

LME22

PARIS, FRANCE • 11-13 July 2023



22nd ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL PARTNERS (LME22)

“Strengthening the LME partnerships to address new challenges and enhance our impacts”

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, FRANCE

Concept Note

Goal of the meeting

The Consultation Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and Coastal Partners contributes to the development of the LME Partnerships by engaging marine, coastal management, biodiversity and coastal climate change adaptation project leaders. It provides a global forum for Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded and other marine and coastal practitioners, partner organizations and institutions, including Regional Seas organisations and Fisheries Management Organizations, international NGOs and regional community leaders. The aim is to share experiences and lessons with respect to the ecosystem-based management (EBM) of LMEs and ocean governance.

Overarching objectives

- To promote collaboration among LMEs, Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and River Basin Organizations (RBOs) in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the SDG14;
- To foster a mutually supportive global network of leaders and institutions engaged in marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, including LMEs, integrated coastal management (ICM), marine protected areas (MPA), marine spatial planning (MSP), sustainable blue economy (SBE), sustainable ocean plans (SOPs), Source-to-Sea management (S2S) and others, for discussing experiences and lessons learned;

- To mobilize knowledge resources, new scientific applications and tools to support the implementation of LME and marine projects, and organizational action related to priority knowledge topics;
- To mobilize partners to enhance the LME community's efforts towards implementation of Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) as well as implementation of the Agenda 2030's SDG14 targets.

Specific objectives of the LME22 Meeting

- To reconnect LMEs and Coastal Partners after the LME21 meeting in 2019, to discuss progress, new challenges and opportunities that arose in the meantime;
- To further enhance LME process and partnerships;
- To review marine and coastal projects progress in regions, disseminating best practices, and discussing emerging issues requiring common responses;
- To consider recent ocean governance developments (e.g. Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) & Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) etc.) and their implications for the LME partnerships;
- To advise on the further improvement of the TDA/SAP process for LMEs and its "rebranding";
- To promote S2S collaboration by facilitating the participation of RBOs with the aim to strengthen the integrated management of transboundary marine and freshwater ecosystems;
- To assess the impact produced by the GEF International Waters (IW) portfolio in advancing the sustainable management of LMEs after 25 years of investments;
- To consolidate input to the Tenth International Waters Conference (IWC10) on sessions related to marine and coastal issues, the signature event of the GEF IW portfolio to be held in November 2023 in Uruguay;
- To revisit, update, and help implement the LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy as well as contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Expected Outputs

- Agenda topics and dates of the 23rd LME Consultation meeting in 2024
- Input to the IWC10 in November 2023 & GEF9
- Advancement on the medium-term framework strategy and engagement in global and regional ocean governance processes
- Proposal for the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) to assess the LME approach promoted by IW
- Definition of outreach activities for the coming year

Proposed set-up

The three-day meeting will take place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. It will gather ~ 100 participants representing the GEF implementing and executing agencies, regional organizations, NGOs, national representatives familiar with IW projects, other partners and practitioners from LMEs and adjacent river basins. Whenever possible, sessions will highlight examples of integrated approaches implemented at the regional level, with a focus on Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) regions.

The proposed set-up will include presentations, facilitated panel discussions, interactive sessions and break-out working groups. The break-out groups will build on the presentations and discussions of the preceding two or three sessions. They are one-hour long, split into two 30-minute sessions each. Participants can choose to join two out of the three break-out groups (i.e. rotate after 30 minutes).

Participation is by invitation.

Enclosed documents

- [LME21 summary report](#)
- [Draft LME Community Medium Term Framework strategy](#)

Draft Agenda-at-a-Glance

	Tuesday 11-Jul-23	Wednesday 12-Jul-23	Thursday 13-Jul-23
09.30-10.00	Session 1 – Opening (+ 🗣️)	Session 4 - Revisiting the TDA/SAP process (+ 🗣️)	Session 7 – ABNJ developments and the potential role of LMEs
10.00-10.30			Session 8 - Maximizing synergies with other processes, initiatives and ambitions (+ 🗣️)
10.30-11.00	Session 2 - LME Implementation progress and advancement of EBM	Session 5 - Fostering private sector engagement	Break-out session 3
11.00-11.30			LUNCH BREAK
11.30-12.00		Session 3 - Science for EBM of LMEs (+ 🗣️)	
12.00-12.30			Session 6 - Strengthened Source-to-Sea collaboration (+ 🗣️)
12.30-13.00	Break-out session 1	Break-out session 2	
13.00-13.30			Reporting and wrap-up Day 1
13.30-14.00			
14.00-14.30			
14.30-15.00			
15.00-15.30			
15.30-16.00			
16.00-16.30			
16.30-17.00			
17.00-17.30			

