

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE THIRD AND FINAL REGULAR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE UNDP/GEF CARIBBEAN AND NORTH BRAZIL SHELF LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (CLME+) PROJECT

Virtual Meeting of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee,
23 - 25 February 2021

The CLME+ Project Steering Committee:

Having convened the Third and Final Regular Meeting of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Steering Committee virtually utilizing the Kudo Meeting Platform from 23-25 February, 2021, with a total of 109 participants representing 31 States and Territories and 13 organizations, Chaired by The Bahamas, with the Deputy Chair from Honduras,

AGENDA ITEM 4: COORDINATION MECHANISM

SUB AGENDA ITEM 4a: FINAL FINE-TUNING AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Noting an emerging consensus on the text of this draft Memorandum of Understanding,
2. Technically endorses the content of the *Memorandum of Understanding Enabling the Creation of a Coordination Mechanism to Support Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems* and the associated Annex 1 as contained in documents [PSC2102 A14 - Coordination Mechanism draft MoU](#) and [PSC2102 A14 - Annex 1: Potential Signatories for MoU Commencement](#)
3. Notes that the way forward will include the following steps:
4. Requests the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU), with support from interested Project Steering Committee Members, to conduct a language reconciliation assessment of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure consistency with language in the English and Spanish versions and share the revised version with the Project Steering Committee by 20 March 2021
5. Encourages States, Territories and Inter-governmental organisations listed in Annex I to the MoU to submit the document to their legal departments for review to allow for the finalization and subsequent opening for signature of the Coordination Mechanism MoU and to submit any comments/recommendations, including those aimed at resolving the pending issue related to paragraph 3 of the MoU, to the CLME+ PCU at their earliest convenience, but no later than end of April 2021. In that process, States, Territories and Inter-governmental organisations are invited to verify if they are satisfied that the MoU as drafted will suffice to allow the Coordination Mechanism and its Secretariat to operate efficiently and effectively in discharging their functions and achieving their objectives, noting in particular the omission of text on the legal personality of the Coordination Mechanism.

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6. Requests the PCU to convene a special Meeting of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee with the aim of achieving finalization and opening for signature of the Coordination Mechanism Memorandum of Understanding before the end of June 2021.

SUB AGENDA ITEM 4b: OPERATIONALIZING THE COORDINATION MECHANISM

7. Acknowledges that it is up to each State and Territory to determine who would sign the MOU on their behalf and who will represent them in the Steering Group.
8. Recommends that, when considering who would sign the MOU, States and Territories consider high-level officials whose purviews cover the functions of the Coordination Mechanisms as outlined in the MOU.
9. Acknowledges that the representation of each State and Territory at the Coordination Mechanism Steering Group should be such that it will facilitate the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the Coordination Mechanism, and enable adequate articulation among regional-level and national-level ocean coordination processes, such as e.g. those undertaken by National Inter-sectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs).
10. Acknowledges in the context of the latter **(a)** the importance of well-functioning NICs, as well as **(b)** the progress made by States and Territories from the region throughout the CLME+ Project towards achieving such well-functioning NICs, and **(c)** encourages States and Territories to continue working towards the strengthening of national-level ocean coordination processes.
11. Acknowledges the importance of simultaneously and expeditiously moving towards the commencement of both the PROCARIBE+ Project and the Coordination Mechanism, to enable the prompt and successful operationalization of the Coordination Mechanism.
12. Indicates preliminary support for the following approach towards achieving short, medium and long-term sustainability of the Coordination Mechanism, while acknowledging the Steering Group of the Coordination Mechanism may revisit and adjust the approach, and taking into account that a number of States and Territories have voiced their opposition to mandatory financial contributions:
 - Short & medium-term (2021/2-2027):
 - Coordination Mechanism Secretariat and other Organs operate (largely) with financial support from the PROCARIBE+ Project
 - PROCARIBE+ Project period used to demonstrate and evaluate CM added value
 - CM considers a range of options and decides, prior to PROCARIBE+ Project end, on post-Project financing mechanism(s)
 - Long-term (2027 and beyond):
 - Deployment of sustainable financing mechanism(s) endorsed by the Coordination Mechanism Steering Group.

