

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

Summary Report



July 2023

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List of Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
ATSEA	Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action
BNA	Blue Nature Alliance
BSC	Black Sea Commission
CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
CCLME	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CI	Conservation International
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
COP	Conference of the Parties
CoP	Community of Practice
DCCs	Decade Coordinating Committees
DCOs	Decade Coordinating Offices
DIM	Data and Information Management
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
EEZs	Exclusive Economic Zones
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF Sec	GEF Secretariat
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GIA	Global Industry Alliance
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GLME	Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem
GO2NE	Global Ocean Oxygen Network
GOA-ON	Global Ocean Acidification observing network
GOOD	Global Ocean Oxygen Decade
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDDRI	Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC/UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IPs	Integrated Programs
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated
IW	International Waters
IWC10	Tenth International Waters Conference
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LMEs	Large Marine Ecosystems
MAR	Mesoamerican Reef
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas

MRF	Marine Regions Forum
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NDCs	National Decade Committees
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
OARS	Oxygen and Resilience of the Sea program
OBIS	Ocean Biodiversity Information System
OECMs	Other Effective Conservation Measures
PCCOS	Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PPP	Private Public Partnerships
PSE	Private Sector Engagement
RBOs	River Basin Organizations
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
RIFS	Research Institute for Sustainability
RSPs	Regional Seas Programmes
S2S	Source-to-Sea
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SBE	Sustainable Blue Economy
SPC	The Pacific Community, formerly the South Pacific Commission
SCS	South China Sea
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEDA	Socio-Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis
SICA	Sistema de Integración Centroamericana
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOPs	Sustainable Ocean Plans
SPC	The Pacific Community, formerly the South Pacific Commission
SSC	Sargasso Sea Commission
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
TMG	Think Tank for Sustainability
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP	UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOC	UN Ocean Conference
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSG	United Nations Secretariat General
WACA	West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program
WB	The World Bank
WESTPAC	IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
WHO	World Health Organization
WIO	Western Indian Ocean
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

1. The 22nd consultation meeting on the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME22) marked a significant reunion for the LME community, bridging the gap since the LME21 meeting in 2019. LMEs meetings serve as a vital forum for fostering collaboration, creating a global network of coastal and marine practitioners, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge resources, scientific tools, and innovations.
2. The three-day meeting took place on 11-13 July 2023 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Around 65 participants attended the meeting, representing the GEF implementing and executing agencies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners.
3. The specific objectives of the LME22 meeting were to:
 - Review the progress made in LME projects, with a critical examination of what worked and what could be improved.
 - Establish connections with achievements from IW:LEARN4 and LME:LEARN.
 - Strengthen partnerships with regional seas, agencies, implementing partners, and NGOs.
 - Emphasize the importance of keeping the GEF/LME community fully informed and engaged in global ocean-related processes e.g. the UN Ocean Decade, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty, post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), 30x30 initiative, Sustainable Ocean Initiative, High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy, and the convergence of oceans, climate, and biodiversity concerns.
 - Recognize the mainstreaming of the source-to-sea paradigm into the global agenda, as demonstrated at the UN Oceans 2022 and UN Water 2023 conferences.
 - Acknowledge the proximity of the year 2030, the target year for achieving Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. During the opening session, the participants were warmly welcomed through a series of opening remarks that highlighted the global network of LME practitioners and the significance of this gathering as a platform for strengthening partnerships and fostering collaboration to further enhance the efforts in coastal and marine management. There are currently more than 40 active LME projects in all regions of the world, presenting a great opportunity to promote collaboration not only among LMEs, but also with 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). The LME continues to deliver a working concept of ecosystem-based management (EBM) through fostering a mutually supportive community of leaders and institutions, working on LMEs, integrated coastal management (ICM), marine protected areas (MPA), marine spatial planning (MSP), sustainable blue economy (SBE), sustainable ocean plans (SOPs), Source-to-Sea (S2S) management and beyond. The need to mobilize partners to enhance the LME community's efforts towards the implementation of Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) was also underscored, also as a way to achieve the SDGs, in particular SDG 14 targets.
5. The progress in the LME implementation was highlighted by focusing on new developments, products, achievements, opportunities and challenges in a number of showcase GEF and non-GEF

International Waters (IW) projects. Featured projects and initiatives were requested to highlight innovation, integrated management approaches and partnerships, as these aspects take centre stage in LME projects, representing a holistic approach to LME management.

6. The following session highlighted the role of science, scientific advances and innovations and their uptake by LMEs. Science is a cornerstone in implementing an EBM approach, aligning with the goals of the UN Ocean Decade for Ocean Science to translate scientific innovation into sustainable development solutions. The transformative ocean science delivered to date make the EBM approach more operational and solution-oriented, increasing the impact on the ground. The LME community was urged to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the Ocean Decade and other initiatives, like GESAMP, to address scientific questions relevant to LMEs. Discussions highlighted the critical role of scientific advancements in understanding and managing LMEs, covering areas such as ecosystem dynamics, biodiversity, climate change impact, and sustainable practices. Collaborative efforts among diverse scientific communities, stakeholders, and organizations are crucial for integrating science and policy in LME management. The importance of strengthening engagement between scientific and LME communities was underscored, including potential synergies with integrated ecosystem assessments similar to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).
7. The participants discussed possible changes in the TDA/SAP processes, based on the presented lessons learned from recent examples. The importance of national working groups and action plans, strengthening national intersectoral coordination and building personal relationships to foster trust was emphasized. Proposals for revisiting/improving the TDA/SAP framework were put forward, including the importance to learn from other approaches and frameworks, to optimize the GEF project cycles to avoid gaps or loss of momentum and to institutionalize the TDA/SAP process, including its integration into Regional Seas Conventions to secure country ownership. A call to review and update the TDA/SAP process globally was made, extracting lessons learned and defining a revised way forward.
8. In a session dedicated to the private sector engagement (PSE), several successful examples of PSE and innovative financing in the IW LME agenda were highlighted, with IW:LEARN facilitating the sharing of experiences. PSE requires a substantial investment of time, a deep understanding of common interests, effective communication, due diligence, and compliance. The discussions demonstrated that PSE is not only feasible but also highly sought after.
9. For the first time, the LME22 meeting extended its reach to participants from RBOs within the scope of the S2S management paradigm. Four RBO-LME pairs took the stage of the World Café session, to address issues on the benefits, challenges and barriers of S2S collaboration, as well as strategies and recommendations to overcome these challenges in a concrete way. The need to clarify the definition of the S2S concept was emphasized, encompassing the establishment of system boundaries, connections to existing agreements and frameworks, and the integration of S2S considerations to provide solutions. Equally, the need for adaptability and the clarification of roles and responsibilities to address sources of impacts was also underscored. The session raised the question of whether S2S is a national or transboundary issue and highlighted the bi-directional nature of impacts, both upstream and downstream.

10. The role of the GEF in the BBNJ treaty and its involvement in ABNJ were discussed at length during a dedicated session that featured the Common Ocean programs as one of the key mechanisms. It was noted that the BBNJ treaty presents unique challenges that require tailored approaches aligned with the treaty's principles. The LME communities were urged to actively participate in addressing the complexities associated with the treaty, particularly through the GEF special fund established for this purpose.
11. Potential synergies and collaboration between LMEs and regional/international processes were the subject of an interactive panel discussion, highlighting the need to increase awareness and the adoption of LME approaches on other parallel processes. This also requires improved messaging and leveraging project activities, such as MSP, to assist countries and regions in participating in global processes. The session showcased successful examples of such engagements, despite certain challenges that persist.
12. The following session was dedicated to knowledge management, communication and outreach, in support of the uptake and replication of portfolio results and experiences outside the LME community. After a comprehensive overview of the valuable resources available from the previous phase of IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN, specific experiences on knowledge management and communication from the portfolio were shared. Areas of improvement in the portfolio's knowledge exchange and outreach were identified, making reference to the role IW:LEARN5 in facilitating and enhancing this exchange.
13. During the final thematic session, the participants reviewed the draft LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy, originally presented at the LME21 meeting. The proposed steps forward were outlined ranging from assessing the need to update this draft in the context of an evolving LME approach to the finalization and adoption of the strategy by the community.
14. In the closing session, the Chair summarized the key messages and conclusions of the three-day meeting. The meeting was closed on 13 July 2023 at 17:00 hours.

1. Introduction

The Consultation Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) plays a vital role in advancing LME Partnerships by engaging leaders of marine, coastal management, biodiversity, and coastal climate change adaptation projects. It provides a global platform for diverse stakeholders, including organizations like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Regional Seas organizations, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), government representatives, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), regional and local community leaders. The primary aim is to facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons related to the ecosystem-based management (EBM) of LMEs and ocean governance.

Participants play a crucial role in building a globally supportive network of leaders and institutions dedicated to marine and coastal EBM. Topics of discussion encompass LMEs, integrated coastal management (ICM), marine protected areas (MPAs), marine spatial planning (MSP), sustainable blue economy (SBE), sustainable ocean plans (SOPs), Source-to-Sea management (S2S), and more, all aimed at sharing experiences and lessons learned. These annual gatherings also serve as a platform to mobilize knowledge resources, new scientific tools, and applications in support of LME and marine projects, furthering efforts towards the implementation of the Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs).

2. Specific objectives of the LME22 Meeting

The specific objectives of the LME22 meeting were:

- To reconnect LMEs and coastal partners after the LME21 meeting in 2019, 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 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis /Strategic Action Programme (TDA/SAP) process for LMEs and its revisiting;
- 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 30 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.

3. Agenda-at-a-glance

The overall agenda for the three days is shown below. The detailed agenda can be found in [Annex i](#) and the list of participants in [Annex ii](#).

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	11-Jul-23	12-Jul-23	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			
10.30-11.00	Session 2 - LME Implementation progress and advancement of EBM	Session 5 - Fostering private sector engagement & innovative financing	Session 8 - Maximizing synergies with other processes, initiatives and ambitions (+ 🎤)
11.00-11.30			
11.30-12.00			Break-out session C
12.00-12.30			
12.30-13.00	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
13.00-13.30			
13.30-14.00			
14.00-14.30	Session 3 - Science for EBM of LMEs (+ 🎤)	Session 6 - Strengthened Source-to-Sea collaboration (+ 🎤)	Reporting break-out session 3
14.30-15.00			Session 9 – Knowledge management, communication & outreach (+ 🎤)
15.00-15.30			
15.30-16.00			
16.00-16.30	Break-out session A	Break-out session B	Session 10 - LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy
16.30-16.45			Session 11 – Closing session
16.45-17.00			
17.00-17.30	Reporting and wrap-up Day 1	Reporting and wrap-up Day 2	
17.45-19.00	Cocktail (7 th floor) 🍷		

4. Summary of the sessions

Day 1: Tuesday 11 July 2023

Session 1 – Opening session

Session chair: Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC/UNESCO)		
Rapporteur: Konstantina Toli (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and set the scene for the subsequent sessions and discussions.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
09.30-09.40	• Welcome	Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC/UNESCO) Leah Karrer (GEF Sec) Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP) Nancy Soi (UNEP)
09.40-09.55	• Key developments since LME21 meeting in 2019	Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)
09.55-10.10	• Briefing from Global Environment Facility (GEF-8 and GEF-9)	Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)
10.10-10.15	• Structure and objectives of LME22 meeting	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)

The session commenced with **Vladimir Ryabinin**, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO), who extended his warm welcome to the participants. He expressed his pleasure to reconnect the LME community since the 21st Large Marine Ecosystems Consultation Meeting (LME21), held in Cartagena, Colombia in 2019. He welcomed both the familiar faces of the LME community as well as new ones.

Leah Karrer, Global Environment Facility (GEF), **Vladimir Mamaev** and **Adnan Awad**, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and **Nancy Soi**, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), extended their warm welcome to all participants and expressed their delight in seeing the global network of LME practitioners coming together once again. They emphasized the significance of this gathering as a platform for strengthening partnerships and fostering collaboration to further enhance the efforts in coastal and marine management.

Following the welcoming remarks, **Julian Barbière**, IOC/UNESCO, provided an insightful overview of the key developments since LME21. He highlighted various global processes and challenges, including the UN

Ocean Decade, BBNJ treaty, post-2020 GBF, the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy, and the S2S paradigm mainstreamed in the global agenda. Mr. Barbière also emphasized the importance of engaging with the private sector and ensuring the generated ocean science is taken up into LME projects.

Mr. Barbière concluded his presentation by honoring Dr. Ken Sherman, co-founder of the LME concept, who received the IOC/UNESCO's prestigious N.K. Panikkar Memorial Medal following his invited lecture entitled "[Pathway to Sustaining the World's Large Marine Ecosystems](https://iwlearn.net/news/dr-kenneth-sherman-co-founder-of-the-lme-concept-receives-prestigious-nk-panikkar-memorial-medal)" delivered on 23 June 2023 at the 32nd Session of the IOC/UNESCO Assembly¹.

Leah Karrer, GEF, provided an overview of the GEF-8 programming status, with a focus on the IW funding for blue economy and ABNJ and the ten Integrated Programs (IPs), of which three are most relevant to LMEs (Clean and Healthy Ocean IP, Blue & Green Islands IP and Circular Solution to Plastic Pollution IP). She then highlighted the emerging ocean issues, emphasizing various funding opportunities and innovative conservation financing mechanisms to address these issues.

Claudette Spiteri, IOC/UNESCO & GEF IW:LEARN, presented the meeting's agenda and objectives, underscoring the importance of reconnecting LMEs and coastal partners, considering recent ocean-related developments. She concluded her presentation by wishing the participants productive and engaging discussions over the following three days.

¹ <https://iwlearn.net/news/dr-kenneth-sherman-co-founder-of-the-lme-concept-receives-prestigious-nk-panikkar-memorial-medal>

Session 2 – LME Implementation progress and advancement of EBM

Session chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)		
Rapporteur: Malek Ameri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session <i>This session elaborated on the progress in the LME implementation by focusing on challenges, new developments, products, achievements and opportunities. It showcased examples of innovation, integrated management approaches and partnerships.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
10.30-12.20	<p><u>Innovation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9605 Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries Minimize the Impacts from Aquatic Biofouling (GloPartnerships) 10375 Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems <p><u>Integrated management approaches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10560 Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED) & 10558 Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea - (FishEBM BS) 10076 Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) Supporting the global implementation of international marine/maritime spatial planning guidelines (MSPglobal 2.0) <p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10800 Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+) The Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security (MedProgramme) 	<p>Lilia Khodjet El Khil (IMO)</p> <p>Free De Koning (CI)</p> <p>Anna Carlson (FAO)</p> <p>Alejandro Arrivillaga (WWF)</p> <p>Michele Quesada (IOC/UNESCO)</p> <p>Patrick Debels (UNOPS)</p> <p>Olfat Hamdan (MedProgramme - UNEP/MAP)</p>

12.15-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and Healthy Ocean IP • Circular Solutions for Plastic Pollution IP • Blue & Green Islands IP 	Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO) Ran Xie (UNEP) Adnan Awad (UNDP)
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Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP, opened the session and outlined its objectives, which included reporting on the LME implementation process and showcasing projects highlighting achievements, challenges and opportunities. The presented projects were grouped in three clusters: i. innovation, ii. integrated management approaches, and iii. partnerships.

