



## Eleventh SAP ICM Meeting Summary Report

15, 16 and 29 June, 2021

Virtual Meeting

### **In Attendance:**

See [Annex 1](#)

### **Meeting Summary**

#### ***Agenda Item 1: Brief Welcome. Adoption of ICM11 Agenda.***

Dr. Cesar Toro, ICM Chair, opened the 11th CLME+ ICM Meeting on 15 June 2021 and invited ICM Members to say a few opening remarks. Mr. Haughton introduced the new Deputy Director of CRFM, Ms. Sandra Grant. The Meeting reviewed the items on the agenda and then adopted the Meeting Agenda.

#### ***Agenda Item 2: Status of ICM Work Programme and Work Plan implementation***

Ms. Gautreau gave an overview of a [powerpoint presentation](#) providing an evaluation of the status of implementation of the ICM Work Programme and Work Plan, and new activities added emanating from the last meeting of the ICM. ICM members had no objection in approving the new elements of the Work Programme and Plan as shared intersessionally.

#### ***Agenda Item 3: Post-project ICM sustainability: discussion & adoption of strategy***

##### *ICM MoU addendum*

Ms. Walker provided an [Overview of Comments Received on the draft Addendum to the ICM MoU](#) and expressed the importance of finalizing the draft addendum and making sure that the ICM can continue its work after the end of the CLME+ project considering its expected role in relation to retaining the original text of the Coordination Mechanism MoU and in receiving all signatures to the Coordination Mechanism MoU until it commences.

All ICM Members confirmed the commitment of their organisations to continue as members of the ICM and committed to sending any comments on the draft Addendum to the ICM MoU by the 16th of July,



2021. Furthermore, the Meeting committed to having the Addendum signed for entry into force by 30 September 2021 to enable the continuity of the ICM beyond the CLME+ Project end date.

There was some discussion regarding the procedure for entry into force of the Addendum and the Meeting suggested that ICM Members should seek clarification on the interpretation of [Articles XIII and XIV](#) of the ICM MoU.

#### *Proposed function of an interim secretariat*

Ms. Walker gave an overview of a paper prepared by the Secretariat on the [Proposed Minimum Functions of an interim Secretariat](#) and invited ICM Members to comment on whether they agreed with the proposed functions outlined in the text. ICM Members had no objection to the functions outlined for the interim ICM Secretariat. She also reminded ICM Members that the Secretariat had sent out a request intersessionally for ICM Members to indicate whether they are interested in acting as interim secretariat after the end of the CLME+ Project and had received no response to date. The Meeting requested that the Secretariat provide an indication of the level of effort and time needed to undertake the minimum functions of the interim secretariat. It was also suggested that the interim secretariat be performed by agencies working with many countries within the CLME+ region as the networks of sub-regional organisations would be smaller. ICM Members interested in taking-on the role of interim secretariat were requested to send their interest by the 16th of July.

#### *Need for translation and interpretation into Spanish*

Considering the change in leadership of the CCAD Executive Secretary, ICM Members were asked to confirm whether there is a need to convene future meetings of the ICM in both English and Spanish. Mr. Debels confirmed that the Secretariat would be in a position to provide for interpretation into Spanish for ICM-12 and it was therefore the recommendation of the Meeting to convene the next meeting in both languages. However, due to cost constraints, the Meeting recognized that it may not be possible to convene all future ICM meetings in both languages. The importance of having meetings of the Coordination Mechanism convened in both languages was noted.

#### ***Agenda Item 4: Selection of new ICM Chair and Vice-Chair***

Mr. Debels reminded ICM Members that the appointment of the ICM Chair and Vice Chair was for a two year period, as specified in the ICM ToRs, and that the term for the current Chair and Vice-Chair was nearing its end date. In light of this, prior to the meeting the ICM Secretariat circulated a communication asking ICM Members to indicate interest in serving as Chair and/or Vice Chair for the upcoming term, but no ICM Member had indicated any interest to date. As a result, Mr. Debels suggested that moving forward a rotating chairmanship be used for the Chair and Vice Chair every six months, emphasizing that this may enhance ownership of ICM processes by the different members and allow more members to



take on the leadership role of the ICM. The approach was considered useful and was supported by the ICM. A question was raised concerning the timeframe for the implementation of this new approach considering that ICM members will need to consult within their organisations regarding any new nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. It was recommended that the existing arrangement for Chair (UNESCO-IOC) and Vice Chair (UNEP-CEP) be extended until the next ICM meeting to facilitate the finalization of the current ICM Work Programme and Work Plan, and provide more time for ICM Members to evaluate whether their organization could take on the role of Chair or Vice-Chair.

***Agenda item 5: Coordination Mechanism (CM) draft MOU, and further related ICM actions***

Mr. Debels gave an [overview presentation](#) on the history of the negotiations of the Coordination Mechanism MoU and the decisions taken by the ICM on this matter. He reminded the Meeting that the MoU was technically cleared at the last CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting and that there was therefore an expectation that the MoU would be open for signature soon. He emphasized that it was critical for the next Project Steering Committee Meeting to achieve its aim of finalizing and opening for signature of the Coordination Mechanism MOU since support from the CLME+ project will no longer be available after closure of the project in October.

