



# INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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## Protection of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)

GEFID#: 1909, GEF Agency Project ID: FAO-UNEP GCP/INT/023/GFF, Project Status: Active



1. The foundation for effective regional cooperation and project coordination set in place through the organization of a broad-based inception workshop involving all major stakeholders, the establishment of a project steering committee, national coordinating units and the adoption of the CCLME work plan.
2. Improved knowledge and capacity for management to address concerns on marine living resources, biodiversity, habitat and water quality through the organization of a number of ecosystem surveys, related trainings and the establishment of thematic working groups on priority issues – all contributing to the formulation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis.
3. Initiated demonstration of management actions to address sustainable transboundary management of shared small pelagic stocks in North West Africa, impacts of coastal shrimp trawling, transboundary co-management of migratory coastal species of importance to artisanal fisheries, use of MPAs as tools for multiple-resource management benefits and mangrove conservation.

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The CCLME project objective is to “enable the countries of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem to address priority transboundary concerns on declining fisheries, associated biodiversity and water quality through governance reforms, investments and management programs”.

## RESULTS: PROCESS

Since the CCLME project became operational one year ago (1 April 2010), it has established structures to ensure effective project management and coordination. These structures are also designed to ensure that an ecosystem-based approach is taken into consideration throughout project implementation when fostering multi-state cooperation on priority concerns. These include:

- Two national representatives for CCLME have been designated in each country (project focal point and technical coordinator) to guide the project and ensure adequate input and support to activities representing both fisheries and environment departments;
- Multi-sectoral national inter-ministry committees are in the process of being established in all participating countries;
- Strong relations with a range of different partners representing both environment, fisheries and development sectors to assist with implementing project activities, ensuring that activities are building upon existing foundations in the region, increasing coordination and minimizing duplication of efforts;
- Six multidisciplinary technical working groups have been established by the project. In addition, the project is supporting two existing FAO/CECAF<sup>1</sup> working groups on the assessment of pelagic and demersal resources.
- To ensure adequate involvement of stakeholders from all relevant sectors, a CCLME communication and stakeholder participation strategy was elaborated and adopted.
- CCLME communication activities have so far included the development and regular maintenance of a bi-lingual website ([www.canarycurrent.org](http://www.canarycurrent.org)) in line with IW:LEARN requirements, the bi-annual release of a CCLME newsletter and the production of information folders.

The development of the CCLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was initiated in May 2011 with the organization of a TDA training back to back with the first meeting of the TDA Working Group (16--20 May 2011). In addition, a Climate Change Working Group established by the CCLME project to strengthen the consideration to climate change-related issues in the CCLME TDA, held its first meeting from 11 to 13 May 2011.

INDICATOR#1 (Preliminary TDA available and strategy for revision agreed) [Agreement on Priority issues on TDA, TDA published and communicated for management action]

The TDA working group has defined an outline of the TDA document and adopted a strategy for its elaboration.

INDICATOR#2 (Functional National Inter-Ministry) [7 National Inter-Ministry established and meet]

So far, three countries have established National Inter-Ministerial Committees (Gambia, Senegal and Guinea). The remaining countries are in the process of establishment.

## RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

The development of policies and plans for the sustainable management of transboundary shared stocks of small pelagic fish species have been initiated through demonstration project activities in collaboration

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<sup>1</sup> Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic

with countries, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), Wageningen International and the French Development Agency (AFD).

A strategy has been defined together with UNEP, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, IUCN and Wetlands International - Afrique to assist countries' ratification and implementation of the existing West African charter for the sustainable management of mangroves and for its inclusion in the Abidjan Convention. CCLME activities will be implemented in collaboration with Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Conakry and Guinea Bissau.

The CCLME project is also cooperating with the Abidjan Convention to promote the adoption and rapid implementation of its Regional Contingency Plan (oil spill) among all CCLME countries.

INDICATOR#1 (Regional management plans in place to reduce the pressure on marine living resources) [Concerted sub-regional management policy on minimum conditions for access agreements, management of fishing effort, IUU fishing and implementation of EAF by 2015] [Management guidelines on spawning areas and other critical fisheries habitats developed by end 2013]

Work plans agreed and demonstration projects initiated on the transboundary management of shared small pelagic stocks, and of small migratory species important for coastal artisanal fisheries.

INDICATOR#2 (Regional agreements in place to reduce the pressure on biodiversity, habitat and water quality essential for fisheries) [Ratification of the West African Mangrove Charter by five CCLME participating countries by 2015] [Adoption of a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan by all CCLME countries by 2015]

A work plan for CCLME activities to contribute to the strengthened implementation of the West African Mangrove Charter has been established between the main partners, including IUCN, Wetlands International – Afrique, FAO and UNEP.

The Abidjan Convention and the CCLME project cooperate to strengthen the involvement of all CCLME countries in the regional contingency plan, and to promote the adoption of pertinent decisions by Contracting parties to the Convention.

## **RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS**

Valuable data regarding the current state of the CCLME has been produced through the organization of a number of surveys, including one ecosystem survey off Cape Verde islands from 8 to 20 June 2011 and one survey to assess the coastal pelagic stocks of the CCLME region from 22 June to 7 July 2011. More surveys are planned for the last quarter of 2011 and for 2012. The surveys are being conducted in collaboration with the EAF-Nansen project and the R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, national research institutions and (where available) national research vessels. The data collected will be used to guide the development of management plans and as a baseline. An Ecosystem Survey Planning and Analysis Working Group has been established by the CCLME project to plan and coordinate the surveys in the region, consisting of national representatives from CCLME countries, representatives from institutions involved in surveys in the region (the Institute of Marine Research of Norway, the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Atlantniro of Russia) and FAO. Various capacity building activities linked to the conducting of surveys have been undertaken.

INDICATOR#1 (Assessment for monitoring the state of ecosystem) [Data available to provide scientific knowledge for application of Ecosystem approach to fisheries in the frame of TDA/SAP]  
Stock assessment and ecosystem surveys are organized, in collaboration with all major institutions involved in surveys in the region, according a detailed work plan defined by the CCLME established working group on "Ecosystem Survey Planning and Analysis" and through the FAO/CECAF assessment working groups.