**TESTIMONIES SCRIPTS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project, executed by UNOPS, is an initiative to catalyze the implementation of the ten-year politically endorsed Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP). The project seeks to achieve this by facilitating ecosystem based management/an ecosystem approach to fisheries within the CLME+ region.

This initiative works with various stakeholders including countries, IGO’s, NGO’s, and academia for its execution, and it is built in 5 components that aim to address crucial matters for the sustainable development of the region.

Governance, capacity building, on the ground activities and much more has been the focus of this past 6 years...and this video will show you from our partners perspective how we did it.

**COMPONENT 1**

**INTRO COMPONENT 1**

**C01 - 02 Intro Component 1 Camilo Martelo**

The first Component focuses on the theme of governance. Through the CLME+ Project, the region sought to put in place mechanisms to strengthen its approach to governing its coastal and marine resources at the national, and regional levels and also across sectors.

**C01 - 03 Testimonio Chris Corbin, UNEP CEP**

Since the establishment of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat in 1986, we have supported pollution prevention and marine biodiversity protection. In 2016, with support from the CLME+ project, the Secretariat convened its first joint Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting for our Marine Biodiversity and Pollution Protocols. This enabled Governments to identify common priorities and agree on joint solutions. A Roadmap for collaboration between the two Protocols was developed and has been incorporated into the new Strategy for the Convention. The success of this integration has led to integrated meetings of our Conferences of Parties.

**C01 - 04 Testimonio Milton Haughton, CRFM**

Regional cooperation is a fundamental requirement for their effective management and long-term sustainability.

It is not surprising therefore that over the past 50 years Caribbean countries have established 3 regional fisheries bodies – WECAFC, CRFM and OSPESCA.

The CLME+SAP recognized that for these fisheries bodies to be successful, they must also work together and coordinate their actions.

The project therefore supported the establishment of a Fisheries Interim Coordinating Mechanism which was formalized in January 2016 by an MOU signed by the 3 RFB, to ensure that they work together going forward.

Today, the CRFM, OSPESCA and WECAFC are now working closer together planning, exchanging information and developing and implementing joint programmes, plans, measures and workshops to realize synergies and add value to the efforts of the countries in addressing the numerous challenges and achieving the vision of profitable, successful and sustainable fisheries in the CLME+Region.

**C01-05 Testimonio Dr. Cesar Toro**

In the absence of an overarching regional integration mechanism, efforts have been underway for over two decades by the countries, regional intergovernmental organizations (including UN organisations) in the WCR to develop an integrated regional approach to governing shared living marine resources, and to develop a regional mechanism with a mandate to coordinate and integrate existing and new regional and sub-regional arrangements to operationalize a truly EBM approach to ocean governance.

In 2017 CLME+ Countries and organisations established an Interim Coordination Mechanism for strengthening and consolidating regional coordination and cooperation through the implementation of the endorsed CLME+ Strategic Action Programme; and to support oversight and integration of actions for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

**C01- 06 Testimonio Laverne Walker, CLME+ PCU**

The CLME+ SAP also calls for the creation of a Coordination Mechanism to support integrated ocean governance through enhanced collaboration among countries and organizations in the CLME+ region. The Project has supported the region with the advancement of this Coordination Mechanism.

Recommendations from two consultations convened in the past two years in relation to the proposed mandate, functions and structure were considered by the PSC during its June 2020 meeting. The PSC also, for the most part, supported the use of a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to create the Coordination Mechanism. A draft MoU was considered during a Steering Committee meeting in October 2020, with negotiations expected to be finalised in early 2021. The region will then begin preparations for the commencement of the MoU.

**COMPONENT 2**

**INTRO COMPONENT 2**

**C02 - 07 Intro Component 2 Camilo Martelo**

We recognise that putting in place certain frameworks to strengthen governance is only one aspect towards achieving improved governance of our marine and coastal resources. Other measures need to be put in place including enhancing the capacity of our countries and regional organisations to successfully maintain this governance infrastructure. In light of this, Component 2 of the CLME+ Project sought to enhance institutional and stakeholder capacity required to support improved management of the region’s marine and coastal resources. This was achieved by a number of means including the following:

**C02 - 08 Testimonio Ileana Lopez, UNEP CEP**

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat developed a Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, and a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats. These strategies aim to strengthen national and collective action by Member States to manage the use of coastal ecosystems, particularly mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. This will maintain the integrity of these habitats and ensure the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services. This includes specific focus on addressing the major sources of excessive nutrients impacting on these ecosystems from sewage, agrochemical run-off and air pollution. Both strategies identify strategic pillars such as the importance of ecosystem health and resilience, sustainable use, governance, partnerships, policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks and capacity building and training.