He indicated that comments on the draft MoU received from countries so far were minor in nature and would likely be resolved prior to the next Meeting of the Steering Committee. However, he noted that most ICM members have yet to finalize their internal processes for clearance of the draft MoU, while comments received from UNEP were concerning.

In light of the concern raised by Mr. Debels, the Chair requested that the comments received by UNEP be shared with the Meeting. Ms. Lopez presented a table containing the comments received from the legal team at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and the responses from the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU). She indicated that Mr. Debels has been invited to make a presentation on the Coordination Mechanism MoU, the ICM MoU and the PROCARIBE+ Project at the Cartagena Convention's Pre-COP to be held at the end of June. An internal decision on how to best deal with the comments and responses from the PCU is pending.

Other ICM Members provided an update on the status of their internal review of the draft MoU. Many ICM Members expressed that such processes can be lengthy and it is unlikely that all comments will be received by the date of the next PSC Meeting scheduled for the end of June. As a result, the Meeting recommended that the Special Project Steering Committee Meeting be postponed to allow for more time to finalize the review process and increase the likelihood of the Meeting achieving the finalization of the MoU.

***Agenda Item 6: Post COVID-19 recovery: Suggested next steps***



Mrs. Gautreau provided an overview of the process undergone to develop the briefing paper: [“Recommendations for a Sustainable and Equitable Ocean Economic Recovery and Improved Resilience in a Post COVID-19 Environment in the CLME+ region”](#) and indicated that the paper was meant to provide guidance to those who are working on post-covid recovery. The Meeting highlighted the importance of this issue for the region and that discussions on COVID-19 recovery were ongoing in many regional fora. It was mentioned that UNEP is conducting work to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on the marine environment and that UWI CERMES would soon present a draft document on this topic for the Caribbean Region.

The ICM considered that the briefing paper would be useful to support ICM Members with their own internal strategies for Post-Covid recovery and with assisting their Member States with this task. It was recommended that the ICM send any comments on the briefing paper to the Secretariat by the 31st of July with the aim of endorsing the document as an ICM *Position Paper* at its next meeting.

The Meeting briefly discussed the process for finalization of the document and recommended that the Secretariat evaluate the possibility of providing financial support for typesetting and translating the document into Spanish, and inform ICM Members accordingly.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business**

*The effects of ash flow from the eruption of La Soufrière volcano on marine ecosystems and the resulting impact on island economies.*

Several ICM Members mentioned ongoing work related to assisting countries affected by the eruption of the volcano. It was mentioned that several initiatives are working towards adapting current projects to deal with the impacts of the volcanic eruption, and taking into account the effects of the eruption and ash flow on the marine environment.

#### *UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Project*

Ms. Nuñez provided an update on the progress made with the PROCARIBE+ Project and informed ICM Members that the GEF Secretariat had approved the PROCARIBE+ Concept Note for a total financing of USD 17.2 million. So far, 16 out of 24 eligible countries have endorsed the proposal and close to USD 130 million has been proposed as indicative co-financing. She invited ICM Members to continue encouraging Member States who have not yet sent an endorsement letter to do so at their earliest convenience to ensure full participation in the Project Preparation Phase (PPG).

She highlighted the fact that the UNDP Pre-Investment Screening Committee (PISC) and the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) in their review of the PROCARIBE+ Concept Note mentioned the importance of close collaboration with other projects in the region for the successful implementation of PROCARIBE+. In this regard, she encouraged ICM Members involved in other related



initiatives and projects to share any relevant information with the PROCARIBE+ PPG Team to ensure complementarity between initiatives and minimize the duplication of efforts in the development of the ProDoc.

#### *Dates of ICM12*

The Meeting agreed to have ICM-12 in August and requested the Secretariat to conduct a poll to define the exact dates.

#### *Word of farewell for Laverne Walker*

Mr. Debels informed the Meeting that Ms. Walker was ending her tenure with the CLME+ Initiative. All ICM Members thanked Ms. Walker for her invaluable contribution and support to the CLME+ initiative throughout the years and wished her success with her future endeavours.

#### ***Agenda Item 8: Adoption of Meeting Recommendations and Decisions***

The Meeting reviewed, amended and adopted the [meeting recommendations and decisions](#) emanating from the 11th CLME+ ICM Meeting as presented by Ms. Gautreau.

#### ***Agenda Item 9: Meeting Closure***

Dr. Toro congratulated the Secretariat for successfully advancing the CLME+ Project under the challenging circumstances created by the pandemic and thanked the ICM members for their participation during the Meeting. The Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM Cartagena time.



**Annex 1 - Meeting Participants**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>Jun 29</u>
Kareem Sabir	CARICOM Secretariat	<a href="mailto:kareem.sabir@caricom.org">kareem.sabir@caricom.org</a>	Y	Y	Y
Cesar Toro	UNESCO	<a href="mailto:c.toro@unesco.org">c.toro@unesco.org</a>	Y	Y	Y
Milton Haughton	CRFM	<a href="mailto:milton.haughton@crfm.int">milton.haughton@crfm.int</a>	Y		
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