Cluster Innovation

Lilia Khodjet El Khil, International Maritime Organization (IMO), emphasized the innovative approaches for collaboration with industry through the Global Industry Alliance (GIA) for marine biosafety as part of the GloFouling Partnerships project. She explained that IMO has adopted a set of guidelines to manage biofouling and minimize the introduction of invasive species. These guidelines contain a set of best management measures that are directed to a wide range of industry stakeholders: ship owners and operators, ship designers and builders; dry docking facilities, anti-fouling paint manufacturers and suppliers, in-water cleaning service providers etc. Hence, engagement with industry stakeholders is key to promote the uptake of best management measures. Ms. Khodjet El Khil shared the key achievements of the past three years and identified decision-making, commercial and influencing aspects, global geographic aspects and the sustainability of GIA beyond the lifetime of the GloFouling Partnerships project as the key elements for success.

Free De Koning, Conservation International (CI), presented the Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), with the goal to protect 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems by 2030 to safeguard biodiversity, help build resilience to climate change, promote human well-being and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function. The BNA is a global partnership founded and led by CI, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Minderoo Foundation, the Rob Walton Foundation and the GEF, in cooperation with 44 technical, leverage and implementing partners.

Cluster Integrated management approaches

Anna Carlson, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), introduced two sister projects: Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean (FishEBM MED) and the Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea (FishEBM BS). She provided more information on the four areas of intervention: i. Fisheries management; ii. Fighting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; iii. Ecosystem and biodiversity protection and iv. Blue economy, specifically in the case of FishEBM MED, highlighting the key challenges and areas of progress. She finished her intervention by putting a spotlight on the Small-Scale Fishers' Forum for European eel (February 2023) as a key achievement, building on the outcomes of a General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) research programme and a recently adopted GFCM Recommendation for European eel management. The regional workshop was instrumental for examining a way forward for managing European eel within an ecosystem approach, enabling the equal participation of fishers, researchers and administrations from Albania, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia & Türkiye; a regional site visit considered as "best practice"; the identification of joint efforts for monitoring, considering environmental and fisheries management issues; empowering fishers to be guardians of the sea and creating a network among fishers in the region.

Alejandro Arrivillaga, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) talked about the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) project, implemented in partnership with UNDP. The PACA region encompasses a diverse marine environment that spans multiple countries. To address the challenges and opportunities in this region, a comprehensive and integrated management approach is proposed, involving three key lines of action: i. improving regional governance for joint management; ii. pilot actions on the ground to address common key issues and iii. knowledge management. The project is implemented in three pilots:

- Pilot 1. Conservation and management of recreational fisheries for sailfish and marlin (OSPESCA)
- Pilot 2. Marine Spatial Planning (4 sites)
- Pilot 3. Conservation of cetaceans - Panama (MiAmbiente)

Michele Quesada, IOC/UNESCO, presented the second phase of MSPglobal 2.0 project (2023-2024) supporting the global implementation of the international MSP guidelines and two transboundary pilots in Gulf of Guinea and Western Pacific. MSPglobal 2.0 builds on the outcomes and mechanisms fostered in the first phase of MSPglobal (2018-2021), addressing the challenges in terms of lack of capacity on MSP among some governmental institutions and other stakeholders; lack of regional coordination between European Union (EU) and non-EU Member States towards coherent MSP plans across maritime borders; increasing number of maritime uses and conflicts; and increasing need and demand to improve coastal and marine conservation. The approach followed in the current phase includes capacity development activities, the deployment of the MSPglobal Rapid Assessment to support Member States in the identification and orchestration of a work plan with actions and tasks to advance MSP processes, and strengthened partnerships with the Abidjan Convention and the WESTPAC Decade Action for the implementation of the two pilots.

Cluster Partnerships

Patrick Debels, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), presented the PROCARIBE+ project (2023-2028), a regional initiative for protecting and restoring the ocean's natural capital, building resilience and supporting region-wide investments for sustainable blue socio-economic development in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region). The geographical scope is characterized by a complex governance and stakeholder landscape, covering 4.4 million km², 26 States and 18 Overseas Territories, of which 22 are Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Moving from the CLME+ (2015-2021) project to PROCARIBE+, the project will support the establishment of the required coordination mechanisms, going from the Interim Coordination Mechanism towards the Ocean Coordination Mechanism supported by a new 10-year SAP.

Olfat Hamdan, MedProgramme - UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), elaborated on the progress achieved for Child Projects 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1 of the MedProgramme. She highlighted the integrated implementation framework spanning over four GEF Focal areas (international waters, chemicals and waste, climate change, and biodiversity), the achievements and challenges for building partnerships, ensuring coordination, securing inter-ministerial governance and collaboration at the national level.

The session concluded with a Q&A session featuring questions and comments on collaboration with the private sector, and the importance of building partnerships during project preparation and implementation.

Following the panel presentations and discussions, the three IPs relevant to IW were briefly presented.

Lorenzo Galbiati, FAO, presented the rationale of the Clean and Healthy Ocean IP. He explained that the global attribution for land-based pollutants driving hypoxia is difficult to precisely estimate and varies geographically, attributed to point and non-point sources of nutrients. The main objective is to curb inflow

of land-based pollution into the coastal environment, thereby advancing ecological, social, and economic sustainability of countries and LMEs. A two-prong approach is proposed: global/regional stakeholder platform and scaling-up actions in countries/LMEs. Mr. Galbiati presented the timeline for the endorsement of the global coordination project and Child Projects by January 2025, emphasizing the expansion of the IP to target more LMEs worldwide, with a significant contribution of 47 USD million from the IW focal area.

Ran Xie, UNEP, provided insights into the Circular Solutions for Plastic Pollution IP, also known as Plastics IP in short. The aims are to bring regulatory and policy changes, mobilize finance, engage the private sector and drive behavior change. The program includes 15 national projects and one global Child Project, covering a diversity of topics focusing on different product categories (packaging, single-use plastic products, water sachets), tourism, hospitality, retailers etc. The IP will complement downstream actions, such as waste management by focusing on upstream solutions to enhance policy, regulation, innovation, investment and building public awareness, to help eliminate unnecessary plastic packaging and products (e.g., bags, straws, film, sachets etc.), extend the life of packaging through product (re)design, new business models, reuse and refill systems for takeaway containers, to-go cups and dishware, and packaged food and beverages. The IP will leverage knowledge sharing and collaboration with other global partners to scale up successful initiatives that create a transformative impact. Ms. Xie presented the timeline leading to the programme implementation in 2024-2030.

Adnan Awad, UNDP, presented the Blue and Green Islands IP focusing on SIDS, covering thematic areas of food, tourism and urban sectors among others in 15 countries and involving 6 implementing agencies. The BGI IP offers the opportunity for SIDS to demonstrate the transformational potential of incorporating the value of nature into decision-making and using innovative Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to achieve development goals. At the same time, the challenges SIDS face from, for example, food security, climate change, hazardous chemical pollution, and many others, will be addressed. In line with the GEF-8 transformational change levers, the Blue and Green Islands IP promotes an inclusive approach that engages diverse stakeholders across different ecosystems and landscapes, within and between institutions, and at different socioeconomic levels. This will be supported by multi-stakeholder dialogues, capacity development for decision-making, and shared knowledge /innovation/and collective bargaining.

Session 3 – Science for EBM of LMEs

Session chair: Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)		
Rapporteur: Niccolo Bassan (IOC/UNESCO)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session highlighted scientific advances and innovations as the basis of EBM and the uptake of science by LMEs. This included transformative ocean science delivered to date through the UN Ocean Decade for Ocean Science and other scientific programs to make the EBM approach more operational and solution-oriented, and increase the impact on the ground. The focus was on the use of most up-to-date science and data for informing the process, and the identification of modalities to apply science-based ecosystem approaches at the regional level to make policy decisions towards achieving EBM.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
14.00-14.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) in the uptake of science in GEF LME projects 	Blake Ratner (STAP, online)
14.15-15.25	<p><u>From data to integrated assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple stressors and cumulative impacts ICES projects on EBM Ocean InfoHub Embracing Indigenous and Local Knowledge alongside Ocean Science for Sustainable Ocean Management and Governance Science for a Sustainable Ocean 	Kirsten Isensee (IOC/UNESCO) Wojciech Wawrzynski (ICES) Lucy Scott (IODE) Katy Soapi (SPC) David Vousden (GESAMP, online)
15.25-15.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key achievements of the UN Ocean Decade since 2021 	Alison Clausen (IOC/UNESCO)

Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO, introduced the session and panellists, underscoring the need for ocean science to guide EBM and science-based policy implementation.

Blake Ratner, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), initiated the session by introducing the pivotal role of STAP, elaborating on the latest developments within STAP and the innovations relevant to the IW focal area. STAP serves as an independent source of scientific and technical advice to GEF, offering guidance on policies, strategies, programs, and projects. The panel is committed to facilitating systems transformation in LMEs through an integrated approach that incorporates science, multi-stakeholder dialogues, governance and policy enhancements, financial leverage, and the promotion of innovation.

GEF's active involvement in the Blue Economy underscores its objectives to translating commitments into actionable policies and implementations. Investments prioritize projects that are integrated, transformative and sustainable, focusing on areas such as ocean planning, financial risk mitigation, investment mobilization, and mitigation of land-based pollution. The integration of science and STAP's work plays a pivotal role in defining a sustainable blue economy, assessing ecosystem value, envisioning future scenarios, and shaping the design of projects.

Kirsten Isensee, IOC/UNESCO, gave a presentation on the multifaceted challenges in the ocean environment and the need for a holistic approach encompassing global, regional, and local dimensions. The ocean and its ecosystems face various stressors, including climate-induced warming, deoxygenation, acidification, and changes in primary organic carbon fluxes. These stressors interact in complex ways, necessitating prioritization through comprehensive assessments of their exposure and impacts. Initiatives such as the Global Ocean Acidification observing network (GOA-ON) and the Global Ocean Oxygen Network (GO2NE) are pivotal in engaging scientists to monitor and understand these stressors. Other programs like the Oxygen and Resilience of the Sea (OARS) and the Global Ocean Oxygen Decade (GOOD) actively translate scientific insights into actionable mitigation and adaptation strategies. The engagement of LME projects with these observation networks is crucial for synthesizing information and enhancing effective decision-making.

Wojciech Wawrzynski, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), gave an overview of ICES projects fostering EBM in marine regions, supported by EU missions and aimed at “rejuvenating” oceans and waters. Framework programs, including the Baltic and North Sea Lighthouse, Mediterranean Lighthouse, Atlantic-Arctic Lighthouse, and Danube and Black Seas Lighthouse, are driving science and innovation in the region. Collaboration among diverse stakeholders is pivotal in addressing significant challenges. Projects such as Actnow and Mission Atlantic prioritize biodiversity conservation and integrated ecosystem assessments. ICES plays a central role in advancing integrated ecosystem assessments while bolstering capacity in transboundary areas through initiatives like LME:LEARN. The Atlantic scientific community actively contributes to regional projects within the EU framework, emphasizing integrated assessments and knowledge sharing, particularly targeting early career and youth involvement.

Lucy Scott, International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme, presented the IOC Ocean InfoHub project and its focus on constructing a sustainable and interoperable ocean data ecosystem by aggregating metadata reports. She advocated for the utilization of existing global frameworks for data generation and sharing. The project serves two primary user groups: those utilizing the InfoHub's content and those harnessing its underlying technology. By supporting EBM in LMEs, the InfoHub simplifies access to information, assists in identifying data sources and expertise, and offers literature reviews. LME portals such as Benguela Current Commission Geonode, Cordio, and Marcosio are pivotal platforms supporting these endeavours. Effective information and data management remain vital aspects of the project, providing an accessible facility supporting the objectives of sustainable ocean governance.

Katy Soapi, The Pacific Community, formerly the South Pacific Commission (SPC), highlighted aspects of regional ocean science in Pacific SIDS. Recognizing the ocean as a unifying force rather than a dividing one, the Pacific region underlines the integration of indigenous and local knowledge with ocean science to achieve sustainable ocean management and governance. Entities such as the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS) and SPC play crucial roles in embedding traditional knowledge within decision-making processes. With limited access to scientific resources, many communities in the region rely on traditional and local knowledge for marine management. National ocean policies, exemplified by

Vanuatu's National Ocean Policy, are structured around traditional governance systems, encapsulating culture, ocean values, and integration. Collaboration strategies and pathways between LMEs and traditional knowledge involve consultation, mapping of traditional ocean-related knowledge, and the integration of traditional wisdom into national legislation and policymaking processes. This bridging of the traditional knowledge gap is essential for holistic and effective ocean governance.

In a final panel intervention by **David Vousden** (online), Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), the pivotal role of providing scientific counsel on marine environmental issues was addressed. Sponsored by United Nations entities such as the UNEP, IMO, FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and UNESCO, GESAMP operates through working groups dedicated to studying and assessing various topics. These working groups, including WG1, WG34, WG38, WG40, WG41, WG42, WG43, WG44, and WG45, generate valuable outputs such as reports, guidelines, and assessments, contributing to scientific knowledge and informing decision-making processes. GESAMP actively supports LMEs and welcomes engagement on pertinent issues as a committed scientific partner in the sphere of marine environmental protection.

Itahisa Deniz Gonzalez, IOC/UNESCO, briefed the meeting on the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project that focuses on producing assessments regarding invasive alien species (IAS) and multiple stressors in the region. The project relies heavily on published, georeferenced data, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the distribution and impacts of invasive species. Leveraging scientific expertise and data, the project endeavours to enhance understanding and management of IAS, particularly their interactions with other stressors in the marine environment.

Alison Clausen, IOC/UNESCO, highlighted the key achievements of the United Nations Ocean Decade since its initiation in 2021, emphasizing the fundamental role of the ocean in achieving sustainability. Its objectives revolve around fostering transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development and fostering connections between people and the ocean. The Decade prioritizes a broad and inclusive interpretation of ocean science, co-designed with users and focused on practical solutions. It encourages bottom-up initiatives, encompassing programs, projects, activities, and contributions to address the ten Ocean Decade Challenges. The Decade's organizational structure involves multiple stakeholder groups, including National Decade Committees (NDCs), Decade Actions and Communities of Practice (CoPs), regional task forces, working groups, foundational dialogues, as well as regional and thematic coordination structures. Regional initiatives within the Ocean Decade encompass existing Decade Coordinating Committees (DCCs) and Decade Coordinating Offices (DCOs). National initiatives, notably the NDCs, play a critical role in identifying current gaps, particularly in SIDS.

Strengthening the connections between LMEs and ocean science is crucial, recognizing the LMEs as both generators and users of ocean science at the science-policy interface. Engaging now and viewing the Ocean Decade as a framework can help align research and efforts toward achieving ocean sustainability.

As part of his closing remarks, Mr. Barbière summarized the key takeaways from the session:

- Science serves as an essential pillar underlying the implementation of an EBM approach. While LMEs are well-defined and widely accepted concepts, periodic review of their scientific foundation is advisable. This review helps better comprehend the impacts of various stressors, including climate-driven changes, on ecosystem dynamics and functioning within a changing ocean environment. These stressors can affect LME boundaries, species diversity, abundance, trophic interactions, and ultimately human reliance on marine resources, potentially posing new challenges for transboundary management governance.

