

**REPORT OF THE FINAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE  
OF THE UNDP/GEF CARIBBEAN AND NORTH BRAZIL SHELF LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (CLME+)  
PROJECT**

**Meeting convened virtually,**

**chaired by the Government of The Bahamas and co-chaired by the Government of Honduras**

**11 – 12 October 2021**

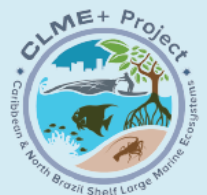
Catalyzing implementation of the  
Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and  
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## ACRONYMS

CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Project
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICM	Interim Coordination Mechanism
IFCM	Interim Fisheries Coordination Mechanism
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
IOCARIBE	regional subsidiary body of the IOC
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OPF	Operational Focal Point
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PIF	Project Identification Form
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PROCARIBE+	Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) Project
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RPC	Regional Project Coordinator
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USA	United States of America
USD	United States dollar
WECAFC	Western and Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission

## INTRODUCTION

1. This Special Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project was convened virtually from 11 – 12 October 2021 with the aim of:
  - Addressing any remaining (legal) comments received on the draft Coordination Mechanism MoU text.
  - Pursuing the finalization and adoption of the Coordination Mechanism MoU, and opening the MoU for signature.
  - Reviewing and where necessary revising the roadmap towards the operationalisation of the Coordination Mechanism MoU.
2. The list of participants in the meeting is presented in Annex 1.

## WELCOME

3. Mr Patrick Debels, Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) of the CLME+ Project, having confirmed that a quorum had been reached, indicated that, according to the rules and procedures of the Steering Committee, since this Special Meeting is a continuation of the previous meeting, the countries that served as Chair and Vice-Chair on that previous occasion would retain these functions for this meeting. He therefore advised the meeting that The Bahamas will serve as Chair and Honduras will serve as Vice-Chair, with the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) performing the role of Rapporteur, as was done at the last meeting. He then introduced Ms. Leena Wokeck, who would be assisting the meeting as Facilitator.

## OPENING REMARKS

4. Mr. Christian Severin, Senior Environmental Specialist and lead for the International Waters focal area at the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), noted the extraordinary progress made in the Caribbean region through various initiatives and with support from various lines of funding, and he indicated that this region, in spite of its size and complexity, now provides a shining example of what can be achieved, an example that is valuable to other parts of the world. Progress has been made thanks to the CLME+ Project, but also due to the fact that the governments of the region have realised the value and potential of oceans and have been committed to the objectives of the Project. He noted that, thanks to the progress made, the region can now move away from the aid scenario, with the influx of diverse and substantial resources. He shared his satisfaction that the GEF has already approved funding for the continuation of the work done by the Project. He also stressed that, if the pressures coming from the land onto the sea can be effectively managed and reduced, coastal and marine ecosystems can become more resilient. In conclusion, he wished all participants a successful and productive meeting.
5. Mr. Andrew Hudson, Head of the Water and Ocean Governance Programme at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that this meeting would have to take very important decisions, especially with respect to the future of the Coordination Mechanism. He reconfirmed UNDP's support for the CLME processes and the CLME+ Project, as well as its support for the implementation of the upcoming PROCARIBE+ Project. He congratulated all members of the PSC for their contributions, especially considering the challenges, and he underscored UNDP's positive experience with respect to the collaboration that was achieved between international and regional agencies in this complex and multifaceted project. The CLME+ contributed significantly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), to the implementation of regional conventions, and to the programmatic priorities of the GEF. He then hailed the team at the PCU for the volume and quality of work done over the years, and he noted the conclusions and recommendations formulated by the project's Terminal Evaluation, which are already proving useful to the effective design and future

implementation of the PROCARIBE+ Project. In conclusion, he invited everyone to be an active participant in the PROCARIBE+ process.

6. Dr. Cesar Toro spoke on behalf of IOCARIBE, the regional subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), expressing his pleasure to participate in this meeting. “Today is about the future,” said Dr. Toro, highlighting the solid foundations that have been established over two decades of collaboration among a wide range of partners in the Caribbean region. He also emphasized the value of the trust that has been built through this active collaboration. He expressed his pride in the important work done by the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) and recognised the valuable contributions of its members. He also echoed earlier comments about the volume and quality of the work done by the PCU, as well as the contribution of all partners to the processes targeted at socio-economic development and sustainable resource management in the region, and reaffirmed IOCARIBE’s commitment to these processes. He invited members of the PSC to support the successor PROCARIBE+ Project and to reach consensus on the matters being considered by this meeting, as this is a requirement for the achievement of a new paradigm. He concluded his remarks by wishing all participants a fruitful meeting.
7. Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg, Head of Programme of the Water and Energy Cluster, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), began her remarks by sharing nostalgic feelings, considering the long and important journey already travelled. She stressed that the progress made since 2015 is remarkable, noting that this is the result of a committed and engaged collaborative effort. She also paid tribute to the PCU team, for its work, its dedication and its passion, and expressed admiration for the commitment of all PSC members, and for their readiness to work cooperatively towards the realisation of a regional vision. The process is now at a stage where a very significant step must be achieved, namely the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism, and she invited the meeting to reach the decisions that will make it happen. In conclusion, she wished all participants a successful meeting.
8. In conclusion to this agenda item, Mr Patrick Debels welcomed all participants to this special and final meeting of the PSC. Since the last meeting of the PSC in February 2021, the relevance, quality and importance of the work being done have been validated by the GEF, with its approval of the concept note for the PROCARIBE+ Project, and by the findings of the Terminal Evaluation. There remains one last task to complete, he said, with the legal review of the MoU and its opening for signature. The finalisation of the MoU is indeed the primary purpose of this meeting, especially considering the pre-commitment made by the GEF, and Mr. Debels therefore encouraged all participants to work diligently and cooperatively to achieve this key milestone of the SAP, namely the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism. In conclusion, he thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for having agreed to continue in their roles and for providing leadership to this meeting.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

9. The Chairperson, Ms. Rochelle Newbold of The Bahamas presented the proposed agenda and opened the floor to additions, corrections and amendments. In response, Ms. Samantha Dowdell, speaking on behalf of the United States of America (USA) thanked and congratulated The Bahamas for having agreed to continue as Chair of the meeting, and thanked the PCU for the extraordinary efforts made in preparation for this meeting. She noted that the relevant items are already on the proposed agenda, expressed the hope that it will be possible for this meeting to reach a consensus on the text of the MoU, but noted that some edits may be needed when the three versions (English, French and Spanish) are

fully reconciled. The USA then moved the adoption of the agenda, and this was seconded by Dr. Cesar Toro, Representative of IOCARIBE.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

