

AGENDA ITEM 7: STATUS OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISMS

SUB AGENDA ITEM 7.1 – INTERIM COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

1. BACKGROUND:

Action 2.1 of the politically endorsed CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) calls for the establishment of an interim arrangement for sustainable fisheries. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries was signed in January 2016 during the First CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting by the three main Regional Fisheries Bodies in the CLME+ region: the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM); the Organisation of the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA); and the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (WECAFC-FAO). The overall objective of the MoU is to enhance regional governance for sustainable fisheries by formalizing an interim arrangement to facilitate, support and strengthen the coordination of actions among the Regional Fisheries Bodies in the Western Central Atlantic region.

2. STATUS INTERIM COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES:

Seven meetings of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries have taken place to date. The most recent meeting took place in March 2018. During the meetings, the three Regional Fisheries Bodies review and revise the work plan of the interim coordination mechanism. The work plan includes the areas under which the Regional Fisheries Bodies have agreed to collaborate, such as the joint technical working groups (spiny lobster, queen conch, shrimp and ground fish and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing). To date a number of joint technical working groups have taken place and the technical working group recommendations have been presented at the meetings of the RFBs constituents for their review and approval. Such an approach has led to the adoption of a Regional Management Plan for Queen Conch and agreed regional management measures for the Spiny Lobster fishery. Other topics addressed during the meeting include the WECAFC Reorientation Process and the status of the three CLME+ funded ecosystem approach to fisheries Sub-Projects.

In November 2017, the post of WECAFC Secretary became vacant, which resulted in a delay in some of the work plan activities. A new WECAFC Secretary who has already been identified is expected to commence duties at the FAO office in Barbados by August 2018.

3. ACTIONS REQUIRED:

The CLME+ Project Steering Committee is invited to (a) acknowledge the work of the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries and (b) express the continued support for the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Fisheries.

SUB-AGENDA ITEM 7.2 – CLME+ STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME INTERIM COORDINATION MECHANISM**1. BACKGROUND**

Strategy 3 of the CLME+ SAP call for the “establish(ment) and operationali(zation) of a regional policy coordination mechanism for ocean governance with initial focus on shared living marine resources.” To facilitate this process Action 3.1 under this Strategy supports the establishment of an interim coordination mechanism amongst the regional sub-arrangements for sustainable fisheries and for the protection of the marine environment. This Interim Coordination Mechanism for the Sustainable Management, Use and Protection of the shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP ICM) was formally established through a Memorandum of Understanding between eight intergovernmental organisations (IGOs):

- the Food and Agriculture Organisation represented by the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- the UN Environment represented by its Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit and Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention
- the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- the Organisation of the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA);
- the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD);
- the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat;
- the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM);
- the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission.

2. STATUS CLME+ SAP INTERIM COORDINATION MECHANISM

As outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the CLME+ SAP ICM; the objectives of this interim coordination mechanism are to enhance regional coordination and collaboration, support oversight and integration of actions for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. It is also anticipated that the ICM will promote the up-scaling of actions by all sectors of society towards the achievement of the long-term vision of the CLME+ SAP in support of sustainable ocean based economies, through the establishment of a global “CLME+ Partnership”.

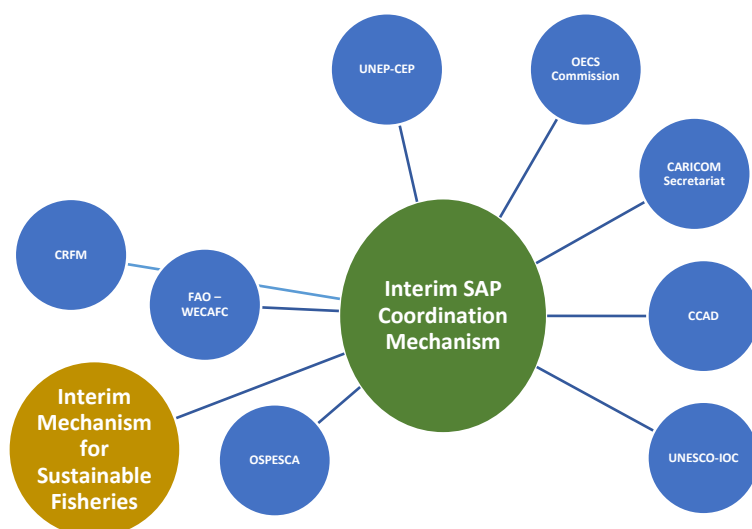


Figure 1: Composition of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism

The members of the CLME+ SAP ICM are expected to:

- Enhance regional coordination and collaboration, support oversight and integration of actions for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment;
- Contribute to the delivery by the CLME+ region on the aims, objectives and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 14, “to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources”, and other relevant international commitments;
- Promote coherent communication, data and information sharing, outreach and dissemination of information;
- Identify other areas of collaboration, including those relating to new and emerging issues relevant to and/or aligned with the Parties’ mandate, and which may not have been explicitly articulated in the CLME+ SAP.

The CLME+ SAP ICM was formally established on 27 July 2017 through the signature to the MoU by five of the eight IGOs. By December 2017 all eight IGOs had signed MOU.

To date three meetings of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism has taken place. The most recent occurred in May 2017.

3. ACTION REQUIRED:

The CLME+ Project Steering Committee is being asked to (a) acknowledge the status of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism and, (b) express their continued support for the interim coordination mechanism.