DAY 1: Tuesday 11 July 2023

Time	Title	Objectives	Description
09.30-10.30	Session 1 - Opening	To open the meeting, welcome the participants and set the scene for the subsequent sessions and discussions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Key developments since LME21 meeting in 2019• Briefing from Global Environment Facility (GEF-8 and GEF-9)• Structure and objectives of LME22 meeting
10.30-12.30	Session 2 - LME Implementation progress and advancement of EBM	To elaborate on the progress in the LME implementation by sharing the results of current and new GEF projects with the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showcasing a selection of GEF IW projects (max. 8)• Focus will be given to new developments, products, challenges and opportunities, illustrating how the scope of the LME community has expanded “vertically and horizontally”, highlighting cooperation with Regional Seas Bodies, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and ABNJ, and showcasing examples of the implementation of integrated approaches at the regional scale• GEF projects will be complemented by presentations of non-GEF projects, with an emphasis on their contribution to LME implementation and EBM
12.30-14.00	LUNCH BREAK		
14.00-16.00	Session 3 - Science for EBM of LMEs	To highlight scientific advances and innovations as the basis of EBM and the uptake of science, in particular by GEF projects. This will include transformative ocean science delivered to date through the UN Ocean Decade for Ocean Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key achievements of the UN Ocean Decade since 2021• Multiple stressors and impacts (deoxygenation, ocean acidification, hypoxia, ...)• Ocean Observations & Ocean InfoHub• Ocean Innovation Challenge• GESAMP – Science for Sustainable Ocean• ICES work (e.g. EU Ocean Mission)• ...

	and other scientific programs to make the EBM approach more operational and solution-oriented, and increase the impact on the ground. The focus will be on the identification of modalities to apply science-based ecosystem approaches at regional level to make policy decisions towards achieving EBM to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the associated SDGs.	
16.00-17.00	Break-out session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of LME concept – expanding the concept of LME to new boundaries • Identifying capacity building needs (Test IW:LEARN capacity-needs/training survey and input to draft training strategy) • TBD
17.00-17.30	Reporting and wrap-up Day 1	

DAY 2: Wednesday 12 July 2023

Time	Title	Objectives	Description
09.30-11.30	Session 4 - Revisiting the TDA/SAP process	<p>To provide an overview of the TDA/SAP resources available (manual, training course), recent updates to manual (2020) and planned enhancements as part of IW:LEARN.</p> <p>To share lessons learned from recent TDA/SAP processes; discuss proposals for revisiting/improving/rebranding the TDA/SAP framework; the use of most up-to-date science and data for informing the process; learning from other approaches and frameworks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the TDA/SAP resources available and plans for enhancements• Lessons learned from recent TDA/SAP processes in LMEs• Enhancement of TDA/SAP process e.g. integrating MSP and SBE into the TDA/SAP process; integrating Source-to-Sea management; gender considerations• Data and information management (DIM) component of the TDA/SAP• Stakeholder engagement, community participation and gender mainstreaming in the TDA/SAP process
11.30-13.00	Session 5 - Fostering private sector engagement	<p>To discuss the enabling environment required for fostering engagement with the private sector, opportunities for innovative and sustainable financing and replication in other regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of successful engagement of GEF projects with private sector• How to leverage SAP investments
13.00-14.30	LUNCH BREAK		

14.30-16.00	Session 6 - Strengthened Source-to-Sea collaboration	To showcase case studies and examples of the application of a holistic S2S management approach, across sectoral and administrative boundaries, bringing together upstream and downstream stakeholders to ensure healthy ecosystems and resilient societies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight projects and cooperation between RBOs-LMEs in Africa, Asia and Latin America & Caribbean • Highlight S2S approaches to plastic and nutrient pollution • Identify success factors and challenges
16.00-17.00	Break-out session 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process • Consultation of the integration of source-to-sea consideration in the TDA/SAP framework • Consultation on the needs of a sustainable financing toolkit
17.00-17.30	Reporting and wrap-up Day 2		

DAY 3: Thursday 13 July 2023

Time	Title	Objectives	Description
09.30-10.30	Session 7 - ABNJ developments and the potential role of LMEs	To address the potential engagement and role of LMEs in the conservation and sustainable use of ABNJs in view of the latest developments on the new BBNJ treaty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing GEF ABNJ projects • “What Now?” & Next Steps • How BBNJ will affect GEF?
10.30-12.00	Session 8 - Maximizing synergies with other processes, initiatives and ambitions	To address the synergies and collaboration with ongoing processes and dialogues, to explore how LMEs can achieve global ambitions related to climate, biodiversity and high seas through collaboration across different bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Ocean Governance: How do LMEs help support and create synergies with Regional Seas? • Global Biodiversity Framework, CBD, MPAs: How can LMEs help CBD and the Global Biodiversity Framework reach their mandates? • Ocean Climate Dialogue – addressing climate change through ocean-related processes; using EBM to address climate issues • Towards UN Ocean Conference 2025 - How to position LMEs within global frameworks?
12.00-13.00	Break-out session 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of IW:LEARN Regional Ocean Governance Dialogues • Considerations for the GEF8 and GEF9 cycles • Consolidate LME inputs to the and the IWC10 (October 2023)
13.00-14.30	LUNCH BREAK		
14.30-15.00	Reporting break-out session 3		
15.00-16.00	Session 9 - Knowledge	To discuss how to enhance communication and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on the functionality of Marine Hub of IW:LEARN portal • Opportunities for improving the portfolio knowledge exchange

	management, communication & outreach	outreach, in support of the uptake and replication of portfolio results and experiences outside the LME community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the outreach activities for the coming year
16.00-17.0	Session 10 - LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy	To revisit and update the LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy in the context of an evolving LME approach and reflecting the outcomes of the LME22 meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the draft LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy • Outcomes of the group discussion on the review of the LME concept
17.00-17.30	Session 11 - Closing session		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key conclusions • Agenda topics for next LME meeting • Longer term perspectives and future priorities