**C02- 09 Testimonio Yvette Diei Ouadi, FAO WECAFC**

I wish to share a successful experience of WECAFC in a joint deliverable we worked with the CLME+ Project.

This is the Regional Plan of Action to prevent deter and eliminate the IUU fishing in the region, this 10 year RPOA-IUU was overwhelmingly endorsed at the 17th session of the commission held in 2019, is centered around 4 main aspects that are:

* Policy and legal framework
* Operations and MCS related actions
* Information exchange and cooperation at regional level
* and last but not least, Capacity development.

We look forward in a follow up action to CLME+, to collaborate in the implementation of the RPOA-IUU in the WECAFC region.

**C02 - 10 Testimonio Nicole Leotaud, CANARI**

Under the CLME+ Project, CANARI worked with civil society and fisherfolk organisations and community enterprises to develop “People Managing Oceans".

This is a Civil Society Action Programme about how civil society across the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf can contribute to achieving a healthy marine environment that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of people of the region. It will help to deliver the politically endorsed 10-year Strategic Action Programme.

“People Managing Oceans" has already been endorsed by 49 civil society organisations across the region.

CANARI also worked with 16 donors to develop a roadmap for a small grant coordination mechanism to support civil society in implementing “People Managing Oceans".

**C02- 11 Testimonio Bob Glazer, GCFI**

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute was engaged as part of the CLME+ project to develop a research strategy to identify research priorities that bridges science and policy to assist decision-makers in achieving effective ocean governance. The research strategy focused on 3 main areas of focus: fisheries including spiny lobster, flyingfish, and shrimp and groundfish, sustainable habitats, and pollution reduction and mitigation. GCFI took a holistic approach by examining not only the science that would be necessary for each of those 3 areas of focus but also the research needed to achieve effective governance, research into developing effective communication approaches, identifying monitoring priorities that ensure strategies are effective, and the research needed to ensure economic sustainability for stakeholders. Decision-makers scored the research topics for each of the 3 areas of focus and the five themes to identify their research priorities at the nexus of science and policy.

**COMPONENT 3**

**INTRO COMPONENT 3**

**C03 - 12 Intro Component 3 Camilo Martelo**

Component 3 of the CLME+ Project demonstrates the ecosystem approach to fisheries and ecosystem based management, two important principles of the CLME+ Project. The sub projects under this Component worked towards the progressive reduction of environmental stresses and in enhancing livelihoods of coastal communities. These were achieved through the following 4 initiatives:

**C03 - 13 Testimonio Reinaldo Morales, OSPESCA**

Los resultados del sub-proyecto Enfoque Ecosistémico para la Pesca de la Langosta Espinosa del Caribe en su conjunto permiten establecer el alcance de los objetivos al contar con mejores disposiciones de coordinación regional e intersectorial para el manejo sostenible de las poblaciones de la langosta del Caribe; la capacidad de los actores en la implementación del ciclo de políticas; la reducción del estrés sobre el recurso mediante las acciones en campo y mostrado un progreso en la implementación del enfoque ecosistémico a través de mejores prácticas en función de las lecciones aprendidas.

Para ello, se cuenta con un reglamento regional actualizado para el ordenamiento de la pesquería de la langosta del Caribe, la revisión de las normas y la ejecución de planes nacionales, un plan de manejo en la región del Caribe, una metodología estándar de colecta de datos y evaluación de stocks, fortalecida la capacidad de monitoreo y control, así como un estándar de trazabilidad para productos acuícolas y pesqueros con énfasis en la langosta.

**C03 - 14 Testimonio Peter Murray, CRFM**

The activities of the flyingfish sub-project responded to CLME SAP Sub Action 5A.1, on the flyingfish fisheries. The activities and individual outputs of the subproject, all contributed to two major products: a revised sub-regional Fishery Management Plan for flyingfish, with a brand logo in support of continuity and a draft cooperation agreement between CRFM and the French territories that the Eastern Caribbean flyingfish stock. The sub-project team sourced additional co-financing mobilised from Global Affairs Canada to develop and begin the process of implementing a Gender Strategy for the CRFM. Based on the Gender Analysis, Strategy and action plan developed by this Gender Mainstreaming Initiative, five Member States (Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago) were supported in drafting National Gender Action plans that are to be carried through their national adoption processes.

**C03 - 15 Testimonio Chris Corbin, UNEP CEP**

Another initiative which focused along the North Brazil Shelf was the transition to ecosystem- based management in three countries– Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. These countries developed and tested various governance arrangements to enable effective ecosystem-based management (EBM) of mangroves and wetlands. Some of the key achievements and impacts included: (1) Development of a new Oceans Governance Framework for Suriname (2) Training of community members in data collection and field analysis (3) Assessment of pollution sources and loading into the Caroni Mangrove in Trinidad and Tobago. With the success of this intervention, the Secretariat has mobilized resources through a new European Union Funded African, Caribbean and Pacific Region Project to continue support specifically for Guyana and Suriname and commit to continue to promote such approaches in the rest of the region.

**C03 - 16 Testimonio Nicole Leotaud, CANAR**I

CANARI supported two small grant projects on sea moss farming as a sustainable livelihood under the CLME+ Project.

The Limuiga Seamoss Group in St. Kitts used its $17,500 grant to establish 6 new seamoss plots with support from the Department of Marine Resources, and they also constructed a new processing facility. They also took key steps to improve the quality assurance of their seamoss drink products including getting their products tested at the Bureau of Standards and constructing a drying house to improve processing (drying) of their seamoss. Members were trained in marketing and value-added processing of ice cream, granola bars, cake, fudge, ice pops and poncho Cuba. Three members also participated in a peer exchange visit to Saint Lucia to learn about the cultivation, processing and marketing of seamoss.

**COMPONENT 4**

**INTRO COMPONENT 4**

**C04 - 17 Intro Component 4 Camilo Martelo**

Component 4 seeks to continue some of the initiatives implemented under component 3 about the transition to EAF/EBM, as well as to implement some of the actions outlined under the Strategies and Actions Plans. In light of this the project supported the development of an investment plan which sought to address nutrient reduction and habitat restoration

**C04 - 18 Testimonio Ileana Lopez, UNEP CEP**

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat) and the Ocean Foundation (TOF) developed a baseline and pre-feasibility assessment and investment plan for large-scale action on habitat protection and pollution prevention. A key aspect of this component was the development of a habitat restoration site prioritization methodology. The list of high-priority sites guided the development of replicable models for investment plans that utilize a blended finance approach to habitat restoration and conservation, and pollution prevention. The wider application of the methodology will help define strategic actions and future investment opportunities that restore and protect coastal ecosystems, reduce pollution stressors, increase resilience to climate change and maximize on new blue economy opportunities.

**COMPONENT 5**

**C05 - 19 John Knowles Component 5 narration**

Rolled into component 5 was the effort to enhance knowledge exchange between all stakeholders and the development of common approaches for improved joint monitoring and assessment of the CLME+ SAP.

The principal knowledge exchange enhancement was the creation of the CLME+ Hub, which is serving as a regional platform to harness knowledge and showcase numerous tools, such as:

* A regional projects database that facilitates the identification of opportunities for collaboration between the various existing and upcoming initiatives.

- A regional documents library, with over 700 entries generated by a variety of organizations and projects.

- A training portal for those seeking educational opportunities.

- And a contacts database of marine stakeholders where the roles of individuals in the various projects, IGOs and working groups can be found, among other things.

All of these tools are live and ready for your use on the CLME+ Hub at CLME+ dot org

As for the development of common approaches for improved joint monitoring and assessment, the Project created the CLME+ SAP Tracking Portal to evaluate the collaborative progress made towards implementing the 10-year SAP.

Linked to this joint monitoring approach and called for by the SAP is the development of a collaborative, long-term reporting and decision-support mechanism on the State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies, referred to as SOMEE for short.

**C05 - 20 Sonia Gautreau, CLME+ PCU**

Through improved monitoring and reporting, the SOMEE will help the region protect its marine natural capital to support "blue" socio-economic development.

A phased approach was undertaken for the development of SOMEE and under the CLME+ project, a first "prototype, partial SOMEE" was developed, and which resulted in the delivery of key "SOMEE building blocks", such as the first-ever "State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) Reports" on Land-Based Sources of Pollution and on Coastal and Marine Habitats.

With the negotiations on the creation of a Regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism approaching closure, it is anticipated that the first fully integrated SOMEE report will be produced with the support of a new UNDP/GEF Project that would give continuity to the CLME+ initiative including SOMEE.

**CONCLUSION**

**C020 - Ana María Nuñez UNDP**

As you have seen and heard the CLME+ Project has lived up to its title and catalyzed the implementation of actions defined under the politically endorsed CLME+ SAP. These include: the creation of two interim mechanisms; the development of a research agenda; and facilitating the preparation of data and information products, all to support enhanced marine and coastal management within the CLME+ region. The Project, through a number of its outputs, has also supported the implementation of ecosystem based management and the ecosystem approach to fisheries in an effort to find a good balance between the enhancement of livelihoods and the protection of shared living marine resources. We extend a big thank you to all who made this project a success.

UNDP is proud to have worked with this region for the last 12 years in the area of ocean and marine management and looks forward to establishing strengthened and new partnerships with the continuation of the CLME+ initiative under the new Project.