10. At the invitation of the Chairperson, this agenda item was introduced by Mr. Patrick Debels, who recalled the steps already taken and the expected achievements, by 2030, towards the realisation of the CLME+ vision. He recalled the findings of earlier studies that concluded on the need for enhanced coordination in the region, and noted that much has already been achieved by the SAP ICM. The region is therefore now ready to upscale the approach, with a Coordination Mechanism in which countries and Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGO) can both participate, in accordance with the objectives and actions of the third strategy of the SAP. Good progress has been made, there have been many opportunities for consultation, and the process to establish the Coordination Mechanism is largely on schedule. Based on all the consultations held to date, the PSC has key decisions to consider at this meeting, in order to arrive at the operationalisation of the Coordination Mechanism, and to take full advantage of the approval by the GEF of the concept note for the PROCARIBE+ Project.
11. Ms. Sonia Gautreau, Technical Specialist – Marine Ecosystems at the PCU, then provided a comprehensive overview of the approach adopted and employed, since the last meeting of the PSC, towards gathering and compiling comments on the draft MoU. She noted in particular that:
  - the meeting of the PSC of February 2021 had technically endorsed the content of the MoU, thus enabling the creation of a Coordination Mechanism;
  - the meeting of February 2021 had further mandated the PCU to conduct an exercise to reconcile the English and Spanish versions of the MoU, and to share the outcomes of that language-reconciliation exercise with the PSC;
  - prospective signatories to the MoU were also asked to conduct a legal review of the text of the MoU to allow for its finalisation and opening for signature, and to submit any comments and recommendations to the CLME+ PCU prior to its next meeting;
  - on the basis of these decisions taken in February 2021, the original expectation was that the legal review process of the MoU text would be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2021, but more time was needed by prospective signatories to conclude the review, and it is therefore at the present meeting that the process must be completed.
12. Ms. Gautreau then explained that, over the last few weeks preceding the meeting, the focus had been on addressing the comments received and questions raised as part of the legal review, with the following steps and approaches:
  - the PCU engaged directly with several of the concerned parties, in order to provide clarifications, to explain the purpose and nature of the expected review, and to help with the identification of remaining issues that needed to be brought to the attention of the PSC;
  - the PCU, acting as the Secretariat of the Interim Coordination Mechanism, facilitated meetings of the ICM, with matters related to the MoU being placed on the agenda of these meetings with a view to try and find solutions to some of the issues raised during the legal review;
  - on 5 October 2021, in preparation for this meeting of the PSC, the PCU organised and facilitated a dedicated meeting for IGOs, with the involvement of their Legal Experts;
  - the PCU then compiled all proposed amendments to the MoU emanating from the aforementioned process, for consideration under Agenda Item 3c at this Special Meeting of the PSC.

13. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Gautreau indicated that the PSC, as it considers this agenda item, was expected to:
- address and resolve any remaining issue(s) in the text of the MoU;
  - finalise the MoU and allow for its subsequent opening for signature; and
  - review and, if necessary, revise the roadmap towards the operationalisation of the Coordination Mechanism.

She reminded participants that once the Coordination Mechanism is operational, its Signatories will be able to fine-tune aspects not explicitly addressed in the MoU through its Steering Group and Executive Group, and it was therefore important that the meeting focused on enabling the Coordination Mechanism to commence.

In conclusion, Ms Gautreau stressed that the PSC is presented with a unique opportunity, that it has now reached the final stage of a long journey, with work based on solid research, extensive consultations, and broad-based participation. The establishment of a Coordination Mechanism is a major milestone of the SAP, and one should hope for a successful resolution of outstanding issues, especially as the CLME+ Project comes to an end at the end of the current month. In the absence of a clear roadmap agreed at this meeting, it would be a challenge to sustain activities and to ensure a successful transition to the PROCARIBE+ Project.

14. The facilitator then invited the PCU to present an overview and the status of the comments received on the draft text of the MoU, and Ms. Sonia Gautreau provided: a list of the countries and IGOs that had provided comments; the types of comments received, including requests for clarification and/or modification to the text; and the cases where requests for modifications were put forward as non-negotiable conditions. She noted that all comments and requested modifications have been included in track changes in the version of the draft MoU circulated in advance of this meeting, and proposed a method of work for this meeting, with the English and Spanish versions of the current draft of the MoU shared on the screen, but also with all participants able to access these documents online. Under the guidance of the meeting facilitator, the meeting would then review the text, with the PCU providing required explanations. Whenever consensus was reached, the tracked changes would be removed, while pending issues could be deferred for consideration under agenda item 5. The text was then presented on the screen, so that PSC members could focus on the most critical matters, addressing them one by one.
15. In the discussion that followed, the PSC considered all comments and recommendations in detail, with several delegations providing specific responses and explanations, and suggesting ways in which outstanding issues could be resolved. Prior to the detailed examination of the text of the MoU, general remarks and observations were shared, including the following:
- the Delegate from the Secretariat of the Western and Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) expressed her gratitude for the hard work done in support of the consultations that had taken place so far. She indicated that the Legal Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is satisfied with both the format and the contents of the current draft MoU, but noted that the Secretariat of the WECAFC would be unable to make a commitment of human and financial resources; the MOU should therefore not create commitments or obligations that would require Signatories to contribute such resources;
  - in response to several comments and questions on this matter, it was emphasised that the language of the draft MoU clearly states that this is not a binding instrument;
  - the Delegate from the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) asked if the fact that the Coordination Mechanism would not acquire a legal personality would limit the Mechanism's ability to seek, receive and manage funds. In response, the PCU indicated that the Secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism and individual Signatories

can receive and manage funds, and the fact that the Coordination Mechanism would not have legal personality would therefore not be an impediment to its operations and financing;

- the Delegate from Barbados indicated that his Delegation was very pleased with the progress made in this meeting towards the finalisation of a text and a structure that are more comprehensive than in previous drafts, and which can be implemented more realistically, but that it was reserving the right to further comments as its legal personnel needed to conduct further review.

16. Once all suggested amendments to the text were considered resolved by the meeting, it was concluded that the revised text of the MoU could be presented for consideration as part of the decisions of this meeting as a provisionally finalised version of the MoU pending language reconciliation of the French and Spanish versions of the text.
17. Towards the end of the consideration of this agenda item, the PCU indicated that the meeting might wish to make a decision regarding the name of the Coordination Mechanism, especially as a proposal in this regard had been received from the USA, but noted that the issue of the name could be considered by the Coordination Mechanism itself, after it commences. The Delegation of the USA indicated its preference for deferring the decision regarding the name of the Coordination Mechanism to the Coordination Mechanism itself, and the Delegation from Barbados concurred.

### OPERATIONALISATION OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM: NEXT STEPS / TIMELINE

18. This agenda item was introduced by Mr. Patrick Debels, who recalled the PSC's earlier decision to move simultaneously with the operationalisation of the Coordination Mechanism and the design and implementation of the PROCARIBE+ Project, especially as this project is meant to provide support to the Coordination Mechanism in its first five years, while a sustainable financing solution for the Coordination Mechanism is sought. The first step towards the operationalization of the Coordination Mechanism is therefore to finalize the MoU at this meeting which would allow the Coordination Mechanism to become operational in mid-2022, pending the signatures from 23 signatories (17 States and 6 IGOs). The next steps therefore must be the completion of the language reconciliation, followed by the initiation of the signing process.
19. As per the MoU, the ICM shall be responsible for retaining the original text of the MoU and collecting all signatures until the MoU commences. The ICM has considered the issue, and at its most recent meeting decided that IOCARIBE of the IOC of UNESCO and the PROCARIBE+ PPG Coordination Unit would jointly serve, *ad interim*, as the ICM Secretariat, starting on 1 November 2021 and until the end of the PROCARIBE+ PPG Phase, and would therefore jointly carry-out the functions related to the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism. This decision, however, requires the signature of all ICM Members to an addendum to the MoU that established and governs the ICM, and to date, three additional signatures are still pending. Mr. Debels therefore noted that it would be useful if the PSC could formally encourage these three IGOs to proceed with signing the addendum to ensure continuity of the ICM and support for the commencement of the Coordination Mechanism. He further informed the meeting that the GEF is reluctant to provide simultaneous support to both the PCU of the PROCARIBE+ Project and the Secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism, and he therefore noted the proposal for the PCU of the PROCARIBE+ Project to act as the Secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism, a proposal that is already reflected in the approved concept note for the PROCARIBE+ project.

## FINAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE CLME+ PROJECT

20. Mr. Ivan Pavletich Meza, Operations and Finance Manager, CLME+ PCU, provided the PSC with an overview of the final status of financial implementation of the CLME+ Project. He recalled that the status at the February 2021 meeting had been acknowledged and that financial projections for 2021 had been approved at the previous meeting of the PSC. He informed the PSC that as of September 2021, the PCU had disbursed 99% (USD 12.3 M) of the full grant from the GEF to the CLME+ Project (USD 12.5M), and that 85% of the budget approved for 2021 had been spent. The PCU was now in the process of administrative closure, ensuring full compliance with the rules and procedures of the donor and the executing agency.
21. Mr. Patrick Debels then provided a summary presentation of activities undertaken since the meeting of the PSC in February 2021, at which the revised work plan was presented. He noted that much had been achieved by the PCU, in spite of its reduced human capacity. These achievements include: the request for and processing of the extension to the CLME+ Project; the facilitation of all the processes leading to the consideration of a revised MoU at this meeting; the provision of ongoing support to the Interim Fisheries Coordination Mechanism (IFCM) and the SAP ICM; the successful submission of the PROCARIBE+ Project Identification Form (PIF) to the GEF; continued work on the CLME+ Hub and the ICM's knowledge management platform; the formulation of sustainability strategies for the IFCM, the ICM and PROCARIBE+; continued work on the monitoring and evaluation portal for the SAP; the finalisation of a video presenting the project's achievements; the completion of the terminal evaluation; and, the conduct of a baseline study of potential Blue Finance Investors (towards the CLME+ Vision). He also noted that the FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had now finalised work under the sub-projects they were responsible for.

## TERMINAL EVALUATION

22. Ms. Sonia Gautreau provided the PSC with a summary presentation of the main findings of the terminal evaluation, recalling first that a preliminary report was shared with the PSC in February 2021, and that the final version of the report was received at the end of March. The overall project was rated as Satisfactory and its M&E design and implementation were rated as Highly Satisfactory, with some of its methods and approaches described and assessed as constituting best practice.

## NOMINATIONS FOR UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ PROJECT PPG

23. Ms. Sonia Gautreau presented the proposed approach towards development of the UNDP Project Document and the full proposal to be presented to the GEF CEO endorsement package, and indicated that the PPG Coordination Unit will seek country and partner/stakeholder inputs and feedback through a PPG Development Committee (that will provide general oversight, and final clearance to the Project Document), as well as through Thematic Working Groups (comprising experts who will provide technical inputs into specific project components and outputs). She noted that eleven such Thematic Groupings were being considered and that seventeen nominations had already been received from countries (seven for the Thematic Groupings and ten for the PPG Development Committee), while fifteen nominations had been received from organisations. She stressed that these nominations are critical to allow for the engagement of countries in the PPG phase and to ensure that the full proposal is developed cooperatively. In addition, it is expected that different ministries and agencies can be involved in the Thematic Groupings, thus allowing for a holistic and cross-sectoral approach. Nominations are made through the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFP). She concluded her presentation by encouraging the Countries

and organizations invited to take note of the process established for nominating representatives as presented in the slides.

## REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

24. The Chair invited the PCU to present the draft Recommendations and Decisions of the Meeting for review and adoption, with amendments as appropriate. These were displayed in real time through a multimedia projector in both languages, and discussed in detail by participants. The Recommendations and Decisions of this Finale and Special Meeting of the Steering Committee of the CLME+ Project, as approved by this Meeting, are included in Annex 3.
25. The meeting also reviewed and considered all proposed edits, modifications and agreements on the text of the MoU, and agreed to the finalisation, subject to language reconciliation, 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 constituting the Memorandum of Understanding to enable the commencement and operationalization of the ocean coordination mechanism called for under Strategy 3, Action 3.3, of the CLME+ SAP. The PSC further agreed to open the MoU for signature, subject to language reconciliation, and took note of UNEP's gracious offer to conduct this reconciliation.

## MEETING CLOSURE

26. In its closing remarks, the CLME+ PCU congratulated all PSC members for the major milestone realised at this meeting, and noted that while one chapter was being closed, the process towards the next chapter is already underway. In his remarks, the Regional Project Coordinator Mr. Patrick Debels thanked and congratulated the other members of the PCU, those responsible for the meeting platform, the translators and all those who contributed to making this meeting a success.
27. Dr. Cesar Toro, speaking on behalf of the ICM, noted that an extremely important step had been taken in the meeting, capitalising on the trust built over the years, and reminded the meeting that, thanks to their cooperation, they are changing the way living marine resources can be managed, for the benefit of the peoples of the region.
28. In closing the meeting, the Vice-Chair, Head of Delegation from Honduras, congratulated the Head of Delegation of The Bahamas for the leadership she provided to the meeting, stressed the quality of the meeting and its outputs, and thanked participants, wishing all to stay healthy and safe.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF DELEGATES	
<p><b><u>BAHAMAS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Rochelle Wendy Newbold Director Department of Environmental Planning and Protection Charlotte House P.O Box N-7132 Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas</p> <p>Tel: 242-322-4546</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:rochellenewbold@bahamas.gov.bs">rochellenewbold@bahamas.gov.bs</a> Email: <a href="mailto:rnewbold@depp.gov.bs">rnewbold@depp.gov.bs</a></p>	<p><b><u>BARBADOS</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Joyce Jennifer Leslie Chief Fisheries Officer (Ag) Fisheries Division, Ministry Of Maritime Affairs And The Blue Economy</p> <p>Tel: 246 535 5803 Email: <a href="mailto:Joyce.Leslie@barbados.gov.bb">Joyce.Leslie@barbados.gov.bb</a> Email: <a href="mailto:Fisheries.Division@barbados.gov.bb">Fisheries.Division@barbados.gov.bb</a></p>
<p><b><u>BARBADOS</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Fozlo Leo Stanley Brewster Director Coastal Zone Management Unit 8th Floor Warrens Tower II, Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados</p> <p>Tel: 246 535 5740 Email: <a href="mailto:lbrewster@coastal.gov.bb">lbrewster@coastal.gov.bb</a> Email: <a href="mailto:director@coastal.gov.bb">director@coastal.gov.bb</a></p>	<p><b><u>BARBADOS</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Anthony Headley Director Environmental Protection Department</p> <p>Tel : 1-246-535-4601 Email: <a href="mailto:anthony.headley@epd.gov.bb">anthony.headley@epd.gov.bb</a></p>
<p><b><u>BARBADOS</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Travis Sinkler Senior Environmental Officer Fisheries Department, Ministry Of Environment and National Beautification St. Michael, Barbados</p> <p>Tel: 246 535 4383 Email: <a href="mailto:travis.sinckler@barbados.gov.bb">travis.sinckler@barbados.gov.bb</a></p>	<p><b><u>BELIZE</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Beverly Wade Director of Blue Economy Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation</p> <p>Tel: +501-6213397 Email: <a href="mailto:ppuadvisor@blueeconomy.gov.bz">ppuadvisor@blueeconomy.gov.bz</a></p>
<p><b><u>CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Yoeri De Vries Policy officer Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands</p>	<p><b><u>COLOMBIA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Sonia Jurado Coordinadora (E) Asuntos Ambientales Dirección de Asuntos Económicos, Sociales y Ambientales Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores</p>

<p>Tel : +599 715 8393                  Tel : +599 781 0205                  Email: <a href="mailto:Yoeri.devries@RijksdienstCN.com">Yoeri.devries@RijksdienstCN.com</a></p>	<p>Tel: (+57) 1 3814000                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:sonia.jurado@cancilleria.gov.co">sonia.jurado@cancilleria.gov.co</a></p>
<p><b><u>COLOMBIA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Rosario Gutierrez                  Asesora Dirección De Asuntos Jurídicos Internacionales                  Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:rosario.gutierrez@cancilleria.gov.co">rosario.gutierrez@cancilleria.gov.co</a></p>	<p><b><u>COLOMBIA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Heins Clayton Bent Hooker                  Profesional Especializado                  Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo</p> <p>Tel: (1) 3323400 ext. 2482                  Cel: 3107681125                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:hbent@minambiente.gov.co">hbent@minambiente.gov.co</a>                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:benthoo@hotmail.com">benthoo@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>COSTA RICA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Mario Cerdas Gómez                  Director                  Área de Conservación Amistad Caribe                  Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación                  Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía</p> <p>Tel: +506 87350925                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:mario.cerdas@sinac.go.cr">mario.cerdas@sinac.go.cr</a></p>	<p><b><u>DOMINICA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Jullan Defoe                  Chief Fisheries Officer                  Fisheries Division, Ministry of Blue and Green Economy,                  Agriculture and National Food Security</p> <p>Tel: 767 245 0758                  Email: <a href="mailto:defoej@dominica.gov.dm">defoej@dominica.gov.dm</a></p>
<p><b><u>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Rosa Otero                  Directora de Relaciones Internacionales.                  Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales                  Avenida Cayetano Germosén esq. Avenida Gregorio Luperón                  Ensanche El Pedregal, Código Postal 11107                  Santo Domingo</p> <p>Tel: (+1809) 567-4300                  Tel: (+1809) 467-2135                  Email: <a href="mailto:Rosa.otero@ambiente.gob.do">Rosa.otero@ambiente.gob.do</a></p>	<p><b><u>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Nina Lysenko                  Coordinadora                  Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales                  Avenida Cayetano Germosén esq. Avenida Gregorio Luperón                  Ensanche El Pedregal, Código Postal 11107                  Santo Domingo</p> <p>Tel: 809-399-5593 cel: 809-567-4300/ext. 7140                  Email: <a href="mailto:ninalysenko@gmail.com">ninalysenko@gmail.com</a>                  Email: <a href="mailto:Nina.Lysenko@ambiente.gob.do">Nina.Lysenko@ambiente.gob.do</a></p>
<p><b><u>GRENADA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Rickie Morain                  Planning Officer                  Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and                  Co-operatives</p> <p>Tel: 1 473 440 6917                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:morainrickie@gmail.com">morainrickie@gmail.com</a>                  E-mail: <a href="mailto:rickiem@hotmail.com">rickiem@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>GUATEMALA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Luisa María Fernández                  Asesora del Departamento de Ecosistemas                  Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales</p> <p>Tel: (502) 24230500 ext. 2704                  Email: <a href="mailto:lmfernandezbio@gmail.com">lmfernandezbio@gmail.com</a>                  Email: <a href="mailto:lmfernandez@marn.gob.gt">lmfernandez@marn.gob.gt</a></p>

<p><b><u>GUATEMALA</u></b></p> <p>Lic. Regina Sanchez Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales</p> <p>Tel : 24230500 - 47697420 Email: <a href="mailto:probioma@gmail.com">probioma@gmail.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:rscastaneda@marn.gob.gt">rscastaneda@marn.gob.gt</a></p>	<p><b><u>GUATEMALA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Marco Eduardo Carlos Villela Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales</p> <p>Tel: 502 2423-0500 Email: <a href="mailto:mecvillela@marn.gob.gt">mecvillela@marn.gob.gt</a></p>
<p><b><u>HAITI</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Astrel JOSEPH Directeur Général du Ministère de l'Environnement</p> <p>Email : <a href="mailto:astreljo@yahoo.fr">astreljo@yahoo.fr</a></p>	<p><b><u>HAITI</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Jean Fanfan Jourdain</p> <p>Email : <a href="mailto:jeanfanfan@yahoo.fr">jeanfanfan@yahoo.fr</a></p>
<p><b><u>HONDURAS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Marnie Xiomara Portillo rodríguez Asistente Técnico en Biodiversidad y Ambiente Ministerio de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente</p> <p>Tel: +50488362986 Email: <a href="mailto:portillomarnie@yahoo.com">portillomarnie@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>HONDURAS</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Carlos Pineda Fasquelle Subsecretario de Ambiente Ministerio de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente</p> <p>Tel: +50431634693 Email: <a href="mailto:carlos.pinedaf@hotmail.com">carlos.pinedaf@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>HONDURAS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Skarleth Fiyen Pineda Lim Analista Ambiental Ministerio de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente</p> <p>Tel: 3349-8552 Email: <a href="mailto:Spineda85miambiente@gmail.com">Spineda85miambiente@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>JAMAICA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Gavin Bellamy Chief Executive Officer National Fisheries Authority Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries</p> <p>Tel : 876-434-1803 Email : <a href="mailto:gavin.bellamy@moa.gov.jm">gavin.bellamy@moa.gov.jm</a></p>
<p><b><u>JAMAICA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Ian Keith Jones Senior Fisheries Officer National Fisheries Authority Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries</p> <p>Tel : 876-818-0863 Email : <a href="mailto:ikjones007@yahoo.com">ikjones007@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>MEXICO</u></b></p> <p>Biol. Roberto Rosado Subdirector de asesoría técnica Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)</p> <p>T: 54900900 ext. 25816 M: 5512544413 Email: <a href="mailto:roberto.rosado@semarnat.gob.mx">roberto.rosado@semarnat.gob.mx</a></p>

<p><b><u>MEXICO</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Alfonso De La Torre Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:alfonso.delatorre@semarnat.gob.mx">alfonso.delatorre@semarnat.gob.mx</a></p>	<p><b><u>PANAMA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Osvaldo Rosas Asesor Jurídico Ministerio de Ambiente, Dirección de Costas y Mares</p> <p>T: (+507) 500-0855 ext. 6170 M: (+507) 6841-3176 Email: <a href="mailto:orosas@miambiente.gob.pa">orosas@miambiente.gob.pa</a></p>
<p><b><u>PANAMA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Liz Montilla Bióloga Dirección General de Ordenación y Manejo Integral Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá Edificio La Riviera Avenida Justo Arosemena y calle 45 Bella Vista, Rep. De Panamá</p> <p>Tel: 50762763343 Email: <a href="mailto:liz.montilla@arap.gob.pa">liz.montilla@arap.gob.pa</a></p>	<p><b><u>PANAMA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Leyka Del Carmen Martínez Jefa del Depto. De Manejo de los Recursos Acuáticos Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá ARAP</p> <p>Cel: 67-92-84-04 Email: <a href="mailto:lmartinez@arap.gob.pa">lmartinez@arap.gob.pa</a></p>
<p><b><u>PANAMA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Jorge Jaén Bonilla Jefe del Departamento de Ordenamiento de Espacios de Costas y Mares (apoyo de los puntos focales nacionales) Ministerio de Ambiente, Dirección de Costas y Mares</p> <p>T: (+507) 232-9621 ext. 9673 M: (+507) 6695-5854 Email: <a href="mailto:jejaen@miambiente.gob.pa">jejaen@miambiente.gob.pa</a></p>	<p><b><u>ST. LUCIA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Sarita William-Peter Chief Fisheries Officer Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives</p> <p>Tel: (758) 468 - 4135/ 43 Email: <a href="mailto:sarita.peter@govt.lc">sarita.peter@govt.lc</a></p>
<p><b><u>ST. LUCIA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Lavina Alexander Sustainable Development and Environment Officer III Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Tel: 1-758-468-5833 Email: <a href="mailto:lalexander@sde.gov.lc">lalexander@sde.gov.lc</a></p>	<p><b><u>ST. LUCIA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Kareem Alleyne Crown Counsel Attorney General's Chambers</p> <p>Tel: (758) 468-3276 Tel: (758) 484-6504 Email: <a href="mailto:kareem.alleyne@govt.lc">kareem.alleyne@govt.lc</a></p>
<p><b><u>ST. LUCIA</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Christopher Alexander Director of Maritime Affairs Saint Lucia Air and Seaport Authority</p> <p>Tel: 1 (758) 457-6152/1 Tel: 1 (758) 728-4846 Email: <a href="mailto:christopher.alexander@slaspa.com">christopher.alexander@slaspa.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Deborah Daniel Williams Agricultural Planning Officer Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour Richmond Hill, Kingstown</p> <p>Tel: 1-784-4319118</p>

	Email: <a href="mailto:debbidaniel@gmail.com">debbidaniel@gmail.com</a>
<p><b><u>ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Kris Isaacs Senior Fisheries Officer Fisheries Division Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries and Industry St. Vincent and the Grenadines</p> <p>Tel: 784 456 2738 (work) Tel: 784 430 0605 (cell) Email: <a href="mailto:kris.isaacs@yahoo.com">kris.isaacs@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>SURINAME</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Cedric Nelom General Director Nationaal Instituut voor Milieu &amp; Ontwikkeling in Suriname (NIMOS) Mr. Jagernath Lachmonstraat 100/Hoek Bersabalaan</p> <p>Tel.: 597490044 Email: <a href="mailto:cnelom@nimos.org">cnelom@nimos.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Katherine Gorove Delegation Legal Adviser U.S. Department Of State; 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, Dc 20520</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Gorovekm@State.Gov">Gorovekm@State.Gov</a></p>	<p><b><u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Samantha Dowdell International Relations Specialist NOAA Office of International Affairs</p> <p>Tel: 202-482-5144 (direct) Email: <a href="mailto:samantha.dowdell@noaa.gov">samantha.dowdell@noaa.gov</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Iris Lowery Attorney-Advisor, NOAA Office of the General Counsel 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701</p> <p>Tel: 1-727-551-5731 Email: <a href="mailto:iris.lowery@noaa.gov">iris.lowery@noaa.gov</a></p>	<p><b><u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Olivia Potter Intern U.S. Department of State, Office of the Legal Adviser</p> <p>Tel: 6187951381 Email: <a href="mailto:potteroj@state.gov">potteroj@state.gov</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Suzanne Archuleta Marine Policy Advisor U.S. Department of State</p> <p>Tel: 202-538-0465 Email: <a href="mailto:mailto:archuletams@state.gov">mailto:archuletams@state.gov</a></p>	<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Lara Andrea Ferreira Fisheries Officer Fisheries Division Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Western Main Rd Chaguaramas, Trinidad</p> <p>Tel: 1-868-634-4504/5 Email: <a href="mailto:lferreira@gov.tt">lferreira@gov.tt</a></p>

<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Ida Mariana Eversley Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs</p> <p>Tel: 1(868) 226-5095 Tel: 1(868) 498-7988 Email: <a href="mailto:ieversley@ag.gov.tt">ieversley@ag.gov.tt</a></p>	<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Farahnaz Solomon Representative Institute of Marine Affairs Institute of Marine Affairs Hilltop Lane, Chaguaramas Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Tel: 868 634 4292 ext 1011 Email: <a href="mailto:fsolomon@ima.gov.tt">fsolomon@ima.gov.tt</a> Email: <a href="mailto:Farahnaz.solomon@gmail.com">Farahnaz.solomon@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Shana Dass-Nobbee Fisheries Extension Officer Tobago House of Assembly, Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries</p> <p>Tel: 1-868-639-1966 ext 4354 Tel: 1-868-484-8694 Email: <a href="mailto:shanadass1@gmail.com">shanadass1@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Jenise Kirk Fisheries Services Officer Tobago House of Assembly, Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries</p> <p>Tel: 1-868-639-1966 ext 4354 Tel: 1-868-286-6712 Email: <a href="mailto:dmrf2010@gmail.com">dmrf2010@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Candice Clarence Executive Assistant Environmental Management Authority</p> <p>Tel: 1-868-226-4362 ext 2290 Email: <a href="mailto:cclarence@ema.co.tt">cclarence@ema.co.tt</a></p>	<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Steve Lalbeharry Regional Coordinator, Emergency Response &amp; Investigations Environmental Management Authority</p> <p>Tel: 868-226-4EMA ext. 4103 Tel: 868-752-0852 Email: <a href="mailto:slalbeharry@ema.co.tt">slalbeharry@ema.co.tt</a></p>
<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Hayden Romano Managing Director Environmental Management Authority</p> <p>Tel: 868-226-4362 ext 2222 Email: <a href="mailto:hromano@ema.co.tt">hromano@ema.co.tt</a></p>	<p><b><u>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Nicole Selvon Legal Officer II Legal Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries</p> <p>Tel: 1-868-220-6253 Email: <a href="mailto:nicoleselvon@gmail.com">nicoleselvon@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>INSTITUTIONS</u></b></p>	

<p><b><u>CANARI</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Nicole Leotaud Executive Director 11 Valley Springs, Cassia Drive, Petit Valley, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Tel: 1-868-638-6062 Email: <a href="mailto:nicole@canari.org">nicole@canari.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>CERMES</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Patrick McConney Director Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, St. Michael, Barbados</p> <p>Tel: 1-246-417-4725 Email: <a href="mailto:patrick.mcconney@gmail.com">patrick.mcconney@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>CERMES</u></b></p> <p>Professor Robin Mahon Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus St. Michael, Barbados</p> <p>Tel: +12462316782 E-mail: <a href="mailto:prof.mahon@gmail.com">prof.mahon@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>CRFM</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Peter Murray Advisor Fisheries Management and Development</p> <p>Tel: 501-223-4443 Email: <a href="mailto:peter.a.murray@crfm.int">peter.a.murray@crfm.int</a> Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@crfm.int">secretariat@crfm.int</a></p>
<p><b><u>CRFM</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Maren Dee Headley Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development</p> <p>Tel: 784-457-3474 Email: <a href="mailto:maren.headley@crfm.int">maren.headley@crfm.int</a></p>	<p><b><u>CRFM</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Sandra Grant Deputy Executive Director CRFM Secretariat</p> <p>Tel: 501-223-4444 Email: <a href="mailto:sandra.grant@crfm.int">sandra.grant@crfm.int</a></p>
<p><b><u>CARICOM SECRETARIAT</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Kareem Jamal Sabir Senior Project Officer Sustainable Development P.O. Box 10827, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana</p> <p>Tel: 15922220001 Email: <a href="mailto:kareem.sabir@caricom.org">kareem.sabir@caricom.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>CARICOM SECRETARIAT</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Sandra Bart</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Sandra.Bart@caricom.org">Sandra.Bart@caricom.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>OSPESCA</u></b></p> <p>Sr. Jose Infante Director Regional OSPESCA</p> <p>Tel: +1 (809) 924-5144 Email: <a href="mailto:jinfante@sica.int">jinfante@sica.int</a></p>	<p><b><u>OSPESCA</u></b></p> <p>Sr. Heiner Mendez Asesor Departamento Juridico OSPESCA</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:hmendez@incopesca.go.cr">hmendez@incopesca.go.cr</a></p>

<p><b><u>GCFI</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Robert Glazer Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute</p> <p>Tel: 305-942-1814 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bob.glazer@gcfi.org">bob.glazer@gcfi.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>GCFI</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Alejandro Acosta Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute</p> <p>Tel: 305-676-3273 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org">Alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>ACS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Ana Leticia Ramirez Directora Asociación de Estados del Caribe</p> <p>Tel : +1(868) 730-2380 Email: <a href="mailto:aramirez@acs-aec.org">aramirez@acs-aec.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>ACS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Natasha George Legal Advisor Association of Caribbean States</p> <p>Tel: 868 776 4047 Email: <a href="mailto:ngeorge@acs-aec.org">ngeorge@acs-aec.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>ACS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Tricia Barrow Political Advisor Association of Caribbean States</p> <p>Tel: 868 495 7181 Email: <a href="mailto:tbarrow@acs-aec.org">tbarrow@acs-aec.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>OECS COMMISSION</u></b></p> <p>Mr. David Robin Programme Director - Ocean Governance &amp; Fisheries Ocean Governance &amp; Fisheries Unit</p> <p>Tel: 758-453-1628 Email: <a href="mailto:david.robin@oecs.int">david.robin@oecs.int</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNDP</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Ana María Nuñez Regional Technical Specialist for Waters, Oceans, Ecosystems and Biodiversity Nature, Climate and Energy Bureau for Policy and Programme Support / Global Policy Network United Nations Development Programme Regional Center for LAC</p> <p>Tel: +593 995 006 730 E-mail: <a href="mailto:anamaria.nunez@undp.org">anamaria.nunez@undp.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>UNDP</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Andrew Hudson Head, Water &amp; Ocean Governance Programme United Nations Development Programme</p> <p>Tel: 1 917 349 7303 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Andrew.hudson@undp.org">Andrew.hudson@undp.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNDP</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Florencia Celasco Legal Advisor United Nations Development Programme</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:florencia.celasco@undp.org">florencia.celasco@undp.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>UNESCO – IOC</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Cesar Toro Head UNESCO IOC Regional Office for IOCARIBE Torices, Edificio Chambacu, Oficina 405, Cra 3B # 26-78, Cartagena</p> <p>Tel: 6640955 Email: <a href="mailto:c.toro@unesco.org">c.toro@unesco.org</a></p>

<p><b><u>FAO</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Yvette Diei Ouadi Fishery and Aquaculture Officer WECAFC Secretary</p> <p>Tel: +12464267110 Email: <a href="mailto:yvette.dieiouadi@fao.org">yvette.dieiouadi@fao.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>FAO</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Joel Villaseca Legal Advisor</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Joel.Villaseca@fao.org">Joel.Villaseca@fao.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNEP</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Lorna Inniss Principal Coordination Officer Cartagena Convention Secretariat</p> <p>Tel. 876-366-9241 E mail: <a href="mailto:Lorna.inniss@un.org">Lorna.inniss@un.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>UNEP</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Christopher Corbin Programme Officer/Officer in Charge Pollution and Communications Sub-Programmes Cartagena Convention Secretariat Ecosystems Division UN Environment</p> <p>Tel.: 1 876 922 9267-69 Fax: 1 876 922 9292 E mail: <a href="mailto:Christopher.Corbin@un.org">Christopher.Corbin@un.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNEP</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Ileana Lopez Programme Officer Biodiversity Cartagena Convention Secretariat</p> <p>Tel. + 1 876 922-9267 E mail: <a href="mailto:Ileana.lopez@un.org">Ileana.lopez@un.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>UNEP</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Isabel Martinez Legal Advisor</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:isabel.martinez@un.org">isabel.martinez@un.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>UNOPS</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg Vienna Representative - Head of Programme for WEC Tel: +43 664 388 344 2 Mob: + 43 676 848 284 300</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:katrin@unops.org">katrin@unops.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>ECLAC</u></b></p> <p>Mrs. Diane Quearless Director United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Tel: +868-224-8063 Email: <a href="mailto:Diane.Quearless@eclac.org">Diane.Quearless@eclac.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>ECLAC</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Artie Dubrie Coordinator Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Tel: (1868) 2288056 Email: <a href="mailto:Artie.dubrie@eclac.org">Artie.dubrie@eclac.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>ECLAC</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Guillermo Acuña Legal Adviser and Chief of Protocol Office of the Executive Secretary</p> <p>Tel: +569-62295926 Email: <a href="mailto:guillermo.acuna@cepal.org">guillermo.acuna@cepal.org</a></p>

<p><b><u>ECLAC</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Javier Perez Legal Consultant Office of the Executive Secretary</p> <p>Tel: +569-68410080 Email: javier.perezvera@cepal.org</p>	<p><b><u>ECLAC</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Lydia Rosa Geny Political Affairs Officer</p> <p>Tel: +56 2 22102175 Email: Lydia.rosageny@cepal.org</p>
<p><b><u>ECLAC</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Thorne Research Assistant</p> <p>Tel: (868) 461-8629 Email: elizabeth.thorne@un.org</p>	<p><b><u>GEF SECRETARIAT</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Christian Severin Senior Environmental Specialist GEF Secretariat - Programs Unit</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:cseverin@thegef.org">cseverin@thegef.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>CLME+ PCU</u></b></p>	
<p>Mr. Patrick Debels Regional Project Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:PatrickD@unops.org">PatrickD@unops.org</a></p>	<p>Ms. Sonia Gautreau Technical Specialist Email: <a href="mailto:soniag@unops.org">soniag@unops.org</a></p>
<p>Mr. Ivan Pavletich Meza Operations and Finances Manager Email: <a href="mailto:ivanP@unops.org">ivanP@unops.org</a></p>	<p>Ms. Angelica Carrillo Project Management Support Associate Email: <a href="mailto:angelicac@unops.org">angelicac@unops.org</a></p>
<p>Mr. Camilo Martelo Data Assistance Clerk Email: <a href="mailto:camiloma@unops.org">camiloma@unops.org</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Martha Prada Technical Specialist – Marine Ecosystem Email: <a href="mailto:marthaceciliap@unops.org">marthaceciliap@unops.org</a></p>
<p>Mr. Yves Renard Meeting Support Email: <a href="mailto:yvesrenard18@gmail.com">yvesrenard18@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Ms. Leena Wokeck Meeting Facilitator Email: <a href="mailto:leenawokeck@futureways.org">leenawokeck@futureways.org</a></p>

**ANNEX 2: AGENDA**

#	Time (Colombia time)	Agenda Item	Meeting Materials
<b>DAY 1</b>			
1	9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
2	9:30 - 9:45	Adoption of Agenda	- <a href="#">Annotated Agenda</a>
3		Coordination Mechanism	
	9:45 - 10:05	a. Overview of the approach adopted since the last PSC meeting towards gathering and compiling comments on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	- Updated version of the <a href="#">Coordination Mechanism draft MoU</a> with suggested changes emanating from the legal review  - <a href="#">Annex 1</a>  - <a href="#">3a. Overview of the approach towards gathering and compiling comments on the draft MoU</a>
	10:05 - 10:45	b. Overview and Status of Comments received on the draft MoU text	<a href="#">3b. Summary : Comments received from the final (legal) review of the MoU</a>
	10:45 - 11:00	<b>BREAK</b>	
3		Coordination Mechanism cont'd	
	11:00 - 13:00	c. Addressing remaining comments	
<b>END OF DAY 1</b>			
<b>DAY 2</b>			
	9:00 - 9:10	Welcome and Overview of Day 1	
3		Coordination Mechanism Cont'd	
	9:10 - 9:25	d. Other requirements for finalizing the MOU	- <a href="#">3d. Other requirements for finalizing the MOU</a>

			- <a href="#">Regional Consultation on possible names for the Ocean Coordination Mechanism</a>
	9:25 - 10:00	e. Finalization of the MOU and Annex	
	10:00 - 10:30	f. Operationalisation of the Coordination Mechanism: Next Steps/Timeline	- <a href="#">3f. Operationalizing and Sustaining the Coordination Mechanism</a>
	10:30 - 10:40	<b>BREAK</b>	
4	10:30 - 10:50	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final implementation status of CLME+ Project</li> <li>- Terminal Evaluation Report</li> <li>- Nominations for UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ project PPG</li> </ul>	- <a href="#">Final CLME+ Implementation Status</a> - <a href="#">Terminal Evaluation Report Summary Presentation</a> (short) - <a href="#">Terminal Evaluation Report Summary Presentation</a> (long) - <a href="#">Terminal Evaluation Report</a> (full pdf) - <a href="#">Update on Status of Nominations for PROCARIBE+ Proposal</a>
5	10:50- 11:50	a. Adoption of the Meeting Recommendations and Decisions.  b. Adoption of the MoU and formal opening for signature (as applicable).	
6	11:50 - 12:00	Meeting Closure. Project Closure.	
<b>END OF MEETING</b>			

### ANNEX 3: RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

The CLME+ Project Steering Committee:

Having convened a Special Meeting of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Steering Committee virtually utilizing the “Congress Rental Network” teleconferencing Platform from 11 - 12 October, 2021, with a total of [98 participants representing 25 States and Territories and 15 Organizations](#), Chaired by The Bahamas, with the Deputy Chair from Honduras.

#### AGENDA ITEM 3: COORDINATION MECHANISM

##### SUB AGENDA ITEM 3a: OVERVIEW OF APPROACH ADOPTED SINCE LAST PSC MEETING TOWARDS GATHERING AND COMPILING COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MOU

1. Acknowledges the approach utilised by the CLME+ PCU, in gathering and compiling the comments, suggestions and requests by States, Territories and Intergovernmental Organizations emanating from their final (legal) review of the text of the draft “*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*” (“the MoU” or the “coordination mechanism MoU”), whose content had been [previously technically endorsed at the February 2021 CLME+ Final Regular Steering Committee Meeting](#).

##### SUB AGENDA ITEM 3b: OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT MOU TEXT

2. Takes note of the overview and status of comments, suggestions and requests received, and the approach utilised by the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit in dealing with such comments, suggestions and requests.

##### SUB AGENDA ITEM 3c: ADDRESSING REMAINING COMMENTS

3. Acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the Steering Committee to resolve any outstanding issues relative to the MoU, with the aim of enabling full and satisfactory finalization of the MoU at the Meeting.

##### SUB AGENDA ITEM 3d: OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR FINALIZING THE MOU

4. Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the CLME+ PCU to facilitate inputs and comments, and the indication of preferences, if any, on possible names for the coordination mechanism.

5. Recommends that a decision on a name for the coordination mechanism can be made by the organs of the coordination mechanism, once the MoU has commenced and the coordination mechanism decision-making processes are operational.

### SUB AGENDA ITEM 3e: FINALISATION OF MOU AND ANNEX

6. Provisionally finalizes on the 12th day of October 2021, the MoU and its associated “Annex 1”, as contained in Document “[211004 - Coordination Mechanism draft MoU EN & SP](#) and [Annex 1: Potential Country & IGO Signatories](#)” and decides to open the MoU for signature, subject to language reconciliation.
7. Accepts UNEP’s gracious offer to conduct a language reconciliation, and requests that they expeditiously carry this out, taking into account any inputs received and subject to the absence of objections from prospective Signatories, through the services of UN certified translators, of the French and Spanish versions of the MoU text to ensure that the English, French and Spanish versions of the MoU are equally valid, prior to the opening for signature of the MoU.
8. Requests the CLME+ Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) Secretariat to communicate to all States, Territories and IGOs listed in Annex 1 any relevant deadlines in this regard.
9. Requests the CLME+ ICM Secretariat to announce the Opening for Signature of the MoU to all CLME+ PSC Members as soon as the language reconciliation process described in the previous paragraph has concluded, while encouraging all IGO’s listed in Annex 1 to subsequently and formally inform their Constituents, at their earliest convenience and as applicable, of the Opening for Signature of the MoU.

### SUB AGENDA ITEM 3f: OPERATIONALISATION OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM: NEXT STEPS/TIMELINE

10. Acknowledges (a) the relevance of swiftly operationalizing the coordination mechanism and (b) invites States, Territories and Inter-Governmental Organisations listed in Annex 1 to sign the MoU as soon as possible after the MoU is open for signature to ensure its prompt commencement, noting that the coordination mechanism MoU is expected to commence on the date that a minimum of twenty-three (23) potential Signatories, including no fewer than seventeen (17) States or Territories and six (6) IGOs, have signed the MoU.
11. Acknowledges the role of the Secretariat of the CLME+ Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) as (interim) Custodian of the coordination mechanism MoU and of the signatures thereto, pursuant to Paragraph 36 of the coordination mechanism MoU, provisionally finalized by the PSC.

12. Takes note of the importance of ICM Members formalizing, prior to 31 October 2021, the extension of the ICM lifespan beyond the CLME+ Project End Date.
13. Further takes note of June 2021 Decision ICM11D1.2 of the ICM, through which all ICM Member IGO's reaffirm their commitment to continue participating in the ICM beyond the CLME+ Project End Date.
14. Therefore urges all ICM Member IGO's who have not yet done so, to proceed with the signature, prior to the CLME+ Project End Date, of the CLME+ ICM MOU Addendum that will extend the ICM lifespan.
15. Acknowledges the approval of the [UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Concept Note \(PIF\)](#) at the June 2021 GEF Council Meeting, as well as the PIF's endorsement to date by 18 GEF Operational Focal Points.
16. Further acknowledges the provisions in the PROCARIBE+ PIF for enabling the short-term operationalization of the coordination mechanism with the financial support of the PROCARIBE+ Project, as recommended in Decision 12 from the February 2021 CLME+ Project Steering Committee (PSC).
17. More specifically, acknowledges the provision under the PROCARIBE+ PIF for the PROCARIBE+ Project Coordination Unit to function as the initial/interim coordination Mechanism Secretariat, and endorses the further development and implementation of such cost-effective, short-term financial solution through the PROCARIBE+ Project Document.
18. Reaffirms the importance of simultaneously and expeditiously moving towards operationalizing the PROCARIBE+ Project and commencing the coordination mechanism MoU, noting that the PROCARIBE+ Project is anticipated to financially support the coordination mechanism and its organs.
19. Notes the proposed roadmap and (short) timeline for finalizing the detailed UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Project Document and other documents for submission to the GEF Secretariat.
20. Recommends that States, Territories and Intergovernmental Organisations from the region therefore support the efforts aiming at ensuring the successful and timely finalization and submission to the GEF Agency and Donor of the Project Document and other documents.
21. Invites interested GEF eligible countries from the region who have not done so yet, to consider submitting a GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letter for the PROCARIBE+ PIF at their earliest convenience, to formalize their participation in the Project.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

22. Notes the final implementation status of CLME+ Project as indicated in presentation [Final CLME+ Implementation Status](#) and that the project closure is set for 31 October 2021.
23. Acknowledges the ratings of the [CLME+ Terminal Evaluation Report](#) and congratulates UNOPS, the CLME+ PCU and all Project participating countries and organizations.
24. Acknowledges that the PROCARIBE+ Project intends to give continuity to the CLME+ Initiative by continuing to support some of the CLME+ project outputs and outcomes, notably that of the Coordination Mechanism and associated knowledge management.
25. Notes the efforts already undertaken by countries and organizations for sending nominations to participate in the [PROCARIBE+ PPG Development Committee and Thematic Groupings](#), acknowledging their importance for the collaborative development of the detailed PROCARIBE+ Project Proposal.
26. Invites interested States, Territories and Organizations who have not done so yet to provide the PROCARIBE+ PPG Coordination Unit with their nominations, at their earliest convenience, but no later than 31 October 2021.

**AGENDA ITEM 5b: ADOPTION OF THE MOU AND FORMAL OPENING FOR SIGNATURE.**

27. Provisionally finalizes, subject to language reconciliation, 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 constituting the Memorandum of Understanding to enable the commencement and operationalization of the ocean coordination mechanism called for under Strategy 3, Action 3.3, of the “[Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems](#)” (the CLME+ SAP).