SUB-AGENDA ITEM 7.3 – NATIONAL INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS**OUTPUT 1.2 – NATIONAL INTERSECTORAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS (NICs)****1. Background:**

CLME+ Project Output 1.2. (O1.2.) “*National intersectoral coordination mechanisms (NICs) in place (including science-policy interfaces)*” focuses on improved consultation and coordination processes among sectors and stakeholders at the national level, and on their linkages with (sub-)regional marine governance. This requires that NICs be established or enhanced in CLME+ countries. NICs are particularly important to achieve full country ownership over CLME+ SAP and CLME+ Project implementation, and to positively impact the effectiveness of SAP/project governance and implementation including EBM/EAF.

Establishment and operationalization of NICs is a country responsibility. However, the CLME+ Project, through the UWI-CERMES O1.2 deliverables, Component 3 Sub-Projects and other related activities will support and guide CLME+ countries in institutionalising NICs. In addition, limited direct support will be provided under the UWI-CERMES consultancy to at least 2 countries to achieve enhanced NIC operations. **The target is sustainable NICs operating in at least 60% of CLME+ participating countries by end of 2019.**

2. Main Content:

The 2016 *Report on the Survey of National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms* NICs background document was put online as was the 2017 *Good Practice Guidelines for Successful National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs)* [<https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/news/technical-reports.aspx>]. The later document has been widely shared to encourage the establishment or enhancement of NICs.

Three UWI-CERMES investigators, covering all CLME+ countries and languages have been collecting information on NICs through online searches, email queries and interviews with very low response rates. Very little is available online and few respondents either had access to, or were willing to share, documents needed to validate information such as legal status, duration, main purpose, terms of reference, membership, eligibility for inclusion, operating procedures, access to information rules or practices, performance, decision-making examples. NIC investigators indicate that few National Focal Points appear to be better informed about the role of NICs or able to provide information on NICs than other individuals contacted within a country that were not the NFPs. The investigators noted the email request from the CLME+ PCU on 12 March 2018 to encourage greater cooperation from CLME+ stakeholders in providing the UWI-CERMES team with information on Projects, Programmes and Initiatives (PPI) that are supportive of the CLME+ SAP. The UWI-CERMES investigators have referred this request to support their NIC queries as well, but with similar limited or no change in response rate.

A few respondents, mainly fisheries officers shared some information on the developments and actions concerning NICs in their countries. For example, in Barbados plans are being put in place for establishing administrative advisory groups to the Chief Fisheries Officer (CFO); in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) inception meetings have been held to begin establishing national Ocean Governance

Committees. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines arrangements have been made to formalise an ocean governance committee, which would be housed in the Ministry of Finance. In Jamaica, provision for establishing a Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) has been made in the 2018 Fisheries Bill. Once the bill is approved the FAC will presumably be legally constituted. According to the conceptual frame, structures such as FACs are 'near-NICs', being single sector but multi-stakeholder. Relaxing the criteria for a NIC (set out in the 2016 report) is one means of including more structures.

Although respondents shared opinions and perceptions of NICs in these few cases, further triangulation becomes necessary in order to assess progress. As O1.2 was designed simply as a desk study in anticipation of cooperation the progress has been slow. No NIC information has been put online as a database due to the above, but NIC country profiles have been compiled and are being shared with key informants to facilitate validation, completion and correction.

Few countries have a fully functioning NIC. No countries, via the individuals and agencies contacted within them, have yet expressed to UWI-CERMES or the CLME+ PCU and partner organisations an interest in NICs guidance. Canvassing larger Spanish-speaking countries has not yet been as complete as for others, mainly due to the geographical size and complexity of multi-level governance within these countries. The extent to which CLME+ partner organisations are actively promoting NICs for achieving national, (sub-)regional and global commitments beyond of the sub-projects is unclear. All partner organisations have CLME+ Project activities, at various stages of implementation that include NICs. However, it has often been agreed that countries require additional incentives to actively implement NICs. The data collected to date suggests that, similar to the CLME+ Project, the regional organisations limit themselves to NIC information and passive promotion so as not to infringe on national decision-making in the execution of their mandates. Vigorous advocacy and test piloting (active promotion) of NICs is not evident, but may be required to fully mobilise countries. A LME:LEARN grant will be used from July-September 2018 for field visits to investigate in detail the NICs in five OECS countries. A PhD researcher has been engaged to investigate and assist selected NICs.

3. Way Forward and Next Steps:

UWI-CERMES will:

- Continue to collect information on NICs through online searches, interviews, field visits, etc.
- Provide information on NICs via an online platform when sufficiently complete and correct
- Support NICs in at least 2 countries not supported through CLME+ sub-projects or partners
- Analyze the governance, gender and other dimensions of NICs in ongoing doctoral research
- Update NIC guidelines and share information on NIC successes through IW and LME:LEARN

The CLME+ Project Steering Committee and CLME+ countries are expected to:

- Provide information on NICs and in-kind support for research to enable UWI-CERMES work
- Demonstrate uptake of NIC good practices and active use of NICs to achieve the 60% target

4. Proposed Action:

The Meeting is invited to (a) note the current levels of progress with the NIC analysis and the distance-to-target(s), and to (b) encourage National Focal Points from CLME+ countries, as well as the countries' state and non-state actors that have pledged commitment to or interest in the CLME+ SAP, to assist with the collection of information as requested to support NIC knowledge products and the success of NICs beyond the CLME+ Project.

Catalyzing implementation of the
Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and
North Brazil Shelf LME's (2015-2025)



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



www.theGEF.org