- Engaging in the complete value chain of ocean science, including research, observation, data management, knowledge products, and ocean management applications, can yield more significant impact. This approach, co-designed with end-users, and recognizing the contributions of Indigenous, Traditional, and Local knowledge systems, holds the potential for greater influence and broader ownership, especially at the local level.
- The United Nations Ocean Decade aims to translate scientific innovation into solutions for sustainable development, aligning closely with the objectives of LME projects. These objectives encompass addressing marine pollution, promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, improving ocean health, and enhancing ecosystem resilience. The Ocean Decade provides a platform for diverse stakeholders to converge their research, investments, and initiatives to tackle common challenges. This collaboration strengthens the overall scientific foundation that underpins the LME approach and creates new technical capacities at the regional level.
- The LME community is encouraged to harness opportunities provided by initiatives, such as the Ocean Decade and GESAMP. These platforms facilitate the identification of scientific and technical questions essential to the needs of the LME community, facilitating progress toward sustainable and science-based ocean management. Mr. Barbière's insights underscored the central role of science and collaboration in preserving the health and sustainability of our oceans and LMEs.

Break-out session A

Time	Title	Name	Objectives
16.00-17.00	i. Review of LME concept	Adnan Awad (UNDP)	<i>To discuss the extension of the concept of LME to new (ecosystem) boundaries e.g. ABNJ, climate change impacts, and implications for the financing of LMEs</i>
	ii. Identifying capacity building needs	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	<i>To discuss capacity-needs and input to draft training strategy</i>
	iii. Uptake of ocean science in LME projects	Niccolo Bassan (IOC/UNESCO)	<i>To identify the key challenges and opportunities of the use of natural and social science, including the link between the Ocean Decade framework and the LME projects</i>

Session A: Highlights of the break-out discussions

Participants were invited to partake in three breakout groups, each delving into specific areas of discussion. The rapporteurs for these groups then relayed the essence of their discussions in plenary. A concise summary of the key points from each of the breakout sessions is provided below:

i. Review of LME Concept

The discussion focused on the concept of LMEs and its extension, as well as the implications of finance in implementing LME strategies. Participants highlighted the challenges and limitations of defining LME boundaries, particularly in relation to political and ecological factors. There was a call to work with different boundaries and scales, considering the interactions and integration of cross-sectoral government agencies at national, subnational, and local levels. The involvement of civil society, private sector, and NGOs in supporting funding mechanisms was emphasized.

The discussion also touched on the relationship between LMEs, the BBNJ process and climate change. It was noted that the BBNJ process does not currently reference the concept of LMEs, presenting an opportunity for clarity and support. Participants highlighted the importance of transboundary cooperation and the need for studies and priority areas in the context of BBNJ implementation. The role of MSP and coastal planning was emphasized, with a focus on balancing regional, national, and international needs and incorporating different approaches at different scales.

The issue of LME implementation and governance was addressed, with GEF identified as a driving force behind the LME approach. Participants debated on the challenges of implementing LME projects, the need for EBM, and the importance of regional action programs and knowledge sharing. The role of sustainable finance options and the responsibility of countries in implementing SAPs were also highlighted.

The discussion underscored the need to expand the analysis of LMEs supported by the GEF and review indicators and lessons learned. It was suggested to integrate ecological connectivity into the LME concept

and align national-level implementation through planning tools. The coordination between organizations, particularly fisheries organizations, and the integration of land-based approaches in planning were emphasized. The participants stressed the importance of institutionalizing the LME approach at the regional level and exploring additional financing mechanisms beyond the GEF.

In conclusion, the main takeaway points included the need for a review of LME proceedings, consideration of the biophysical boundaries, the opportunities associated with TDA and SAP, the role of the BBNJ treaty in opening up financing and partnerships, the importance of governance and the 30x30 partnership for MPAs.

ii. Identifying Capacity Building Needs

This break-out discussion was structured around the following set of guiding questions:

- Can you identify topics on which capacity development is required?
- Which region?
- Which format – online, face-to-face, guidance documents etc?
- Any training material already available?
- Proposed trainers/organizations to be involved?

The outcomes were synthesised in an overview table ([Annex iii](#)). In general, participants indicated the need for multilingual training materials, composed of presentations, videos, guidebooks, factsheets, visuals/infographics complemented by onsite visits and by case studies from GEF projects. The discussion highlighted the multifaceted nature of capacity building requisites of the LME community, as well as the potential for creating synergies with other ongoing initiatives.

iii. Uptake of Ocean Science in LME Projects

The objective of the third breakout group discussion was to identify and elaborate on the key challenges and opportunities associated with the use of natural and social science in LME projects, particularly focusing on their intersection with the UN Ocean Decade. The discussion was guided by the following questions:

1. What are the challenges and needs in LME planning and management for a better use of natural and social ocean science?
2. How do you think the Ocean Decade framework could help meet these challenges and needs?
3. What could be three key action points (either for the Decade or LME community) to advance?

The discussion was consolidated in a key recommendation to organize a webinar focusing on the interactions and integration of LME and the Ocean Decade. The aim of this webinar would be to elucidate the following:

- Alignment between the LME approach with the goals, objectives and challenges of the UN Ocean Decade, including the identification of specific opportunities and links arising at the intersection of the two programmes;
- Identify areas where the UN Ocean Decade can provide support to the LME projects in terms of promoting and enhancing the use and uptake of natural and social science, and where the Ocean Decade initiatives could help address the key challenges faced by LME projects;

- Promote strategies and mechanisms that could be implemented to foster collaboration between LME projects and the UN Ocean Decade, including collaboration between stakeholders from both initiatives to leverage their expertise and resources to achieve mutual goals, such as sustainable management and conservation of marine ecosystems;
- Identify key needs and opportunities for addressing the challenges and harnessing the potential of LMEs at the regional scale, in collaboration with the United Nations Ocean Decade.



Day 2: Wednesday 12 July 2023

Day 2 started with the opportunity for participants to share personal reflections on the discussions and exchanges of Day 1. Some of these included the observation that there seemed to be a new character to the LME community and slight shift in mandate. Another aspect concerned the need to link to the outputs of the previous phase of IW:LEARN and the LME:LEARN. Participants found group discussions very useful but recommended to further elaborate the outcomes into concrete actions.

Session 4 –Revisiting the TDA/SAP process

Session chair: Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)		
Rapporteur: Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform/SIWI)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session provided an overview of the TDA/SAP resources available (manual, training course), recent updates to manual (2020) and planned enhancements as part of IW:LEARN5. It also included lessons learned from recent TDA/SAP processes, proposals for revisiting/improving the TDA/SAP framework and learning from other approaches and frameworks.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
09.30-09.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent updates and planned enhancements to the TDA/SAP methodology 	Peter Whalley (Recent up-dates) (online) Mario Cana, (GRID-Arendal) Ruth Mathews, (S2S Platform/SIWI)
09.45-10.15	<p>Lessons learned from recent TDA/SAP processes in LMEs</p> <p><u>TDA implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MED TDA <p><u>SAP implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9592 Catalysing Implementation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Humboldt Current System (HCS) 6920 Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs 5538 Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea 	Olfat Hamdan (MedProgramme- UNEP/MAP) Mauricio Galvez (UNDP) Handoko Adi Susanto (PEMSEA) Si Tuan Vo (UNOPS)

Mauricio Galvez, UNDP, shared a video on the Humboldt II project, featuring the Humboldt Current LME shared between Peru and Chile. This is one of the richest and most productive system, supporting the largest fishery of a single species in the world: the anchovy. The video highlighted the threats to this LME, including pollution, illegal fishing and climate change and hence to livelihood of the populations that rely on these resources. The aim of Humboldt II project is to promote binational collaboration and the coordinated management of the LME, enhancing participation of women and the exchange of technical expertise, scientific research and networks for promoting binational exchanges and capacity building.

Handoko Adi Susanto, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), focused his presentation on the lessons learned from updating the TDA/SAP in the Arafura and Timor Seas, as part of the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA-2) project. Among the lessons learned, Mr. Susanto identified the provision of a clear and agreed roadmap, close coordination and communication, good relationships with project stakeholders and partners and possibilities for adaptive management. The TDA/SAP framework allowed for participatory and transparent engagements for both technical (TDA) and political (SAP) processes, as well as the engagement of national and regional working groups, National Project Directors, national and regional specialists. Mr. Susanto put forward two main challenges encountered during the process: the complexity of the process, including the requirements for the organization of a series of activities, and the political and administrative changes that led to limited participation.

Si Tuan Vo, UNOPS, talked about the experiences from the implementation of the SAP adopted in 2008, and substantial issues for the revised TDA/SAP of the SCS and Gulf of Thailand LMEs. He highlighted the time gap between the approval of the SCS SAP project by GEF in 2016 and its delayed started in 2018, with the consequences of changes in networks and reduced interests from partners, the need for consensus on issues and problems, and consultative processes at the national and regional level. In terms of engagement and cooperation, the revised TDA/SAP for the SCS and the Gulf of Thailand provided the opportunity for RBOs to get engaged as part of the S2S collaboration, to collaborate with regional organizations (IOC-WESTPAC) on MSP, and links to the UN Decade for Ocean Science, private sector, initiatives for climate-change related issues e.g. Blue carbon, Blue Forests and regional organizations (COBSEA, SEAFDEC).

Aboubacar Sidibe, FAO, started his presentation by providing more information on the context of the Canary Current LME, encompassing seven countries and characterized by the highest fisheries production in any African LME. The CCLME SAP, endorsed by all Member States, addresses CCLME degradation caused by overfishing, habitat alteration and changes in water quality. Currently, the creation of an enabling environment for effective SAP implementation is being developed through the elaboration of i. recommendation for the CCLME Partnership Consortium Agreement; ii. CCLME multi-sectoral funding strategy; iii. other strategies including the CCLME gender strategy, the communication and stakeholder engagement strategy, and Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism; and iv. The establishment of the Ecosystem working group for reinforcing scientific knowledge and evidence.

Patrick Debels, UNOPS, shared his insights and lessons implementing the TDA/SAP process in the Caribbean & North Brazil Shelf LMEs (CLME+). He described the process as a cyclical and long-term approach, designed for iterative implementation. Institutionalizing this process / mainstreaming the "TDA/SAP" concept(s) in long-term regional processes is crucial, hence also the need to align the timeline of GEF projects/project cycles with regional ocean governance processes. Monitoring and evaluation of SAP progress and lessons learned, particularly through TDA iterations, are an important aspect of the iterative implementation approach. Mr. Debels highlighted the paradigm shift in the TDA/SAP framework from analyzing "problems" to "challenges" and "opportunities", capitalizing on other process and

initiatives, such as interactive ocean governance involving all sectors of society; aligning with the Blue Economy and Natural Capital Accounting frameworks; supporting global agendas like the UN Sustainable Development Agenda, Paris Agreement, the GBF; the 30x30 initiative; and the UN Decade for Ocean Science. Mr. Debels concluded his intervention by announcing the start of the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ that will allow for a new iteration of the regional TDA and SAP process in the region, inviting IW:LEARN to support a global review of lessons learned from other LMEs and transboundary watersheds.

Timothy Andrew, UNEP Nairobi, represented two different GEF projects in WIO: WIO-SAP and SAPPHERE. The former focusses on the implementation of the WIO-SAP that integrates land-based sources; the latter on the implementation of a SAP on policy harmonization and reforms. At the time of the first SAPs formulation, the SAPs were not anchored into regional mechanisms but rather on the form of project products. The two different SAPs created confusion in the region. In 2018, the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention requested to merge the SAPs into one, recognizing the importance of extending the framework to the source-to-(deep) sea approach. The two projects have embarked on a process of updating and combining the TDAs, based on the updated national marine ecosystem diagnostic analysis prepared by national institutions. The next step is to develop a single SAP particularly anchored in the structures of the Nairobi Convention to ensure sustainability. Mr. Andrew informed that the updated SAP for WIO region will be used to inform a new GEF project currently in development to assist in implementing the combined SAP. Although the main issues did not change drastically, new issues like area-based management, MSP, S2S approach, climate-change impacts have now been included in the updated TDA. Mr. Andrew concluded his intervention by highlighting three lessons: i. engaging national institutions and stakeholders in providing the necessary data and information, rather than external experts; ii. ensure that SAP is accepted/adopted by existing regional structures e.g. integrating the SAP into work programme of the Regional Seas Convention; and iii. GEF guidelines for the TDA/SAP development are very useful, however the idea of flexibility is also very important and should depend on the needs of the region and the countries.

Common challenges emerged from these diverse regions, emphasizing the need for adaptability and flexibility through adaptive management. The significance of nurturing relationships and partnerships, along with stakeholder engagement at various levels, was a recurring theme. Attendees recognized the linkages between frameworks and processes e.g. the “governance” of contributing to the TDA/SAP process. The importance of institutionalizing the TDA/SAP process, including its integration into Regional Seas Conventions and other regional processes to secure country ownership, was underscored.

Emma Heslop, IOC/UNESCO, shed light on the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and its crucial role in delivering essential ocean data for various applications. GOOS is a global network comprising 13 GOOS Regional Alliances connected to 130 countries, promoting enhanced coordination and collaboration. She emphasized the need for ensuring data is fit-for-purpose, reaches targeted users, demonstrates value for sustainability, and remains responsive through feedback. For more information, participants were invited to visit: www.goosocean.org.

Khristine Gudczinski, IW:LEARN, gave an overview of the activities and achievements related to the Data and Information Management (DIM) undertaken as part of the LME:LEARN, with the goal to harmonize data and information management across LMEs and improve project capacity to report on progress and results (SAP implementation, SDG targets, portfolio results and impacts, etc.). Ms. Gudczinski informed about the resources available on DIM, including the LME review and catalogue, the DIM guidelines for GEF LME projects and guidance for identifying common LME indicators (<https://iwlearn.net/manuals/dim>). In the second part of her intervention, she presented a set of activities and considerations for *reviving the momentum*, moving forward as part of the IW:LEARN5. These included

developing a new detailed DIM workplan; reactivating the DIM informal working group; updating and implementing the DIM guidelines; organizing regional workshops and training on DIM management; and implementing recommendations from the updated GEF LME:LEARN DIM Report. Ms. Gudczinski emphasized the need for new reference materials on project communications, DIM and website management in IWLEARN.NET, promoting more dynamic communication within the portfolio and beyond.

In the last intervention, **Lynn Sorrentino**, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), started off by asking how many of the participants have ever worked on gender inclusion in their projects. About a third of those present reacted positively. She then asked whether participants are aware of their national legislative policies or of the incorporation of a gender mainstreaming concept within the governance of their country. In view of the gap in the responses, Ms. Sorrentino concluded that inclusion also means getting assistance from countries to include gender policies in the management of the ocean, stressing the importance of community engagement, and emphasizing that it should be addressed bottom-up, making reference to the example presented earlier in Session 3 by Katy Soapi (SPC) on the inclusion of women and indigenous people in the Pacific region. Ms. Sorrentino ended her intervention by referring participants to the vast work that IUCN does in the area of gender inclusion and valuable experiences that IUCN colleagues can share in that respect.



Session 5 – Fostering private sector engagement & innovative financing

Session chair: Konstantina Toli (IOC/UNESCO)		
Rapporteur: Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session discussed the enabling environment required for fostering engagement with the private sector, opportunities for innovative and sustainable financing and replication in other regions.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
11.30-12.30	<p>Private Sector Engagement</p> <p><u>Lessons from the LME & Fisheries portfolio</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5514 Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) • 5765 Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef • 9125 The Coastal Fisheries Initiative Challenge Fund: Enabling Sustainable Private Sector Investment in Fisheries (CFI-CF) • Conservation finance model for Niue • 10685 Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean 	<p>Timothy Andrew (UNEP Nairobi Convention)</p> <p>Mario Escobedo (SICA)</p> <p>Fatou Sock (FAO)</p> <p>Conservation International (video)</p> <p>Carole Martinez (MedPAN)</p>
12.30-13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards the establishment of a Global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel & organization of Investment Forums 	<p>Aur�lie Rossignol (World Bank)</p> <p>Alexandre Borde (Cibola)</p> <p>Lilia Khodjet El Khil (IMO)</p> <p>Natalie Degger (UNIDO)</p>

Konstantina Toli, IOC/UNESCO & GEF IW:LEARN, started the session by gauging the audience's familiarity with the GEF Private Sector Engagement (PSE) strategy. She noted that only a few participants were acquainted with this strategy. Ms. Toli referred to a prior discussion held at the LME21 in Cartagena regarding the private sector. During that discussion, it was concluded that the GEF IW partnership perceived the private sector as a means to mobilize investments and as a conduit for knowledge exchange and networking. She highlighted that while the private sector has consistently been a focus of the GEF IW

agenda, achieving consistent engagement from this sector remains a challenge despite numerous efforts over the years.

