

AGENDA ITEM 9: THE GLOBAL “CLME+ SAP PARTNERSHIP”

A Global Partnership/Alliance for the Sustainable Management, Use and Protection of the Caribbean & North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

1. Background:

The SAP

As per the SAP document, “the CLME+ SAP provides a roadmap towards improved governance and management of the marine ecosystems in the CLME+ region”. It “has been developed as an umbrella Programme (...). By enhancing the **cooperation and coordination across the region and among organisations, countries, sectors and people, it will establish the enabling conditions for substantial synergies.**” Following such approach, a **substantial increase in the rate of return on investments** in the marine environment in the region can be expected.

The CLME+ Project Document

Building on the SAP, the CLME+ Project Document states that:

“Insufficient communication, coordination and information exchange among primary stakeholders and among the myriad of existing and planned projects, activities and initiatives in the region constitutes an important barrier to fully achieving the societal and environmental benefits expected from these multiple investments. With the SAP, a broad and comprehensive framework is now available to support better coordination of actions, so that major benefits can be obtained more effectively and efficiently.”

The establishment of a “**Global Partnership for the implementation of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme**” (the “**CLME+ Partnership**”) was therefore called for under COMPONENT 5 of the CLME+ Project Results Framework.

Decisions of the 1st CLME+ Project Steering Committee

Under Item 13 of the “Decisions” of the 1st CLME+ Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting”, celebrated in Cartagena – Colombia in January 2016, the PSC “*notes the opportunities for synergies emanating from the sister programmes, projects and initiatives presented by CLME+ Steering Committee Meeting participants and recommends that the interested project partners develop, as soon as possible, a road-map which will allow to harmonize contributions and to distribute responsibilities in complimentary ways*”. The PSC further “*Recommends that the CLME+ PCU coordinates this effort*”.

2. Progress and Status:

Conceptualization

The “**Global Partnership for the Sustainable Management, Use and Protection of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems**” (“**CLME+ Partnership**”) aims to ensure better coordination and collaboration among, and oversight of, the many efforts and initiatives on the marine environment in the CLME+ region. It will promote and secure the engagement and up-scaling of actions by all sectors of society, so that the long-term vision of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) can be made a reality over the coming decades: “*a healthy marine environment that provides benefits and livelihoods for the people of the region*”. The Partnership will assist the region in achieving global and regional goals and targets including those set under SDG14, the Aichi Targets and the LBS and SPAW Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.

Since the 1st CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting, the CLME+ PCU has been working on the establishment of a collaborative “CLME+” partnership:

- A consultancy was conducted, leading to the delivery in March 2017 of a “**Review of LME-related Partnerships and their Achievements**” (available from the online Documents Library on the CLME+ Hub: www.clmeplus.org). This review provides examples on partnership arrangements from other parts of the world.

Using these examples as initial inspiration, and taking into account the specific characteristics and existing governance arrangements in the CLME+ region, the following conceptual approach was adopted, and the following steps were subsequently undertaken, to come to the formal establishment of the “CLME+ Partnership”:

- A conceptual design was proposed which:
 - puts the 8 key Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO’s) with a formal mandate on the marine environment in the CLME+ region (i.e. the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism; ICM; see also the corresponding Meeting Document for Agenda Item 7), together with the countries that endorsed the CLME+ SAP, at the core of this collaborative arrangement
 - surrounding this core, organizations and/or influential individuals from civil society, NGO’s, Academia, private sector and the donor/development aid community can then be integrated, based on a shared commitment to contribute to the over-arching regional vision of a “*healthy marine environment that supports enhanced livelihoods*” and the related Sustainable Development Goals
 - 2 possible levels of engagement are anticipated in this context:
 - The **CLME+ PARTNERSHIP**:
 - the CLME+ Partnership is a voluntary, non-legally binding collaborative arrangement, based on the principles of “interactive governance”, and relies on a spirit of mutual trust and respect, and on open dialogue as well as on collaboration among multiple stakeholders for the fulfilment of its mission, and the achievement of its goal and objectives

- Partnership members pledge to collaborate and coordinate their activities with the CLME+ SAP ICM/core membership (and other members) and to support the CLME+ countries and/or IGO's in the fulfilment of their related mandates
 - At this stage, a limited number of organizations, pre-identified by the CLME+SAP ICM, will be invited by the Partnership Secretariat (currently the CLME+ PCU) to join the Partnership; these currently include: UNDP GEF, UN Environment ROLAC (and CBC), UN ECLAC, UNDP SGP, ACS/CSC, CCCCC, World Bank, IADB, GEF, EC, UWI-CERMES, CANARI, GCFI, TNC, WWF, CI, IUCN, INVEMAR, CNFO
 - Prospective partners that are invited to join can do so by making an online pledge through a link that will be provided by the CLME+ PCU (for a prototype of this user interface, see: <https://proto.clmeplus.org/partnership-form/>); these members will therefore be considered “**subscribing members**” (as opposed to the “**core membership**”)
 - The Partnership TORs establish and specify the general conditions that govern the Membership and operations of the CLME+ Partnership; the TORs were elaborated by the CLME+ PCU and shared with the core membership for their approval; subscribing members are requested to accept these TORs
- The **CLME+ ALLIANCE**:
- the CLME+ Alliance is a less formal arrangement under which organizations and individuals pledge to contribute to the achievement of the long-term vision for the CLME+ region, and associated Sustainable Development Goals (in particular SDG14)
 - Alliance members are not requested to directly coordinate their activities with the CLME+ SAP ICM/core membership
 - A specific modality to allow prospective Alliance members to join the Alliance is still to be developed, a related module allowing such parties to make the “Alliance Pledge” will subsequently be implemented on the CLME+ Hub
- Note: Partnership members are therefore automatically also Alliance members, but Alliance members are not automatically members of the CLME+ Partnership

Current Status

- The CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) was formally established among 8 Inter-Governmental Organizations with a key mandate on the marine environment of the CLME+ region (*i.e. the initially proposed membership presented to and adopted by the CLME+ PSC at its first meeting*), through the signing of an MOU in 2017: it is comprised of UN Environment (CEP), FAO (WECAFC), IOC of UNESCO (IOCARIBE), CRFM, OSPESCA, CCAD, CARICOM Secretariat, OECS Commission – a membership which was determined by the CLME+ Project Steering Committee at its 1st meeting

- *The concept of the CLME+ SAP ICM, developed by the CLME+ Project, and promoting collaboration among Regional Seas Programmes, Regional Fisheries Bodies, IGO's with a formal mandate on the marine environment and LME Projects, has been considered "visionary" and "best practice" among the Global LME Community of Practitioners (COP) and is an example for other regions of the world; it has been showcased at several regional and global events, including the 1st United Nations Oceans Conference (2017), the annual meetings of the LME COP and the CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative*
- As per the CLME+ SAP ICM MOU, this ICM constitutes the core of the wide-ranging alliance and partnership for the sustainable management and use of living marine resources in the CLME+ region, further also referred to as the **"CLME+ Alliance"** and **"CLME+ Partnership"**. The signing of this MOU by 5 of the 8 Parties to the MOU by 22 July 2017 is considered to coincide with the *de facto* establishment of the CLME+ Alliance and Partnership.
- The CLME+ PCU subsequently elaborated the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the CLME+ Partnership, and identified and proposed a core membership, and a "subscription" mechanism for "subscribing" members, deemed to be most suitable for the step-wise expansion of the Partnership membership beyond its original, restricted composition, giving due consideration to the intended spirit and objectives of the CLME+ Partnership.
- These draft TORs were disseminated for review, revision (as/where applicable) and subsequent approval among the ICM members and CLME+ Project Focal Points. The latter was important considering the fact that these TORs contemplate automatic membership (as "core members") for the CLME+ countries that have endorsed the CLME+ SAP. (The TORs include a mechanism for revision by the core members of the Partnership conditions, and for withdrawal, for those Parties that would no longer wish to make part of the Partnership)
- The final CLME+ Partnership TORs became considered adopted, with no formal objections received by received by 6 December 2017 (deadline) to the content of the TORs distributed by the CLME+ PCU on 14 November 2017.
- Core membership of the CLME+ Partnership consists of:
 - The countries that have endorsed the CLME+ SAP
 - The membership of the CLME+ SAP ICM
- For the duration of the CLME+ Project, the CLME+ PCU has been appointed as the Secretariat for the CLME+ SAP ICM and CLME+ Partnership.
- The CLME+ Alliance is conceptualized as a broad, non-binding voluntary Alliance of organizations and people who pledge to contribute to the SAP Objectives and the realization of its' over-arching vision of *"a healthy marine environment that supports enhanced livelihoods of the people of the CLME+ region"*; adherence to the Alliance will be formalized by making an online, standardized pledge on the CLME+ Hub. This modality is expected to become implemented during 2018.

3. Way Forward and Next Steps:

- Progressive expansion of the CLME+ Partnership and Alliance Membership, starting with the mobilization of pre-identified prospective members in the case of the Partnership
- Development of the CLME+ Partnership and Alliance sections on the CLME+ Hub, including the development of the Pledge & Subscription Mechanisms
- Organization of the 1st CLME+ Partnership Forum, to be held from 24-28 September 2018

4. Proposed Action:

The Project Steering Committee is invited to (a) note the progress obtained to date with regard to the formal establishment of the Global CLME+ Partnership and Alliance, centred around the CLME+ SAP ICM and SAP endorsing countries; to (b) encourage the CLME+ PCU to continue to work on the expansion and consolidation of the aforementioned mechanisms; and to (c) invite the core membership to actively contribute to the successful fulfilment of the mandate and objectives of this Partnership

Related PSCM2 “Reference Documents” and/or “Resources/Documentation”:

- *Review of LME-related Partnerships and their Achievements*
- *Terms of Reference for the Global Partnership for the Sustainable Management, Use and Protection of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*