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13. While recognizing the relevance of inter-governmental coordination, also acknowledges the importance of actions by all sectors of society, and as such reiterates its support for broad stakeholder partnerships.
14. Requests that the CLME+ PCU solicit proposals for names for the Coordination Mechanism and survey participants regarding preference.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN PROJECT OUTPUTS

15. Acknowledges the successes and results of the CLME+ Project and recognizes its transformational nature in having stimulated cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration on oceans in the region, at multiple levels; and congratulates the participating States and Territories, co-executing partners and PCU on the successful delivery of the project's outputs.

AGENDA ITEM 6: TERMINAL EVALUATION

SUB AGENDA ITEM 6a: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

16. Takes notes of the preliminary findings, recommendations and conclusions of the CLME+ Terminal Evaluation.
17. Recommends that the initial recommendations and lessons learned from the CLME+ Terminal Evaluation Report be taken into account in the design of future projects and interventions as appropriate.

SUB AGENDA ITEM 6b: CO-FINANCING REPORTING AND STATUS

18. Urges CLME+ participating States and Territories, co-executing organisations and other project partners which have not yet reported on their co-financing contributions under the CLME+ Project to do so no later than Friday 5 March 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REVISED BUDGET AND UPDATED WORK PLAN

19. Approves the CLME+ revised budget for the period January - October 2021 as presented in document [PSC2102 A17 - Revised Budget and Updated Work Plan 2021](#)

AGENDA ITEM 8: UNDP/GEF CONCEPT NOTE FOR CONTINUITY OF THE CLME+ INITIATIVE

SUB AGENDA ITEM 8a: OVERVIEW OF CONCEPT NOTE

20. Acknowledges the critical and strategic importance of expeditiously mobilizing renewed funding from the GEF to support the operations of the Coordination Mechanism and the continued implementation of the CLME+ SAP, and to give continuity and sustainability to key CLME+ Project Outputs and Outcomes.
21. Notes the objectives, components and outputs proposed under the new UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Concept Note (PIF) as presented in document [PSC2102 A18 - 6290 PROCARIBE+ PIF working draft 22feb2021](#) for the continuity of the CLME+ initiative, with the understanding that further fine-tuning of the project proposal can take place during the 10-month Project Document (PPG) development phase.

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SUB AGENDA ITEM 8b: STATUS AND TIMELINE

22. Acknowledges the information provided by the CLME+ PCU in relation to the status of this PROCARIBE+ Concept Note (PIF) and the strategic importance of the proposed timeline for submission to the GEF Secretariat by March 24, 2021, with the aim of enabling its inclusion in the June 2021 GEF Council Work Programme.
23. Notes the formal expression of support from the CLME+ ICM, conveyed on behalf of the ICM to the Meeting by means of the ICM Chair, for the aim of achieving successful submission of the PROCARIBE+ Concept Note (PIF) to the GEF Secretariat by March 24, 2021.
24. Recommends that States, Territories and Intergovernmental Organisations interested in participating in this new project endeavor to meet all requirements for successful submission of this PIF by 24 March 2021.

SUB AGENDA ITEM 8c: STATUS INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING

25. Notes **(a)** the information provided by the CLME+ PCU in relation to the GEF co-financing requirements for GEF-supported projects, **(b)** the current status of identification of indicative co-financing for the new PIF, and **(c)** the related need for the timely provision of indicative co-financing values.
26. Urges States and Territories and prospective project partners and stakeholders who may not have done so yet, to submit their indicative co-financing information to the CLME+ PCU as soon as possible, but no later than 20 March 2021.

SUB AGENDA ITEM 8d: STATUS ENDORSEMENT LETTERS

27. Notes **(a)** the critical importance of the timely provision of GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) endorsement letters for the PROCARIBE+ PIF by those States that wish to participate in the new initiative, and **(b)** urges Steering Committee members to liaise, as applicable, with the national GEF OFPs with the purpose of achieving the submission of these endorsement letters by all GEF-eligible States wishing to participate in the new initiative to UNDP as soon as possible, but no later than 20 March 2021.

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