Timothy Andrew, UNEP Nairobi, representing the WIO LME SAPPHIRE project, introduced the project's scope, goals, and objectives. He pointed out that the Nairobi Convention is a key stakeholder, providing an entry point to the Contracting Parties and serving as a widely accepted decision-making mechanism. Mr. Andrew described how the project developed a PSE framework, which led to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform under the Nairobi Convention. This platform, supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), engages with numerous private companies and NGOs, offering them access to technical expertise, learning opportunities, a safe space for partnership building, knowledge sharing, and access to resources.

Key conclusions and challenges drawn from the project's experience included the difficulty of engaging with the private sector, the importance of involving the private sector in the project's design phase, the need for incentives to attract meaningful private sector participation, and the effectiveness of targeting high-potential private sector partners who are likely to gain acceptance from all stakeholders. Mr. Andrew also commented that strong private sector partners may attract others and stressed the importance of involving the private sector in the design of dialogues and strategies. A major aspect related to the project's success depended on the acceptance of the private sector by governments and their ability to facilitate fruitful dialogues.

Mario Escobedo, Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (SICA), provided an overview of the Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR2R) project, focusing on key economic sectors in the region, such as agriculture and tourism. Agriculture, particularly sugar cane and palm oil, played a vital role in the project's engagement with the private sector. Tourism, as a major revenue generator attracting millions of visitors annually, also featured prominently. The project engaged with the private sector by providing training, recommendations, tools for better management strategies, capacity building, and by developing innovative financing mechanisms and Private Public Partnerships (PPP).

The project's key takeaways, challenges, and insights revolved around several key points. Firstly, the occasional unavailability of essential information, which hindered effective engagement with the private sector. Secondly, the significance of achieving outcomes through intersectoral agreements. Thirdly, the challenges arising from the private sector's scepticism towards proposed standards that, while not mandatory, aimed to mitigate the impact of agricultural and tourism activities. As part of the project's efforts, publications were developed to propose updates to regulations concerning wastewater treatment plants and agricultural practices. These voluntary standards received a positive response from small producers, leading to their adoption by 16,000 producers involved in sugar cane and palm oil production. The experience gained from MAR2R demonstrates the necessity of collaboration among the private sector, public sector, and NGOs. Additionally, the importance of sharing results and best practices was equally stressed.

Fatou Sock, FAO, featured the Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) program, which comprises five Child Projects implemented by four agencies (FAO, UNDP, WWF, and WB). The presentation primarily focused on one of the Child Projects, the Challenge Fund project executed in Cabo Verde, Indonesia, Peru, and Ecuador. The fund aimed to improve coastal fishery practices and business models to make the sector self-sustainable. It also sought to explore new technical tools and innovative ideas. The fund provided responsible investment packages to stakeholders under the condition that the business case was solid, the investments would be productive and sustainable, and social and environmental responsibility are

duly considered. The fund followed a well-codified process and approach, resulting in the development of 26 business cases across the four countries, which was considered a major success.

The CFI Challenge Funds demonstrated the feasibility of building coalitions with the private sector and investors, although it was observed that partners with different interests may be reluctant to collaborate. The presentation stressed the importance of engaging the private sector at an early stage and providing a long-term perspective beyond the project's timeline.

Free de Koning, CI - Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), discussed the BNA's efforts in designing and deploying innovative and sustainable financing strategies and mechanisms. The BNA played a pivotal role in establishing partnerships with organizations like McKinsey & Co, Nature Analytical team, and the Minderoo Ocean Finance Program. The BNA aims to create global momentum around nature markets and biodiversity credits, integrating marine protection with sustainable opportunities. The goal is to explore investment opportunities that would not lead to debt for countries. A video presentation showcased the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) initiative, which aimed to improve the management of 13 million hectares of ocean conservation areas and establish a sustainable finance model. The initiative successfully unlocked mechanisms for generating benefits from ocean and biodiversity conservation in a transparent and sustainable manner.

Carol Martinez, MedPAN, provided information on the size and distribution of MPAs in the Mediterranean. She highlighted that most MPAs in the region are coastal and European, with only 18 % having a management plan and a mere 12 % having their financial needs covered. As the conservation trust fund dedicated to MPAs in the Mediterranean, the primary objective of the MED FUND is to support the day-to-day management costs of MPAs. The project "Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean" consists of three integrated components focusing on 15 MPAs, aimed to identify and apply sustainable financing mechanisms, deliver capacity building at various levels, and support strong governance. Key conclusions, challenges, and lessons learned were drawn from the initial efforts to assess the accessibility of financing in the Mediterranean. Future steps involve strengthening the project's presence and engagement with key stakeholders.

Manon Cassara, World Bank, presented the project as part of the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) aimed at engaging the private sector. The project, focusing on multiple countries and LMEs along the West African coast, seeks to address various environmental challenges that could negatively impact the region's tourism sector and, consequently, the economies of the countries involved. For instance, it was estimated that failing to address coastal erosion would cost approximately 3.8 billion. Public funds alone could not cover this need, advocating for the growing importance of private sector involvement. Private sector engagement involved developing an engagement plan, identifying key private stakeholders, and issuing a call for interests to assess available ideas and opportunities.

The project's key takeaways include the realization that involving the private sector is a continuous learning journey. It underscores the significance of establishing trust to entice private sector participants, the benefits of cross-sector collaboration, and the necessity of concentrating on shared interests.

Lilia Khodjet El Khil, IMO, discussed the GloFouling Partnership and emphasized the importance of regulatory agencies, like IMO, to engage with private sector industries responsible for implementing IMO regulations. She highlighted the role of projects, dialogues, and round tables in facilitating this engagement. Ms. Khodjet El Khil emphasized that projects are instrumental in helping private sector industries leverage resources, showcasing demonstrations in both developing and developed countries, and ensuring that the language used aligns with the private sector's interests. Creating value-added propositions for the private sector was identified as a critical factor to maintain their interest, bearing in

mind that the private sector operates for profit. Attention to technological aspects and tools to incentivize private sector participation was also highlighted.

Alexandre Borde, CIBOLA and IW:LEARN consultant, presented examples of blended finance by collaborating with climate vertical funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF). He provided brief examples of projects in Thailand and the Solomon Islands that focused on preserving coastal ecosystems and economic activities in the tourism sector through adaptation practices.

Ms. Toli concluded the session with a brief overview of the key messages drawn from the discussions and presentations on the successes and challenges of engaging with the private sector in the context of international waters and marine conservation.

Session 6 – Strengthened Source-to-Sea collaboration

Session chair: Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform – SIWI)		
Rapporteur: Malek Ameri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session introduced the source-to-sea concept and the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of RBO-LME collaboration, 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. It also explored concrete ways that LMEs and RBOs can collaborate and develop shared activities, share lessons learned and exchange knowledge with other LME projects.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
14:30-14:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Source-to-Sea 	Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform/SIWI)
14.40-14:55	<p><u>Incorporating source-to-sea concepts in LME projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source-to-sea and water management integrated capacity building to the SAP implementation in the Amazon Basin • 5765 Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef • 9594 Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation for Improved Ecosystem Management and Restoration in the Senegal delta 	<p>Luiz Amore (ACTO)</p> <p>Mario Escobedo (SICA)</p> <p>Béchir N'DIATH (IUCN Mauritania)</p>
14:55-15:30	<p>World Café</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon – Caribbean • Mekong – South China Sea • Orange-Sengu – Benguela • Danube – Black Sea 	<p>Luiz Amore (ACTO) – Patrick Debels (UNOPS)</p> <p>Maeve Nightingale (IUCN) – Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA)/Si Tuan Vo (UNOPS)</p> <p>Viviane Kinyaga (ORASECOM) – Tunehafo Gottlieb (BCC)</p> <p>Mitja Bricelj (ICPDR) – Iryna Makarenko (BSC)</p>

15:30- 15:42	Report back from World Café	
15:42- 15:45	Closing	Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform/SIWI)

Ruth Mathews, S2S Platform/SIWI, introduced the concept of source-to-sea (S2S) management paradigm to the audience. S2S management is a game changing holistic approach to addressing challenges that are felt in more than one location or by more than one sector. She stressed that by bringing together upstream and downstream stakeholders and stimulating coordination between sectors to address these challenges, it is possible to find sustainable and lasting solutions that create social, environmental, and economic benefits across the S2S system. Ms. Mathews highlighted the benefits of S2S management as well as the resources available to guide actions at different levels, from local to global. The brief overview was followed by the presentation of three examples of how S2S concepts were incorporated in LME projects.

Luiz Amore, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), gave a presentation on the application of the S2S approach in the Amazon Region oriented to support the establishment of an innovative integrated water resource management (IWRM) governance model at the basin level. The proposed actions, as part of the framework of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda, are based on a better understanding of the upstream and downstream environmental, social and economic linkages and improved institutional coordination across sectors and segments. The comprehensive S2S governance assessment will help define the common framework of IWRM principles and guidelines in the Amazon basin, the role of ACTO in IWRM, and the concept for a “Permanent IWRM Coordination Mechanism” in the Amazon Basin. The framework is underpinned by a theory of change that will provide guidance to governance and management responses, planning and the implementation of agreed common goals supporting strategic actions for the SAP implementation.

Mario Escobedo, SICA, introduced the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) ecoregion, one of the largest transboundary barrier reefs in the world spanning across Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. With the objective to support collaboration and governance for an integrated ridge-to-reef management of the transboundary MAR ecoregion, the project MAR2R works with different stakeholders at the local, sub-national, national and regional level. The ridge-to-reef approach encompasses landscape restoration, better (land) management and practices for agriculture, industry and tourism, management of wastewater and pollution prevention, plastics, etc., as well as better management (marine) practices, including mangroves, corals restoration, fisheries, aquaculture and the blue economy. Mr. Escobedo finished his presentation by highlighting the following next steps: i. implement SAP, ii. expand and increase actions all eight Central American countries and iii. establish an agreement and priority of eight Ministries concerned.

Béchir N'Diath, IUCN Mauritania, highlighted the implementation of the S2S approach in the Senegal River delta cross-border biosphere reserve supported by the GEF project “Strengthening cross-border cooperation with the aim of improving the management and restoration of ecosystems in the Senegal River delta”. Addressing the challenges encountered in understanding and implementing linkages in the Senegal River delta, several barriers were identified in applying the S2S approach. These challenges included the unfamiliarity with the S2S approach, the need for a holistic management strategy spanning sectoral and administrative boundaries, and uncertainties regarding the appropriate area and distance to consider, in view of the 1070-kilometer span from upstream to downstream. Overcoming these barriers

requires prioritizing inclusive and representative governance to accommodate diverse stakeholder concerns and encouraging synergies among stakeholders for more harmonized interventions. The project, encompassing various landscapes and stakeholders, serves as a crucial opportunity to integrate the S2S initiative, offering benefits in managing diverse pressures and threats across the entire Senegal River delta.

Source-to-Sea World Café session

The session then transitioned into a World Café format, consisting of two rounds, each lasting 12 minutes. The World Café style discussion involved four pairs of River Basin Organizations and adjacent Large Marine Ecosystem (RBO-LME):

- Amazon River – Caribbean Sea
- Mekong River – South China Sea
- Orange-Sengu River – Benguela Current LME
- Danube River – Black Sea

Representatives from each area/project shared concrete steps that had been taken or could be taken to enhance collaboration across the S2S continuum. During this interactive session, participants were encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions. Key topics addressed included:

- Benefits of S2S collaboration
- Challenges and barriers encountered in S2S collaboration
- Strategies to overcome these challenges
- Recommendations and examples that could support other projects in developing source-to-sea collaboration

Hereunder are the three main takeaways from each group:

For the *Amazon River – Caribbean Sea*, **Luiz Amore**, ACTO highlighted that the involvement of all stakeholders and the understanding of the system as a whole are fundamental. The three key points were: i. the use of new technology e.g. natural isotopes to define the path of water; ii. the need to develop mechanisms to link the SAP development to the development of the National Action Plans (NAP) – from regional to local understanding; and iii. the need to establish cooperation between projects e.g. the Amazon and Caribbean project.

For the *Mekong River – South China Sea*, **Maeve Nightingale**, IUCN, started by focusing on the Mekong Delta and its connection to the two LMEs (South China Sea and Bay of Bengal). One of the major issues in the region relates to intensive rice farming and the impacts on the natural hydrological systems within the Lower Mekong. The group i. mapped organizations and organizations working in the region; ii. highlighted the excellent timing to use the TDA/SAP processes to bring together these initiatives that are not talking to each other; and iii. suggested to utilize IOC-WESTPAC as a unifying agency e.g. to formulate a UN Ocean Decade initiative with the aim to enhance cohesion between the parties and initiatives.

For the *Orange-Sengu River – Benguela Current LME*, **Viviane Kinyaga**, ORASECOM, reported back on the i. need to strengthen the data collection system between LME and river organization; ii. the need to look into intergovernmental coordination mechanisms at the source, i.e. the estuary itself; and iii. the need to

consider Water, Energy, Food, Ecosystem Nexus when identifying solutions and to realize that not all challenges can be solved through GEF financing.

For the *Danube River – Black Sea case*, **Iryna Makarenko**, Black Sea Commission (BSC), summarized the discussion and highlighted three major points as follows: i. cross-sectoral cooperation between the Danube and Black Sea regional bodies was initiated, despite challenges such as military aggression and differences in approaches; ii. cooperation between these bodies commenced in 1997, leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2001 and the establishment of the Danube – Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group and iii. ongoing needs for harmonizing assessment methodologies, ensuring regular data exchange, securing financial resources, and promoting coordination and synergies.

Ms. Mathews provided a final summary of the session, emphasizing the need for clear definitions of S2S, system boundaries, and the inclusion of relevant components in S2S projects. She highlighted the importance of incentivizing action at the source, developing linkages to existing agreements and frameworks, and providing case studies and examples of best practices. Incorporating S2S considerations can help provide solutions, but the process should remain adaptable while maintaining clarity. Building trust, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and addressing the impacts from both upstream to downstream and downstream to upstream are key considerations. The point whether S2S is primarily a national or transboundary issue and the benefits of incorporating S2S perspectives in transboundary projects was also emphasized.



