AGENDA ITEM 8: OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF THE PERMANENT POLICY COORDINATION MECHANISM (PPCM) AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING PLAN (SFP) CONSULTANCY

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CLME+ PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
Consultancy "Options for a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the CLME+ Region"

1. **Background**:

In November 2017, the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project awarded a consultancy to identify options for a regional Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and a strengthened Regional Governance Framework for shared living marine resources and ocean governance in the CLME+ Region, with a Sustainable Financing Plan. In line with the priorities of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme, the consultancy focuses initially on fisheries, pollution, and habitat degradation and the policy processes required to fulfil the related mandates of the considered Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs).

The mandate for this consultancy arises from the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP), specifically Strategy 3 to "establish and operationalise a regional policy coordination mechanism for ocean governance with initial focus on shared Living Marine Resources".

Leading the consultancy is the Centre of Partnerships for Development (CAD in its Spanish acronym), with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) as the advisory group.

2. **Main Content:**

The consultancy is being implemented between November 2017 and April 2020 in three phases as shown in Figure 1 below.

The consultancy is currently in Phase 1, in which options for a PPCM are being be developed and assessed along with associated Sustainable Financing Plans. In addition, options for a Sustainable Financing Plan and their pre-assessments are also being developed for the Regional Ocean Governance Framework, particularly the eight IGOs that form part of the SAP ICM:

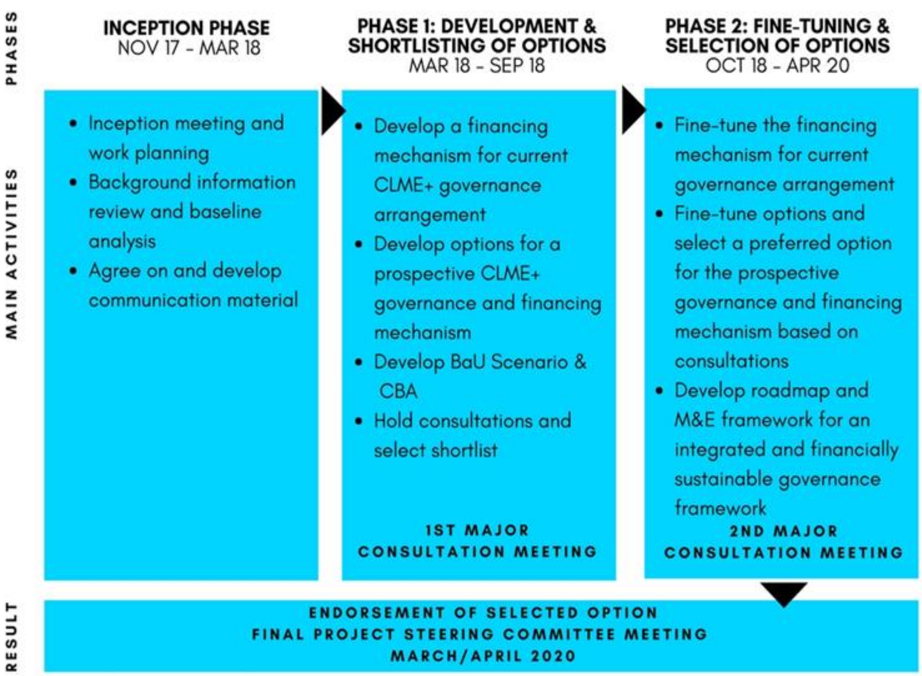
- UN Environment–Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment CEP);
- Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO-WECAFC);
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/IOCARIBE) of UNESCO;
- Organisation of the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA);
- Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD);
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) represented by its Secretariat;
- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM);

- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) represented by the OECS Commission.

A preliminary draft of the Phase 1 Report presenting the options was submitted to the PCU for review by the end of May 2018. Interviews with the IGOs on their perspectives on the PPCM and SFPs were carried out in April and May 2018, informing the development of the options. The draft report includes a business-of usual scenario, as well as a SWOT and preliminary cost-benefit analysis of the proposed options.

Previously, the inception phase of the consultancy was successfully completed and the Final Inception Report submitted to the Project Coordination Unit on March 21st. The report was developed with the participation of the PCU and the eight IGOs that make up the Interim Coordination Mechanism for the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme. These Partners contributed by participating in semi-structured interviews with the consultancy team, providing key documents and information, and reviewing and submitting comments on the draft Inception Report. The Inception Report contains a baseline description and analysis of ocean governance in the CLME+ region and its financing, focusing on the eight IGOs, which collectively represent all CLME+ countries. In contrast to the institutional and policy aspects of the Regional Governance Framework, no comprehensive financing baseline had been established prior to this consultancy. The availability and completeness of financing information related to ocean governance in the CLME+ region (current funding status and gaps of programmes related to the key thematic areas of the SAP, financial mechanisms and sources of financing, existing financing strategies of IGOs, etc.) has been among the main challenges. The level of detail of the proposed financing options depends to a great extent on the information provided to the consultant team. As a mitigative measure, the consultant team has been holding consultations with IGOs on their financing situation, and will ultimately adapt the scope of the proposed SFPs to the level of information available.

Figure 1: Methodological approach of the consultancy



Also, the following communication and awareness raising products have been developed under the consultancy:

- Announcement of the consultancy targeting National Focal Points
- Bulletin on the implementation progress targeting ICM members
- Brochure on the consultancy targeting CLME+ countries and other key stakeholders

3. Way Forward and Next Steps:

In the remainder of Phase 1, the consultancy will prepare the final version of the Phase 1 Report presenting the PPCM and SFP options with pre-assessment. In Phase 2, the shortlisted options will be developed in more detail and presented to CLME+ countries and IGOs for final selection. A roadmap for the establishment and full operationalization of the selected options will also be developed under the consultancy.

The expected main functions of the PPCM and its associated Sustainable Financing Plan are aimed to benefit the CLME+ countries and IGOs. To ensure the achievement of this objective, **active engagement of the CLME+ countries, Project Steering Committee and the ICM members as well as other key stakeholders is of utmost importance. Therefore, their views and specific information regarding a PPCM and its potential funding are vital. All proposed options will be subject to their review and assessment during their participation in the regional meetings, and/or using country's national consultations as well as IGOs' forums.**

The key regional consultation meetings for the consultancy are:

- **June 2018: Project Steering Committee Meeting to become familiarized with the consultancy and draft options (this meeting)**
- **September 2018: 1st Major Consultation meeting to review and shortlist PPCM and SFP options**
- **June 2019: 2nd Major Consultation meeting to select final option**
- **March/April 2020: Project Steering Committee Meeting to endorse final option**

4. Proposed Action:

The Project Steering Committee is invited to (a) note the progress obtained to date under the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and Sustainable Financing Plan Consultancy, and (b) commit to supporting consultations at the national level in relation to the proposed Options for the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and the Sustainable Financing Plans in preparation for the regional Consultation in September 2018.

Abbreviations

ICM – Interim Coordination Mechanism

IGO – Intergovernmental Organisation

PPCM – Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism

RGF – Regional Governance Framework

SAP – Strategic Action Programme

SFP – Sustainable Financing Plan

SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats