



CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROJECT BRIEF

Introduction:

The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Regions (CLME) Project is a 4 year Global Environment Facility (GEF) intervention, which officially started in May 2009. The Project Implementing Agency is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with IOC of UNESCO. The Executing Agency is the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The project is administered from a small Project Coordination Unit (CLME PCU) located in the offices of IOCARIBE, IOC of UNESCO, in Cartagena, Colombia. Project partners include **23 GEF-eligible countries, 2 associated countries** and a considerable number of organizations from the region.

The CLME Project assists countries of the **wider Caribbean** to improve the regional governance & management of **shared Living Marine Resources (sLMR)** - most of which are considered to be fully or over exploited. In order to do so, the project follows the standard GEF approach under the “International Waters” Focal Area, which consists of the preparation, and regional and national-level endorsement, of a **Strategic Action Programme (SAP)**. The SAP is to be based on the outcomes from **Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA)**, while a series of **Case Studies & Pilot Projects** also help filling knowledge gaps and identifying strategic actions that can be considered for inclusion in the SAP.

Project Details:

The **project goal** is to enable a “**Sustainable provision of goods and services by the shared living marine resources in the Wider Caribbean Region through robust cooperative governance and related actions**”

The **overall project objective** is:

“Sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean LME and adjacent areas through an integrated management approach that will meet the WSSD target for sustainable fisheries”

The **specific objectives** of the project are:

1. To identify, analyse and agree upon major issues, root causes and actions required to achieve sustainable management of the shared living marine resources in the Caribbean LME and adjacent regions (*development of Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses or TDAs*),
2. To improve the shared knowledge base for sustainable use and management of transboundary living marine resources (*through case studies & pilot projects, a.o.*),
3. To jointly develop and endorse a *Strategic Action Programme (SAP)* which details the policy, legal & institutional reforms and investments that will be taken to achieve sustainable transboundary living marine resource management (all participating countries),
4. To develop an institutional and procedural approach to LME level *monitoring, evaluation and reporting*.

The project entails of a number of **components** which include:

1. The development of **Transboundary Diagnostics Analyses (TDAs)**¹ – Preliminary TDAs, developed during the project preparation phase (the so-called “PDF B” phase), were revised and updated under the full-sized CLME Project by using a **fishery ecosystem-based approach**: the 3 most important fisheries-supporting ecosystem types (continental shelf, pelagic and reef ecosystems) were selected as the focus for these revised TDAs. This highly innovative and pioneering approach sets the basis for advancing towards effective Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM). This activity has been completed during 2011.
2. **Case Studies** – Three distinct case studies are contributing to further filling important knowledge & data gaps and to the development of the SAP:
 - a. Case Study on **Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish Fishery**,
 - b. Case Study on **Large Pelagic Fishery**
 - c. Case Study for the Shared Stocks of the **Shrimp and Groundfish Fishery** of the Guianas-Brazil Shelf
3. **Pilot Projects**- Two pilot projects seek to demonstrate best practices and effective management and governance models for reef ecosystem (fisheries & biodiversity):
 - a. Sub-Regional Management of the **Spiny Lobster Fisheries**
 - b. Management & Conservation of **Reef Biodiversity & Fisheries**
4. **Regional Governance Framework Proposal** – Under this component a Regional Management & Governance Framework options paper will be developed, taking into account existing institutional arrangements within the CLME.
5. Development of an **Information Management System** and a **Regional Ecosystem Monitoring Framework (IMS/REMP)** – This component seeks to identify an appropriate information system for the CLME, as well as an appropriate approach to develop a mechanism to monitor CLME status and long-term trends.
6. The development of a **Strategic Action Programme (SAP)**² – The development of the SAP will be informed by the outputs of the TDAs and the Pilot & Case Study “subprojects”. The SAP will identify **strategic directions** and detail the corresponding **policy, institutional and legal reforms and investments** that countries have agreed to implement to achieve improved governance and sustainable resources management in the wider Caribbean. The SAP thus needs **to be endorsed by the participating countries**. Inter-sectoral consultation and coordination at the national level (e.g. through the operation of **National Inter-sectoral Committees**) is important in this context to achieve a broad support base for endorsement and future implementation of the CLME SAP³.

¹ TDAs are technical documents developed as part of the LME process that identify priority problems and environmental and social economic impacts on the LME, and links them to direct, indirect and root causes

² A Strategic Action Programme (SAP) is an agreement among participating countries on actions needed to resolve priority threats to international waters, including actions with both transboundary and national benefits, and institutional mechanisms at regional and national level for the implementation of those actions

³ Implementation of the full SAP would occur under a follow-up project to the CLME. However, (limited) early implementation of certain actions is possible under the CLME “subprojects”



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