Break-out session B

Time	Title	Name	Objectives
16.45-17.00	i. Consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process	Mario Cana (GRID-Arendal)	<i>To present and discuss the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process</i>
	ii. Consultation of the integration of source-to-sea consideration in the TDA/SAP framework	Ruth Mathews (SIWI)	<i>To discuss steps towards the integration of source-to-sea consideration in the TDA/SAP framework</i>
	iii. Consultation on the needs of a sustainable financing toolkit	Lynn Sorrentino (IUCN)	<i>To discuss the needs of a sustainable financing toolkit</i>



Session B: Highlights of the Break-out discussions

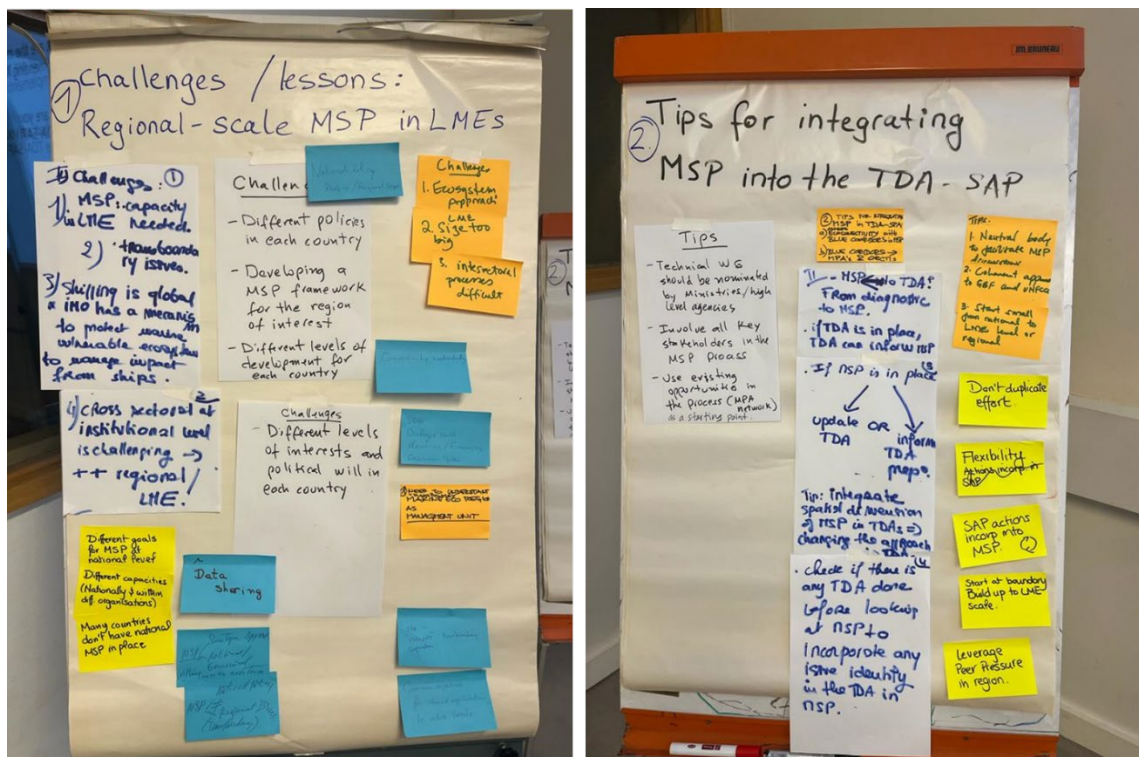
Participants were encouraged to join three separate breakout sessions, each focusing on specific discussion topics. The rapporteurs of these groups later presented the core findings of their discussions in the plenary session. A brief overview of the main points discussed in each breakout session is outlined below:

i. **Consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process**

The key messages of the consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA and SAP process are summarized below.

Addressing the challenges in the integration of MSP at both national and international levels is a complex endeavour. The hurdles include difficulties in bridging the gaps between sectors, ministries, and information-sharing mechanisms. Divergent frameworks and goals across countries further complicate the seamless integration of MSP, emphasizing the need for a harmonized approach. Building capacity and securing buy-in of LMEs for the concept and process are crucial aspects, as the success of MSP relies heavily on understanding and commitment. Additionally, disparities in development, resources, and political situation among countries will introduce an imbalance that hampers collaborative efforts. The geographical extent of LMEs adds another layer of complexity, as the sheer size leads to numerous stakeholders and gaps in understanding connectivity. Compounding these challenges, resources for transboundary MSP are often insufficient, hindering effective coordination and implementation. The comprehensive list of challenges identified during the break-out discussion can be found in [Annex iv](#).

Several key tips and suggestions emerged to facilitate integration. Establishing a technical working group comprising representatives from various ministries and high-level agencies can foster collaboration and cross-sectoral coordination. Leveraging existing work by incorporating MSP baselines into new TDAs or TDA revisions helps build on established foundations. Prioritizing stakeholder engagement and considering neutral facilitation are essential elements in overcoming obstacles, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered, and fostering a sense of collective ownership. Furthermore, encouraging a two-way integration process by intertwining SAP actions into MSP and vice versa promotes a synergistic approach, enhancing the overall effectiveness of MSP within the context of LMEs.



The following key recommendations were drawn from the consultation:

1. **Technical Working Group Nomination:** Ministries and high-level agencies should nominate members for the technical working group responsible for MSP integration.
2. *Stakeholder Engagement:* Involve all key stakeholders in the MSP process to ensure comprehensive input.
3. **Building on Existing Work:** Utilize ongoing initiatives, such as MPA networks, as starting points for MSP integration.
4. **Addressing Connectivity:** Pay attention to connectivity aspects in MSP, MPAs, and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).
5. **Neutral Facilitation:** Consider the involvement of a neutral body to facilitate MSP discussions.
6. **Coherence with Global Agreements:** Ensure coherence between MSP and agreements such as the GBF and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
7. **Start at a Manageable Scale:** Begin at the national level and gradually scale up to the LME or regional level.
8. **Avoid Duplication:** Avoid duplicating efforts or creating redundant processes.
9. **Flexibility:** Maintain flexibility in the integration process to adapt to changing circumstances.
10. **Two-Way Integration:** Integrate SAP actions into MSP processes and vice versa.

ii. **Consultation of the integration of source-to-sea consideration in the TDA/SAP framework**

The following ideas were collected during the brainstorm discussion on the requirements for the guidance on incorporating S2S in the TDA /SAP framework.

- Clear definitions – what is source-to-sea?
- What is the system boundary, what needs to be included when addressing source-to-sea projects?
- How can we incentivize action at the source when the impacts may be far away?
- How to develop linkages to existing agreements, frameworks, and how to use S2S to raise the bar on these?
- Provide case studies, examples of best practices, work in a few select places as pilots
- How can incorporating S2S considerations help to provide solutions?
- Needs to be an adaptable process but also clarity of what it is so it is identifiable
- Issues of building trust and clarification of roles and responsibilities to address sources of impacts
- Is source-to-sea a national issue or a transboundary issue?
- Understand that impacts can go both ways – upstream to downstream and downstream to upstream
- What are the benefits from incorporating S2S in projects?

iii. Consultation on the needs of a sustainable financing toolkit

During the consultation on the development of a sustainable financing toolkit, several important points and considerations were discussed to create a comprehensive and effective toolkit for LME managers. The key points were:

- **Needs Assessment:** To construct a valuable sustainable financing toolkit, a thorough needs assessment among LME managers is essential. This assessment should identify the specific requirements and challenges faced by LMEs.
- **Integration into TDA/SAP Process:** Sustainability, including planning for sustainable project finance, should be integrated into the TDA/SAP process. This integration should ideally occur after the TDA but before the SAP stage.
- **Investment Plans:** Developing investment plans is crucial, but they should be crafted and integrated into the long-term SAP processes.
- **Reference Resources:** Existing resources, such as the Blue Economy PEMSEA Model, recommendations from private sector roundtable meetings, and the IW:LEARN Private Sector Hub, should be consulted.
- **Focus on Outcomes:** Emphasize the importance of quantifiable outcomes and indicators, showcasing the benefits that LMEs bring to ecosystems, including reductions in environmental harm and enabling sustainable practices.
- **Learning from Other LMEs:** LMEs can learn valuable lessons from the strategies and experiences of others, such as GEF project SAPPHERE, the Nairobi Convention, and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) work.
- **Aligning with National Policies:** Explore how LMEs can leverage national policy frameworks to mobilize resources, particularly concerning private sector compliance with regulations.
- **Sustainability Planning:** Ensure that a sustainable financing plan is in place before the SAP process begins and that it is closely linked to the SAP.
- **Business Plans:** Consider the development of investment and business plans for LMEs, aligning them with the services they provide within their countries and regions.
- **De-Risking Services:** Explore how the toolkit can assist LME managers in de-risking their service offerings to attract investors.
- **Blue Carbon Credits:** Evaluate the role of blue carbon credits within the toolkit and sustainable financing strategies.
- **Challenge Funds:** Consider the potential use of challenge funds, which incorporate investors, local and national authorities, and are integrated into pre-SAP sustainability project strategies.
- **IW:LEARN Data Hub:** Explore the possibility of IW:LEARN maintaining an online data hub and map of funding processes and sources for LMEs, indicating where and when these funds and partners enter the project process.
- **Transparency Mechanisms:** Investigate the transparent mechanisms required for overall sustainability and how results can be audited effectively.
- **Private Sector Partnerships:** Connect with the private sector on issues like national regulations, in-kind support, and cost-sharing for conservation efforts.
- **Debt Conversion:** Understand the process of debt conversion at both national and regional levels and consider multi-sectoral partnerships with the private sector.
- **Blended Finance:** Educate LME managers about blended finance as part of the toolkit.

- **Pedagogical Goals:** Define the pedagogical goals of the toolkit, whether it is to teach about financing options or to guide toward funding pathways. Consider how the toolkit contributes to the long-term sustainability of LMEs.
- **Inventory of Financing Structures: Research** whether there is an existing inventory of financing and governance structures within GEF.
- **Attracting Support and Partners:** Identify targets in LME business plans that can attract additional support and partners.
- **Linkage to Governance:** Ensure that sustainability of LMEs is tightly linked to key LME governance mechanisms.
- **Update TDA Manual:** Consider updating the TDA Manual to incorporate marine and natural capital and understand where ocean accounting fits in this process.
- **Match-Maker Services:** Explore the possibility of including match-maker services on the IW:LEARN website, related to mapping funding streams in LME projects.

This comprehensive approach aims to create an effective sustainable financing toolkit tailored to the unique needs and challenges faced by LME managers.



Day 3: Thursday 13 July 2023

Session 7 – ABNJ developments and the potential role of LMEs

Session chair: Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)		
Rapporteur: Konstantina Toli (IOC/UNESCO)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session addressed 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.</i> (Reference to the doc GEF/C.64/12 64 th GEF Council Meeting)		
Time	Title	Name
09.30-09.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest developments on BBNJ 	Nicola Ferri (GFCM)
09:40-09:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10626 The Common Oceans ABNJ Program and its Global Coordination Project 	Viktoria Varga Lencses, Common Ocean Coordinator (FAO)
09:50-10.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10623 Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach (DSF project) • 10622 Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction • 10697 Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-sectoral capacity to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction • 10620 Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea 	Nicola Ferri (GFCM) Viktoria Varga Lencses, Common Ocean Coordinator (FAO) Louise Lieberknecht (GRID-Arendal) Fae Sapsford (Sargasso Sea Commission)
10.20-10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What Now?” & Next Steps • <i>How can GEF high seas project(s) be linked to LMEs?</i> • <i>How will BBNJ affect GEF?</i> 	Lynn Sorrentino (IUCN)

Mr. Galbiati, FAO, opened the session by introducing the BBNJ, the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. He highlighted that GEF was identified as part of its Financial Mechanism, which also includes a special fund and a voluntary trust fund, approved at the 64th GEF Council in Brasilia in June 2023.

Nicola Ferri, GFCM, gave an overview of the latest developments on BBNJ and their relevance to the GEF. He stressed that the objective of the BBNJ treaty is to ensure conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ for the present and in the long term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the convention and further international cooperation and coordination. The Treaty, described by the United Nations Secretariat General (UNSG) as *a victory for multilateralism and for global efforts to counter the destructive trends facing ocean health, now and for generations to come*, contains a total of 75 articles and specifically addresses four main substantial pillars. Article 52 on funding refers to a mechanism for the provision of adequate accessible, new, additional and predictable financial resources, and specifically refers to the GEF trust fund as one of the funding mechanisms.

At the end of his intervention, Mr. Ferri outlined the possible next steps after GEF-8 and once the BBNJ treaty enters into force. A Memorandum of Understanding is expected to be developed/adopted to clarify future relationships with the BBNJ treaty Conference of the Parties (COP), the body with the authority to provide guidance on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities, and eligibility for access and use of financial resources available under the special fund. He referred to the need for guidance on various modalities, including the need to avoid duplications while ensuring complementarity and coherence. He alluded to the GEF-9 Replenishment Process as the opportunity to consider mechanisms that consider a likely specific objective relating to the BBNJ treaty under the IW Focal Area. Mr. Ferri ended by reckoning the potential role of GEF IW:LEARN as an incubator of such projects, providing a unique opportunity for networking and exchange.

Viktoria Varga Lencses, Common Ocean Coordinator, FAO, started her intervention by highlighting that although ABNJs are not LMEs, they connect all: waters, upstream, downstream, LMEs and oceans. She stressed the lack of coordinated action in ABNJs, the lack of related legal frameworks and the challenge of achieving sustainable management of fishery and biodiversity resources. Nevertheless, the regulatory framework is evolving and new agreements, such as the BBNJ treaty are coming to force. She further introduced the Common Oceans Program, a global partnership aiming at the sustainable use and management of living resources funded by the GEF and led by FAO, together with UNDP, UNEP, RFMOs, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia. The program comprises four technical and one coordination project focusing on: tuna fisheries, deep-sea fisheries, the Sargasso Sea, cross-sectoral cooperation, and a global coordination project addressing partnerships, communication and lesson-learning.

Ms. Varga Lencses finished by highlighting the opportunities and challenges of the Common Oceans Program. These included improved integration among projects through a common programmatic narrative; enhancing knowledge about ABNJ and building technical capacities; better implementation of rules and regulations; further development of management tools for integrated ecosystem management; and empowering communities to manage fisheries responsibly and protect habitats and biodiversity.

During the subsequent panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Galbiati, **Nicola Ferri**, GFCM, provided more information on the Deep-Sea fisheries project, and the challenges to manage deep-sea fisheries sustainably due to biological characteristics and impacts on seafloor. Although a large proportion of deep-sea catches occur in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), there is a clear connection between the management of national waters, LMEs and ABNJs. The project identified specific areas of work related to

the strengthening and implementation of regulatory frameworks, strengthening of effective deep-sea fisheries management and improving our understanding and management of cross-sectorial interactions with deep-sea fisheries. The project relies on partnerships with RFMOs, governmental and scientific organizations and the private sector.

Viktoria Varga Lencses, FAO, provided more information on the tuna project, and its objectives to strengthen tuna fisheries governance, also through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), reinforcing compliance with monitoring and control systems, and reducing impacts of tuna fishing on biodiversity. Tuna fishing is a high-value industry, which requires strengthened partnerships with RFMOs, also as a way to strengthen their capacities.

Louise Lieberknecht, GRID-Arendal, talked about the cross-sectoral project and its overarching objective to strengthen capacity for sectorial and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in two pilot regions: Southeast Pacific and Pacific Islands pilot regions. She elaborated on the application of the LME approach to the ABNJ management, presenting an opportunity to integrate ABNJ considerations into the TDA/SAP process in terms of data, capacity needs and linkages, facilitating cross-sectoral integration and EEZ-ABNJ management interlinkages. This would also provide an opportunity to incorporate area-based management tools for the existing management of LMEs that cover ABNJ, in line with the BBNJ agreement. She then posed a number of questions to the participants on how the IW community can adapt and promote the well-established LME approach to cross-sectoral collaboration, MPA establishment in ABNJ, and incorporating EIA provisions of the BBNJ agreement in the TDA/SAP. A final discussion question related to the capacities that would be needed to carry out a revised TDA/SAP process that accommodates ABNJ considerations, pointing towards three levels of capacities: individual, organizations and networks.

