigate the HUB including section not limited to About the HUB, From Vision to Action, The CLME+ Alliance / Partnership and Projects and Initiatives.

3. Way Forward and Next Steps

The structural layout of the HUB is moving toward finalization and transitioning to content development, collation and upload. As the HUB progresses, requests for material will be sought from partners and others to populate key sections and to obtain feedback to ensure both the layout and framework are meeting present and intended needs. The CLME+ Project Steering Committee will have regular oversight of content and importantly communication metrics to ascertain communication reach and impact.

4. Proposed Action:

Action: The Meeting is invited to (a) acknowledge the existence, purpose and usefulness of the CLME+ Hub, and to (b) endorse the proposed priority areas for further development.