Fae Sapsford, Sargasso Sea Commission, introduced the Sargasso Sea project, providing more information on the Socio-Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (SEDA) that is currently being undertaken. The SEDA provides a factual scientific assessment of the ecosystem and socioeconomic status and impacts, bringing together oceanographic information, Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) species, remote sensing, fishing and shipping data, climate change data and projects, governance measures (both in place and suggested ones). In addition, a SAP is also being developed, outlining the actions for conservation to be endorsed by stakeholders. She emphasized how the experience of the TDA/SAP process can also be crucial for ABNJs.

Lynn Sorrentino, IUCN, wrapped up the panel discussion by presenting reflections on next steps regarding the BBNJ process, shedding light on how GEF high seas projects can be linked to LMEs. The effective and equitable entry into force and implementation of the BBNJ require capacity building efforts, communications and outreach initiatives. GEF high seas projects can support the BBNJ treaty Dialogues platform, fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders. Securing resources for the ratification and implementation of the treaty is paramount, ensuring that nations have the necessary support to fulfil their commitments. Additionally, a mechanism linking GEF high seas projects to LMEs through high seas MPAs can enhance synergies and promote integrated ocean management. With the target of the BBNJ entering into force by the UN Ocean Conference in June 2025, urgency in these actions is evident. To further align with broader environmental goals, the integration of climate-smart high seas MPAs with LMEs needs to be explored, enhancing the resilience of marine ecosystems. Furthermore, addressing the cultural and heritage aspects of LMEs is crucial for a holistic integrated approach.

Ms. Sorrentino put forward different dimensions of how the BBNJ will affect the GEF. The conservation measures for LMEs, including the establishment of new protected areas, are amongst the highlighted

areas. Another aspect concerns the sustainable use practices, including the formulation of guidelines, regulations, and effective management of activities, creating the enabling conditions for ratification. Scientific research and cooperation, technology transfer and capacity building are other crucial aspects integral to the agreement's success. Finally, the issue of liability and accountability within the BBNJ context necessitates support in developing frameworks that ensure responsible and transparent practices, reinforcing the global commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. Ms. Sorrentino ended with a positive message that collaboration “can make all this happen”.

In conclusion, three main key insights emerged from these discussions:

1. **GEF's Commitment to ABNJ:** The GEF has demonstrated its strong commitment to ABNJ, as evident from its support to the two Common Ocean programs, which have yielded numerous significant outcomes.
2. **Challenges Posed by BBNJ treaty:** While GEF's engagement in ABNJ is notable, the adoption of the BBNJ treaty presents distinct challenges for the GEF-LME community. These challenges will need to be addressed under GEF-8 and GEF-9.
3. **LME's Role in BBNJ:** LMEs have a crucial role to play in the BBNJ process. However, their involvement must align with the narrative and principles of the BBNJ treaty. This necessitates active participation by LME communities in devising strategies to address the various complexities associated with the application and implementation of the treaty. These efforts will be facilitated through the GEF special fund established by the BBNJ treaty.

The GEF-LME community recognizes the importance of its role in ABNJ and is prepared to adapt to the evolving landscape created by the BBNJ treaty. Collaboration and innovative solutions will be essential in addressing the challenges posed by this treaty in the pursuit of sustainable management of our global ocean resources.

Session 8 – Maximizing synergies with other processes, initiatives and ambitions

Session chair: Adnan Awad (UNDP)		
Rapporteur: Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session addressed the synergies and collaboration with ongoing processes and dialogues, explored how LMEs can achieve global ambitions related to climate and biodiversity through collaboration across different bodies and ocean governance</i>		
Time	Title	Name
10.45-11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Ocean Governance: <i>How do LMEs help support and create synergies with Regional Seas and other initiatives?</i> 	Abdoulaye Diagana (Abidjan Convention) Iryna Makarenko (BSC) Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA) Shannon Hampton (RIFS) Nicola Ferri (GFCM) Free De Koning (CI) Alejandro Arrivillaga (WWF) Jasdeep Randhawa (UNFCCC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): <i>How can LMEs help CBD and the GBF reach their mandates?</i> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean-Climate Dialogue: <i>How can climate change be addressed through ocean-related processes; How to use EBM to tackle climate issues?</i> 	
11.30-11.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Ocean Planning 	Cynthia Barzuna (WRI)
11.45-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards UN Ocean Conference 2025: <i>How to position LMEs within global frameworks?</i> 	Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)

The panel discussion, moderated by **Adnan Awad**, UNDP, was composed of seven members, representing different regional seas, the GBF, and the ocean-climate nexus. The main aim of the discussion was to identify synergies between LMEs and other regional and global processes and initiatives. Hereunder are the main messages conveyed by the panelists in response to the following three questions:

- Regional Ocean Governance: How do LMEs help support and create synergies with Regional Seas and other initiatives?
- Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): How can LMEs help CBD and the GBF reach their mandates?
- Ocean-Climate Dialogue: How can climate change be addressed through ocean-related processes; How to use EBM to tackle climate issues?

The panel was complemented with comments and questions from the floor.

Abdoulaye Diagana, Abidjan Convention, started his intervention by providing contextual information on the Abidjan Convention. The Abidjan Convention, encompassing the entire Atlantic coast, grapples with enormous challenges due to its extensive shoreline spanning over 14,000 km and 22 countries. Mr.

Diagana shared insights into how the Convention addresses its mandate by providing cooperation tools and developing regulatory frameworks. In 2019, the Convention successfully developed four additional Protocols related to oil and gas, sustainable mangroves, and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). Moreover, the adoption of COP Decisions to establish the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GLME) Commission is a notable achievement. A project on GLME has been submitted to GEF, and the outcome is eagerly awaited. The Abidjan Convention actively participates in various international initiatives like the Ocean Decade and collaborates with the EU and countries in Latin America through the Global Atlantic Forum. It is dedicated to building bridges, particularly among three LMEs: Canary Current, Guinea Current, and Benguela Current. A noteworthy partnership is the G7++², through which Germany and Cote d'Ivoire primarily focus on security issues. During the discussion, Mr. Diagana was asked about Abidjan Convention's involvement in BBNJ, to which he explained that the current focus of the Convention is on coastal and EEZ issues.

Iryna Makarenko, BSC, highlighted the role of LMEs in supporting and creating synergies with Regional Seas and other initiatives. She discussed the challenges faced by the Danube-Black Sea-Mediterranean Sea region, including military invasion, political indecision, suspension of activities since 2014, non-binding EU legislation in the Black Sea, and nutrient input from rivers. She detailed the partners and projects currently active in the basin, such as the European Regional Seas, UNEP Global Regional Seas Program, and CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative. Ms. Makarenko expressed her gratitude for the three dedicated GEF projects set to launch in the basin by the end of 2023, which are considered as an excellent opportunity amid the current blockage of other activities. She emphasized the need for coordination with freshwater river basin commissions and a more comprehensive project to link all efforts in the Black Sea and the Danube River. Ms. Makarenko also called for lessons to be drawn from the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and Sava River Commission's post-war assessments and highlighted upcoming opportunities for their promotion at the upcoming UNEP/MAP Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP23) in Slovenia. In conclusion, she advocated for LMEs to help eliminate gaps and overlaps in ongoing activities, particularly in the areas of river-sea interaction, ecosystem approaches, and biodiversity.

One participant raised the concern on sediment movement downstream to LMEs resulting from the destruction of dams with negative effects on water resources, coastal and marine resources. The importance of continued collaboration, even post-war, was highlighted.

Mahesh Pradhan, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), discussed the landscape of Regional Seas worldwide, with UNEP administering seven of them. The governance mechanisms in these regions are at different stages – some have conventions, others have action plans. He emphasized that COBSEA, established in 1981, covers six LMEs, 7 million km², 225 000 km of coastline, and encompasses a population of 1.5 billion people. The region is characterized by complexity and geopolitical sensitivities. Mr. Pradhan identified three critical aspects in this context:

- The issue of leadership and ownership, where certain countries take the lead on specific matters, such as Malaysia and Singapore championing efforts against plastics. This helps the process to move ahead.
- Timing, as in delayed implementation that causes lags and evolution of priorities, for instance in the context of SAPs and regional nutrient strategies.

² The G7++ Group of Friends of the Gulf of Guinea (FOGG) is a multilateral maritime security group that supports the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct for regional maritime security

- Partnerships, including the collaboration with PEMSEA, a key marine litter and plastics program, and the involvement of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in various coastal and marine environmental initiatives. Additionally, synergies with GFCM, CBD, and fisheries organizations were highlighted, along with the potential for collaboration with Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP).

Shannon Hampton, Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), brought the attention of the participants to the role of Marine Regions Forum (MRF) in fostering collaboration among LMEs and regions. She stressed the significance of knowledge sharing, best practices, and approaching issues with expert perspectives rather than diplomatic lenses. The MRF serves as a platform to realistically implement global policies and advance ocean governance effectively. She stressed that LMEs, with their extensive experience, existing partnerships and stakeholder engagement, can form a significant part of this conversation, contributing to the achievement of SDG 14 and the implementation of 30x30 initiative. Ms. Hampton also touched upon the question of whether another MRF is planned elsewhere and highlighted the stakeholder-driven nature of MRF, citing the Berlin meeting in 2019 as the foundation for the organization in MRF in November 2023 in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), in coordination with the *Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales* (IDDRI) and Think Tank for Sustainability (TMG) and other partners. While the upcoming MRF has a lens on the WIO, the aim is to include the interregional perspectives.

Nicola Ferri, GFCM, referred to the project on *Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean* presented on the first day of the meeting, complementing the MedProgramme implemented by UNEP/MAP. The projects converge on the more general aspects, such as communication and knowledge management since they target the same LMEs. This exemplifies the type of cooperation and synergies that can be put together with Regional Seas, RFMOs and other initiatives. For the Black Sea, the decision was made to divide the portfolio into three, with three concurrent projects executed by GFCM, the World Bank and UNDP (in collaboration with IOC/UNESCO). Nevertheless, there is a very strong coordination mechanism between the projects, underlining the benefits of collaborating, learning and exchange, while contributing collectively to the LMEs as a whole. Mr. Ferri emphasized the need to streamline activities, to avoid duplication and achieving better policy coherence in what he referred to as a new era of strengthened collaboration between Regional Seas and RFMOs.

One participant underscored the impacts of GEF LME projects at IMO, including the role of the projects in negotiations with delegates. She cited examples like GloFouling partnerships encompassing 9 LMEs and the regional secretariat, that contributed to the recently adopted revised IMO Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy. Other projects are Green Voyage, descending from a previous GEF-funded project and GloNoise, which should be signed in the coming weeks. Working with regional organizations is an effective way to augment the impact and outreach.

Another participant announced the start of two new freshwater IW projects; one on the Danube River basin and delta restoration and ecosystem-based governance (EcodeLi) and a second project that will enhance the free-flowing status of rivers and reduce flood consequences and flood risk (Danube for All).

Free de Koning, CI, informed that the Blue Nature Alliance (BNA) was born out the need to accelerate ocean conservation in order to achieve the GBF targets. He outlined five key elements for ensuring a successful endeavour. 1. *Opportunity*: Effective conservation planning requires a balanced approach that combines long-term strategies with seizing immediate opportunities driven by political will or local champions. 2. *Flexibility*: is crucial, recognizing that conservation sites have varying needs and are in different stages of development. 3. *Speed*: Urgency is paramount, especially considering time constraints

and the swift allocation of funding to sites through efficient granting mechanisms. 4. *Catalyzing impact*: is also equally important, emphasizing the testing of innovative models and sustainable financing mechanisms that can be replicated across different locations. 5. *Community engagement*: this is not merely participatory but involves local leadership, ensuring social equity and benefit sharing. The issue of community-driven conservation is paramount to make sure these protected areas are sustainable over the long term. In that respect, the BNA established a [code of conduct](#).

A question from the floor addressed the opportunities for BNA to connect to LMEs. In all these protected sites, the objective is to align with what is already there through engagement with the stakeholders in the LME. In most LMEs, there are plans for creating protected areas or improving the management of existing ones. The goal is, of course, to align and contribute to the planning. Not all sites are in LMEs, but most of them are. Most sites are national rather than transboundary but in some cases there is support for transboundary governance e.g. Benguela Current. At the core, actions should be aligned, catalytic and synergistic.

Alejandro Arrivillaga, WWF, was asked to comment on his vision to address climate change through EBM. He started off his intervention by noting the success of the LME meeting in facilitating interactions with other participants and strategizing for a more effective implementation. He made his address not as a climate change expert but as a climate victim and culprit, *as we all are*. From the biological and oceanographic point of view, the raising ocean temperatures will impact the ocean fronts and movement of resources. This aspect of climate change impacts on food availability will be investigated in the pilot on shellfish fisheries (presented earlier as part of the PACA project). Other impacts include changes in rainwater and precipitation, floods and droughts, and their link to sediment transport. This will also impact the coastal habitat types e.g. mangroves, hence the need for adaptation as resources will be moving to different locations. Other aspects relate to the increase in the strength and frequency of storms, and salt intrusion – again impacting communities on the coast and their activities. He closed this intervention by inviting other participants who have already addressed these impacts as part of their work to come forward and use this opportunity for exchanging experiences.

Jasdeep Randhawa, UNFCCC, elaborated on UNFCCC's role in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, emphasizing the importance of ocean systems and their impact on temperature regulation. However, this has come at a cost resulting in a systematic change in ocean functioning and ecosystems as documented in the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on cryosphere. Parties were first asked to strengthen their understanding of and take action on integrating oceans in the national commitments in COP25 in 2019. Ms. Randhawa highlighted the progress made in this respect and on ocean-related climate action under UNFCCC process since then, including commitments within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). There is now a clear mandate to organize Ocean Dialogues on an annual basis to highlight ocean-related positive examples and solutions. Ms. Randhawa encouraged countries to use the global stocktake to communicate positive examples and urged the LME community to report its contributions to COP28.

Following the panel discussion, **Cynthia Barzuna**, WRI, introduced the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (the Ocean Panel), consisting of 17 world leaders dedicated to protecting, producing, and prospering in the ocean. Launched in 2018, the ultimate goal is to create an action plan for the transition to a sustainable ocean economy. Central to this agenda is the commitment of participating nations to sustainably manage 100 % of their ocean areas. This commitment is facilitated by the development and implementation of Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) and the Ocean Action 2030 - a voluntary coalition dedicated to supporting countries in the development and implementation of SOPs, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing the impacts of climate change.

Ms. Barzuna highlighted the importance of oceans in the UNFCCC discussions and the need for increased awareness on the connection between the ocean and climate change. The GBF presents an opportunity to address sustainable ocean management. She also referred to the importance of ocean-based actions and integrated solutions. The following have been identified as opportunities that help build momentum for implementing SOPs: the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC); the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; COP28 and beyond.

As part of the Q&A session, one participant pointed out the need for discussions that integrate SDG 6 and 14, emphasizing cross-sectoral, upstream-downstream collaboration.

In a second intervention, another participant highlighted the opportunity to rethink priorities with a focus on climate change discussions, now that IW:LEARN is rebooting.

In conclusion, Session 8 reinforced the existence of successful synergies and collaborations between LMEs and international and regional processes. It highlighted opportunities for increasing awareness and uptake of LME approaches within aligned processes, ultimately contributing to the advancement of global goals. Improved messaging and the leveraging of project activities, such as MSP, were identified as means to assist countries and regions in participating effectively in global processes. The potential for synergies with the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy was also acknowledged.



Break-out session C

Time	Title	Name	Objectives
12.00-13.00	i. Planning of IW:LEARN Regional Ocean Governance Dialogues	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	<i>To have a brainstorm session and interactive discussion on the planning of the three regional ocean governance dialogues under the framework of IW:LEARN</i>
	ii. Considerations for the GEF-8 and GEF-9 cycles	Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)	<i>To discuss considerations for GEF-8 and GEF-9 replenishments, how to address new challenges and opportunities</i>
	iii. Consolidate LME inputs to the IWC10 (October 2023)	Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)	<i>To consolidate further the inputs from LME projects to the IWC10 as part of the portfolio consultation process</i>

Session C: Highlights of the break-out discussions

Participants were invited to join one of the three breakout groups, each delving into specific areas of discussion. A concise overview of the key points from each breakout discussion is provided below:

i. Planning of IW:LEARN Regional Ocean Governance Dialogues

Ms. Spiteri provided valuable insights into the planning of the IW:LEARN Regional Ocean Governance Dialogues, building on previous related events like the 2017 meeting in Cape Town under the LME:LEARN project. In the upcoming IW:LEARN 5 phase (2022-2026), three Regional Ocean Governance Dialogues are scheduled for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These dialogues will focus on enhancing capacity in regional ocean governance and S2S action management. The emphasis will be on sharing regional collaboration examples, applying science-based ecosystem approaches to inform policy decisions for EBM, and showcasing how regional institutions and projects support the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The discussion in each region (Africa, Asia-Pacific, LAC) centred around specific questions:

- Which main ocean governance processes in these regions should IW:LEARN connect with?
- When should the regional dialogue events occur?
- Where should they be located?
- Who should participate?

The target partners for these dialogues included Regional Seas Bodies, Regional Fisheries Bodies, and LME projects in each region. Regional organizations provided guidance, ensuring alignment with ongoing national and regional processes.

For Africa, challenges include implementing continent-level strategies and institutionalizing project outputs, especially GEF projects. A joint event for all African regions in 2024 aligns with the African Union's request.

In Asia, COBSEA will organize the Intergovernmental Meeting in Cambodia in 2024. PEMSEA's ATSEA-2 Project plans a Ministerial Forum in Timor Leste in August or early September 2024. Key regional events include the IOC-WESTPAC's Regional Decade conference in April 2024 and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting. It's important to address the Pacific separately from Asia within IW:LEARN SIDS activities.

The LAC region has numerous LMEs, each with its unique processes. Many GEF projects are starting, creating momentum. The suggested timing for a regional ocean governance dialogue is the second semester of 2024. Other relevant events include the MRF and Regional MSP forums.

Global events in 2024, such as the 50th anniversary of the Regional Seas and the UNEP Assembly in Nairobi in February, offer opportunities to report regional developments.

Finally, the regional dialogues could align with outcomes from the global Climate-Ocean Dialogue, including stakeholder consultations before the global dialogue, the Regional Climate Weeks, and One Ocean Day at COP 28.

ii. Considerations for the GEF-8 and GEF-9 cycles

The break-out discussion addressed the following two questions:

- What are the emerging issues in GEF-8 and for GEF-9?
- What challenges and solutions do you suggest for IW projects?

The **emerging ocean issues** include: aquaculture; climate change adaptation & resilience; decarbonization; deep sea & offshore monitoring; infrastructure; invasive species; nature-based solutions; ocean literacy; Other Effective sea-based Conservation Measures (OECMS); pollution (plastics, noise, chemicals); S2S management approaches; water use efficiency.

The **emerging processes** include: stakeholder involvement; gender – youth, women; coordination mechanisms of existing projects.

More specifically:

Aquaculture – (FAO mariculture program) – seeing conversation from environmental degradation towards sustainable aquaculture as a potential area for sustainable blue economy (clearing out mangroves). Harvest fisheries, aquaculture feed – how to improve the business model. Support sustainable blue economies – includes mariculture, seaweed, feeds.

Blue carbon – UNEP/GRID Blue Forests ended; interest in blue carbon growing since. Looking for best entry points.

MSP – not really “new” - integrated into projects, within strategy. Yet, there's a growing demand for MSPs nationally and regionally. Need to ensure consistency and complementarities. Broader blue economy – controversial topics (deep sea mining, oil & gas exploration, biosperecting, wind & wave energy). Reference to STAP blue economy report. <https://stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/gef-and-blue-economy>.

Source-to Sea – how to connect governance – going from fisheries agencies to land-based activities.

Noise pollution – GloNoise project GEF7; <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10890>

Technology - PFAS³, ocean data and technology (e.g. drone tech, Google, consumer choice platforms)

BBNJ treaty – The BBNJ GEF fund is composed of three funds – a voluntary one (for travel), a special fund, and the GEF trust fund. The special fund will be established at first BBNJ COP. At the last GEF Council it was agreed that the GEF would be part of the financial mechanism for the agreed GEF fund. In the GEF-8 strategy, GEF already allocated \$34M to support ratification and implementation. The January Council will provide guidelines to define activities, after which funding will be available in early 2024.

The following challenges and possible solutions were also identified:

Challenges	Solutions
Project gaps and delays	Seek gap funding from sources outside the GEF??
Changes in partners	Plan to be adaptive & flexible??
Lack of government ownership	National working groups & action plans??
Siloed sectors not collaborating	Awareness raising, trust-building, cross-sectoral working groups??
Overly ambitious, detail (consultants)	Drill down to only necessary activities, lower administrative tasks
Incompatible GEF implementing & executing agencies	Separation clause?
Economic Valuation	Examine cost of no action (IW:LEARN offers this)
IW:LEARN delayed	Embed IW:LEARN into the GEF Sec
Coordination among projects (theme, geography)	IW:LEARN
Science-Policy interface	Build more dialogue on policy work
Lack understanding of connectivity	Projects under UN Ocean Decade, through TDAs

iii. Consolidating LME inputs to IWC10 in October 2023

- *Voices from the LMEs*: A session where beneficiaries, indigenous people, and local communities share their opinions on GEF projects. This session would also feature an expert's critical analysis of GEF IW and LME strategies.
- Long-term economic sustainability and stakeholder engagement for LME projects.
- Reviewing different approaches used to reach consensus and define agreements at the LME level.
- The role of tools like MSP, MAP, and others in GEF projects at the LME level in global processes, such as the new BBNJ treaty and the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity agreement.
- The LMEs' positions on emerging global themes like the BBNJ treaty and the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity agreement.
- Showcasing successful applications and stories of MSP, MPA, and other tools in GEF LME projects.

³ Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large class of thousands of synthetic chemicals that are used throughout society



Session 9 – Knowledge management, communication and outreach

Session chair: Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Rapporteur: Malek Ameri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session discussed how to enhance communication and outreach, in support of the uptake and replication of portfolio results and experiences outside the LME community. It offered opportunities to reflect on the functionality of Marine Hub of IW:LEARN portal, look into how the portfolio knowledge exchange can be improved and define the outreach activities for the coming year</i>		
Time	Title	Name
15.00-15.20	Knowledge Management: strategy, means, products, exchange at portfolio level	Natalie Degger (UNIDO, Former LME:LEARN)
15.20-15.45	<u>Experiences from the portfolio</u> MedProgramme 10620 Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea	Olfat Hamdan (MedProgramme-UNEP /MAP) Fae Sapsford (Sargasso Sea Commission)
15.45-16.00	Opportunities to extend outreach: means, products, key events	Khristine Gudczinski (IW:LEARN)

Session on Knowledge Management, Communication, and Outreach

Claudette Spiteri, IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN, extended her warm welcome to the participants for a discussion centred on knowledge management, communication, and outreach. While this session was relatively concise, it has been deemed essential to allocate time specifically for exploring knowledge management processes and the associated challenges, both at the project and portfolio level where IW:LEARN plays a pivotal role. The discussion was structured around the following key objectives:

- Enhancing communication and outreach strategies
- Facilitating the adoption and replication of portfolio results and experiences both within and outside the LME community
- Reflecting on accomplishments from previous phases to discern opportunities for further progress

Natalie Degger, UNIDO and formerly IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN, provided insights into bridging past achievements within GEF IW:LEARN4 and LME:LEARN, and potential opportunities for GEF IW:LEARN5. She gave an extensive overview of the key outputs and materials, including Data and Information Management (DIM) guidelines, policy briefs, LME toolkits, economic valuation guidance document and resources, workshops and trainings, regional ocean governance, MSP dialogues, content platforms and hubs, public outreach, project manager welcome package and project legacy capsule. Ms. Degger

emphasized that all these outputs should be referenced, preserved and possibly enhanced in service of the portfolio.

After providing an overview of knowledge management at the portfolio level, the session chair introduced two illustrative examples at the programme and project level.

Olfat Hamdan, UNEP/MAP, shed light on the purpose of the knowledge management strategy and approach adopted as Child Project 4.1 of the MedProgramme dedicated to programme learning, dissemination and management of knowledge. She detailed what has proven effective and the challenges encountered. The MedProgramme, strives to optimize the impact of its knowledge assets by fostering a dynamic exchange with its intended beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders. This involves leveraging the generated knowledge to strengthen the science-policy interface, thereby influencing decision-making processes. Through strategic data and information sharing, capacity building initiatives, and regional stakeholder engagement, the MedProgramme aims to facilitate a more effective collaboration in support of the objectives outlined in the Barcelona, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions, as well as the UNEP/MAP. Additionally, the program places a strong emphasis on contributing to GEF's mission by promoting incremental innovation within its programmatic approaches and enhancing the knowledge base of the GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies. This commitment is further reinforced through systematic stocktaking, scaling up of successful approaches, and broader adoption of MedProgramme's results across the GEF network.

In a second example, **Fae Sapsford**, SSC, presented the knowledge management and communication approach of the Sargasso Sea project, emphasizing the need for scientifically accurate, accessible, and audience-tailored information. The SSC employs a comprehensive communication strategy, utilizing various channels for dissemination and stakeholder engagement, such as active social media involvement, an updated website, and participation in local and international events. Contributions to newsletters, press releases, and visual elements like photography enhance the global impact. However, challenges in Sargassum conservation demand a strategic approach, considering the invasive nature of Sargassum, the timeline for distribution, and addressing the right stakeholders. Effective communication with governmental representatives requires accessible platforms, striking a balance between conservation goals and government interests for sustainable solutions. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy is crucial, tackling challenges while emphasizing stakeholder involvement, communication, and accessible platforms for collaboration and information exchange.

Khristine Gudczinski, IW:LEARN, informed about the planned outreach activities for IW:LEARN5 (2022-2026). The proposed approach for improving communication and knowledge sharing entails the enhancement of existing online platforms, including the IW:LEARN website and project websites, Data and Information Management (DIM), Experience Notes, and Results Notes. This involves extending support to GEF projects for the utilization of IT platforms to establish project websites and enhance information management. A crucial component is the widespread dissemination of project results, experiences, and narratives not only within the GEF IW portfolio but also to a broader audience. This encompasses the transformation of data and information into compelling stories, coupled with the organization of regional workshops and online events focusing on project visualization and communication to achieve impactful outcomes. To streamline this process, the strategy underscores the importance of providing access to references, offering assistance in tailoring messages and narratives, and establishing a roster and network of communicators, journalists, and networks, thereby creating a comprehensive framework for effective communication and knowledge exchange. Ms. Gudczinski ended

her intervention by sharing a number of points as food for thought, such as the joint expression of interests for the IWC10, volunteering to host the first regional workshop for DIM and looking for ways to keep the conversations going after the LME22 meeting.

Session 10 – LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy

Session chair: Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)		
Rapporteur: Khristine Gudczinski (IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session <i>This session revisited and updated the LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy in the context of an evolving LME approach and reflecting the outcomes of the LME22 meeting.</i>		
Time	Title	Name
16.15-16.35	LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)

Claudette Spiteri, IOC/UNESCO & GEF IW:LEARN, went through the key elements of the drafted LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy, previously presented at the LME21 meeting. The draft Strategy comprises two levels: the LME Community and LME Consultation Meeting. It is composed of five major strategic directions: i. Evolution of the ocean governance framework; ii. Blue Economy; iii. LMEs and the 2030 Agenda; iv. Sustainability; and v. Science in support of EBM. It outlines a number of long-term objectives for the LME community, in terms of networking, sharing lessons learned, mobilizing knowledge resources, promoting regional ocean governance, as well as specific objectives, outcomes and outputs for each meeting.

Ms. Spiteri defined the proposed steps moving forward:

- Assessing the need to update draft – *Are the strategic directions still relevant?*
- Preparing the second draft of the strategy
- Consulting the community members
- Preparing the final draft
- Adopting final strategy at one of the major events in 2023 e.g. IWC10

Session 11 – Closing session: Conclusions and next steps

Session chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)		
Rapporteur: Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)		
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will outline the key messages, conclusions and way forward</i>		
Time	Title	Name
16.35-17.00	• Key conclusions	Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)
	• Agenda topics for next LME meeting	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)
	• Longer term perspectives and future priorities	Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)
END OF MEETING		

Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP, summarized the key messages and conclusions of the three-day meeting.

- One of the important outcomes of the LME22 meeting is the strengthened partnership with regional seas, implementing partners, and NGOs. For the first time, the LME22 mobilized RBOs along the scope of the source-to-sea management paradigm.
- It is very important for the GEF LME community to be fully informed and involved in the global ocean-related processes, such the UN Ocean Decade, BBNJ, post-2020 GBF etc.
- Innovation, integrated management, and partnerships take centre stage in LME projects, representing a holistic approach to LME management as showcased by the different GEF and non-GEF IW projects presented and discussions that followed.
- Science is the central pillar that underpins the implementation of ecosystem approaches, working along the value chain of ocean science, from research, observation, data management, knowledge products and ocean management applications. The Ocean Decade is a vehicle for transferring scientific innovations into solutions. The LME community is invited to leverage this opportunity.
- For years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was considered as the scientific arm of LME community, providing help and expertise on scientific publications, data management and information sharing. The community is now looking at opportunities to collaborate with GESAMP and its working groups as an important intergovernmental body.
- Conclusions and recommendations from the TDA/SAP discussions identified the need for national working groups, for building personal relationships to grow trust, strengthening national intersectoral coordination between different ministries while preparing the TDA and developing SAP. It is important that the outcomes of the TDA/SAP processes are institutionalized.
- Strong need to review and update the TDA/SAP approach globally, extract lessons learned and define the way forward. Suggestion for IW:LEARN to commission a study to look into the TDA/SAP processes and the results of new/revised TDA/SAPs.

- Necessity to optimize the GEF project cycle to avoid gaps and losses of momentum e.g. between the SAP development and implementation processes, both at the regional and national level. This should be addressed in a specific side-event or clinic at IWC10, in collaboration with the agencies and GEF Sec.
- Several outstanding examples of private sector engagement, sustainable and innovative financing. Private sector engagement requires investment of time and deep understanding to create added value. This should also be the topic of a special session at the IWC10 on the involvement and engagement of the private sector.
- Regarding the source-to-sea management paradigm, a number of requirements were put forward, including a clear definition of the system boundaries, the development of linkages to existing agreements, frameworks; the identification of the benefits for the portfolio for incorporating source-to-sea approaches; and a way forward on how to use source-to-sea to raise the bar; incorporating source-to-sea to provide solutions and a better understanding and differentiation of source-to-sea issues at the national or transboundary level.
- Regarding the ABNJ, the GEF is fully engaged, and LME projects have a significant role to play in the new BBNJ process but must be tailored to the narrative and principles of the treaty. That will be another important discussion at the IWC10.
- Several examples of synergies and collaboration between LME community and international/regional processes were presented, despite persistent challenges. There is scope for increasing awareness and updating the LME approaches.

Mr. Mamaev thanked the session chairs for their comprehensive summaries of the discussions that are available in the meeting report. On behalf of UNDP, one of the two implementing agencies of the IW:LEARN and co-convener of the LME meeting for years, thanked the participants for the active participation

In his closing statement, **Julian Barbieri**, IOC/UNESCO, invited the participants to the IWC10 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. He also announced that the next meeting of the LME community is scheduled for July 2024, with a proposal to host it outside Paris. The search for an active LME project to host this gathering is underway.

The Chair closed the meeting at 17.00.



List of Annexes

- i.* Detailed Agenda
- ii.* List of participants
- iii.* Break-out session A: Outcomes of the break-out discussion on *Identifying capacity building needs*
- iv.* Break-out session B: List of challenges identified during the break-out discussion on *Consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process*

Annex i: Detailed Agenda

<u>Day 1: Tuesday 11 July 2023</u>			
Session 1 – Opening session			
Session chair: Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC/UNESCO)			
Rapporteur: Konstantina Toli (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will open the meeting, welcome the participants and set the scene for the subsequent sessions and discussions.</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
09.30-09.40	• Welcome	Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC/UNESCO) Leah Karrer (GEF Sec) Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP) Nancy Soi (UNEP)	Plenary, individual addresses
09.40-09.55	• Key developments since LME21 meeting in 2019	Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)	Plenary, presentation
09.55-10.10	• Briefing from Global Environment Facility (GEF-8 and GEF-9)	Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)	Plenary, presentation
10.10-10.15	• Structure and objectives of LME22 meeting	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	Plenary, presentation
Coffee break (10.15-10.30)			
Session 2 – LME Implementation progress and advancement of EBM			
Session chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)			
Rapporteur: Malek Ameri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Objectives of Session <i>This session will elaborate on the progress in the LME implementation by focusing on challenges, new developments, products, achievements and opportunities. It will showcase examples of innovation, integrated management approaches and partnerships.</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session

10.30-12.20	<p><u>Innovation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9605 Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries Minimize the Impacts from Aquatic Biofouling (GloPartnerships) • 10375 Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems <p><u>Integrated management approaches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10560 Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED) & 10558 Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea - (FishEBM BS) • 10076 Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) • Supporting the global implementation of international marine/maritime spatial planning guidelines (MSPglobal 2.0) <p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10800 Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide 	<p>Lilia Khodjet El Khil (IMO)</p> <p>Free De Koning (CI)</p> <p>Anna Carlson (FAO)</p> <p>Alejandro Arrivillaga (WWF)</p> <p>Michele Quesada (IOC/UNESCO)</p> <p>Patrick Debels (UNOPS)</p>	<p>Panel, interventions from the floor, moderated by the session chair</p> <p>(4 min ppt + 10 mins panel)</p> <p>Other project interventions – oral 10 mins</p>
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	Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security (MedProgramme) 	Olfat Hamdan (MedProgramme - UNEP/MAP)	
12.15-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and Healthy Ocean IP Plastics IP Blue & Green Islands IP 	Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO) Ran Xie (UNEP) Adnan Awad (UNDP)	Plenary, presentation (5 min each, incl. Q&A)
LUNCH BREAK (12.30-14.00)			
Session 3 – Science for EBM of LMEs			
Session chair: Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)			
Rapporteur: Niccolo Bassan (IOC/UNESCO)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will highlight scientific advances and innovations as the basis of EBM and the uptake of science by LMEs. This will include transformative ocean science delivered to date through the UN Ocean Decade for Ocean Science 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 use of most up-to-date science and data for informing the process, and the identification of modalities to apply science-based ecosystem approaches at the regional level to make policy decisions towards achieving EBM.</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
14.00-14.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) in the uptake of science in GEF LME projects 	Blake Ratner (STAP, online)	Plenary, presentation (15 min, incl. Q&A)
14.15-15.25	<u>From data to integrated assessments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple stressors and cumulative impacts ICES projects on EBM Ocean InfoHub 	Kirsten Isensee (IOC/UNESCO) Wojciech Wawrzynski (ICES) Lucy Scott (IODE)	Panel, interventions from the floor, moderated by the session chair (5 mins ppt each, followed by 15 mins panel discussion)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embracing Indigenous and Local Knowledge alongside Ocean Science for Sustainable Ocean Management and Governance• Science for a Sustainable Ocean	Katy Soapi (SCP) David Vousden (GESAMP, online)	
15.25-15.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key achievements of the UN Ocean Decade since 2021	Alison Clausen (IOC/UNESCO)	Plenary, presentation (15 mins ppt + 5 mins Q&A)
Coffee break (15.45-16.00)			
Break-out session A			
Time	Title	Name	Objectives
16.00-17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of LME concept	Adnan Awad (UNDP)	<i>To discuss the extension of the concept of LME to new (ecosystem) boundaries e.g. ABNJ, climate change impacts, and implications for the financing of LMEs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying capacity building needs	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	<i>To discuss capacity-needs and input to draft training strategy</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uptake of ocean science in LME projects	Niccolo Bassan (IOC/UNESCO)	<i>To identify the key challenges and opportunities of the use of natural and social science, including the link between the Ocean Decade framework and the LME projects</i>
17.00-17.30	Reporting break-out session A and wrap-up Day 1		
END OF DAY 1			
Cocktail reception 17.45 (7 th floor)			

Day 2: Wednesday 12 July 2023

Session 4 –Revisiting the TDA/SAP process

Session chair: Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)

Rapporteur: Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform/SIWI)

Objectives of Session: *This session will provide an overview of the TDA/SAP resources available (manual, training course), recent updates to manual (2020) and planned enhancements as part of IW:LEARN5. It will also include lessons learned from recent TDA/SAP processes, proposals for revisiting/improving the TDA/SAP framework and learning from other approaches and frameworks.*

Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
09.30-09.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recent updates and planned enhancements to the TDA/SAP methodology	Peter Whalley (Recent up-dates) (online) Mario Cana, (GRID-A) Ruth Mathews, (S2S Platform/SIWI)	Plenary, presentation
09.45-10.15	<p>Lessons learned from recent TDA/SAP processes in LMEs</p> <p><u>TDA implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">MED TDA <p><u>SAP implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">9592 Catalysing Implementation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Humboldt Current System (HCS)6920 Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs	Olfat Hamdan (MedProgramme-UNEP/MAP) Mauricio Galvez (UNDP) Handoko Adi Susanto (PEMSEA)	4 min lightening chat, followed by 10 mins panel discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5538 Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea • 9940 Towards Sustainable Management of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) – Initial Support to SAP Implementation <p><u>TDA/SAP cycle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean • 4940 Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities (WIO-SAP) 	<p>Si Tuan Vo (UNOPS)</p> <p>Aboubacar Sidibe (FAO)</p> <p>Patrick Debels (UNOPS)</p> <p>Timothy Andrew (UNEP Nairobi)</p>	
10.15-10.45	• Ocean Observations – opportunities for TDAs	Emma Heslop (IOC/UNESCO)	Plenary, presentation (10 mins ppt+ 5 mins Q&A)
	• Data and information management (DIM) component of the TDA/SAP	Khristine Gudczinski (IW:LEARN)	Plenary, presentation (10 mins ppt+ 5 mins Q&A)
10.45-11.00	• Stakeholder engagement & community participation, including gender mainstreaming	Lynn Sorrentino (IUCN)	Plenary, presentation (10 mins ppt+ 5 mins Q&A)
11.00-11.15	• Revisiting the TDA/SAP approach	Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)	Facilitated discussion
Coffee break 15 minutes (11.15-11.30)			
Session 5 – Fostering private sector engagement & innovative financing			
Session chair: Konstantina Toli (IOC/UNESCO)			

Rapporteur: Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will discuss the enabling environment required for fostering engagement with the private sector, opportunities for innovative and sustainable financing and replication in other regions.</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
11.30-12.30	<p>Private Sector Engagement</p> <p><u>Lessons from the LME & Fisheries portfolio</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5514 Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) • 5765 Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef • 9125 The Coastal Fisheries Initiative Challenge Fund: Enabling Sustainable Private Sector Investment in Fisheries (CFI-CF) • Conservation finance model for Niue • 10685 Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean 	<p>Timothy Andrew (UNEP Nairobi Convention)</p> <p>Mario Escobedo (SICA)</p> <p>Fatou Sock (FAO)</p> <p>Conservation International (video)</p> <p>Carole Martinez (MedPan)</p>	<p>Panel, interventions from the floor, moderated by the session chair</p> <p>(10 mins ppt, followed by 20 mins panel discussion)</p>
12.30-13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards the establishment of a Global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel & organization of Investment Forums 	<p>Aurélie Rossignol (World Bank)</p> <p>Alexandre Borde (Cibola)</p> <p>Lilia Khodjet El Khil (IMO)</p>	<p>Panel discussion</p>

		Natalie Degger (UNIDO)	
LUNCH BREAK (13.00-14.30)			
Session 6 - Strengthened Source-to-Sea collaboration			
Session chair: Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform – SIWI)			
Rapporteur: Malek Ameri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will introduce the source-to-sea concept and the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LME – RBO collaboration, 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. It will also explore concrete ways that LMEs and RBOs can collaborate and develop shared activities, share lessons learned and exchange knowledge with other LME projects.</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
14:30-14:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Source-to-Sea 	Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform/SIWI)	Plenary, presentation
14.40-14:55	<p><u>Incorporating source-to-sea concepts in LME projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source-to-sea and water management integrated capacity building to the SAP implementation in the Amazon Basin • 5765 Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef • 9594 Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation for Improved Ecosystem Management and Restoration in the Senegal delta 	<p>Luiz Amore (ACTO)</p> <p>Mario Escobedo (SICA)</p> <p>Béchir N'DIATH (IUCN Mauritania)</p>	5 mins presentations to introduce how GEF LME projects are incorporating source-to-sea perspectives
14:55-15:30	<p>World Café</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon – Caribbean • Mekong – South China Sea 	<p>Luiz Amore (ACTO) – Patrick Debels (UNOPS)</p> <p>Maeve Nightingale (IUCN) – Mahesh</p>	In two rounds 12 mins each the representatives from each project share concrete steps that have been or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orange-Sengu – Benguela• Danube – Black Sea	Pradhan (COBSEA)/Si Tuan Vo (UNOPS) Viviane Kinyaga (ORASECOM) – Tunehafo Gottlieb (BCC) Mitja Bricelj (ICPDR) - Iryna Makarenko (BSC)	could be taken to increase collaboration across the source-to-sea continuum and participants can ask questions or make suggestions
15:30-15:42	Report back from World Café	Project teams	3 mins summaries from the World Café discussions
15:42-15:45	Closing	Ruth Mathews (S2S Platform/SIWI)	
Coffee break (15.45-16.00)			
Break-out session B			
Time	Title	Name	Objectives
16.00-17.00	• Consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process	Mario Cana (GRID-Arendal)	<i>To present and discuss the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process</i>
	• Consultation of the integration of source-to-sea consideration in the TDA/SAP framework	Ruth Mathews (SIWI)	<i>To discuss steps towards the integration of source-to-sea consideration in the TDA/SAP framework</i>
	• Consultation on the needs of a sustainable financing toolkit	Lynn Sorrentino (IUCN)	<i>To discuss the needs of a sustainable financing toolkit</i>
17.00-17.30	Reporting break-out session B and wrap-up Day 2		
END OF DAY 2			

Day 3: Thursday 13 July 2023

Session 7 – ABNJ developments and the potential role of LMEs

Session chair: Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)

Rapporteur: Konstantina Toli (IOC/UNESCO)

Objectives of Session: *This session will 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.*

(Reference to the doc [GEF/C.64/12](#) 64th GEF Council Meeting)

Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
09.30-09.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latest developments on BBNJ	Nicola Ferri (GFCM)	10 mins presentation to introduce the latest developments on BBNJ and its implications for the GEF IW LME approach
09:40-09:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10626 The Common Oceans ABNJ Program and its Global Coordination Project	Viktoria Varga Lencses, Common Ocean Coordinator (FAO)	10 mins presentation to explain the mission of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program and its global coordination project
09:50-10.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10623 Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach (DSF project)• 10622 Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction• 10697 Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-sectoral capacity to support sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction	Nicola Ferri (GFCM) Viktoria Varga Lencses, Common Ocean Coordinator (FAO) Louise Lieberknecht (GRID-A)	Each of the panelists will present (7 mins each) one or two links/contributions of the LME approach of the GEF (without slides)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10620 - Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea 	Fae Sapsford (Sargasso Sea Commission)	
10.20-10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What Now?” & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can GEF high seas project(s) be linked to LMEs?</i> • <i>How will BBNJ affect GEF?</i> 	Lynn Sorrentino (IUCN)	Facilitated discussion with the audience and panellists.
Coffee break 10.30-10.45			
Session 8 – Maximizing synergies with other processes, initiatives and ambitions			
Session chair: Adnan Awad (UNDP)			
Rapporteur: Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will address the synergies and collaboration with ongoing processes and dialogues, to explore how LMEs can achieve global ambitions related to climate and biodiversity through collaboration across different bodies and ocean governance</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
10.45-11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Ocean Governance: <i>How do LMEs help support and create synergies with Regional Seas and other initiatives?</i> 	Abdoulaye Diagana (Abidjan Convention) Iryna Makarenko (BSC) Mahesh Pradhan (COBSEA)	Panel, 2-3 mins for response, followed by interventions from the floor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Biodiversity Framework, CBD, MPAs: <i>How can LMEs help CBD and the Global Biodiversity Framework reach their mandates?</i> 	Shannon Hampton (RIFS) Nicola Ferri (GFCM) Alejandro Arrivillaga (WWF)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean-Climate Dialogue: <i>How can climate change be addressed through ocean-related processes; How to use EBM to tackle climate issues?</i> 	Jasdeep Randhawa (UNFCCC)	

11.30-11.45	• Sustainable Ocean Planning	Cynthia Barzuna (WRI)	10 mins ppt, followed by Q&A (5 mins)
11.45-12.00	• Towards UN Ocean Conference 2025: How to position LMEs within global frameworks?	Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)	Facilitated discussion
Break-out session C			
Time	Title	Name	Objectives
12.00-13.00	• Planning of IW:LEARN Regional Ocean Governance Dialogues	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	<i>To have a brainstorm session and interactive discussion on the planning of the three regional ocean governance dialogues under the framework of IW:LEARN</i>
	• Considerations for the GEF-8 and GEF-9 cycles	Leah Karrer (GEF Sec)	<i>To discuss considerations for GEF-8 and GEF-9 replenishments, how to address new challenges and opportunities</i>
	• Consolidate LME inputs to the IWC10 (October 2023)	Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)	<i>To consolidate further the inputs from LME projects to the IWC10 as part of the portfolio consultation process</i>
LUNCH BREAK (13.00-14.30)			
Time	Title		
14.30-15.00	Reporting break-out session C		
Session 9 – Knowledge management, communication and outreach			
Session chair: Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Rapporteur: Malek Ameri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will discuss how to enhance communication and outreach, in support of the uptake and replication of portfolio results and experiences outside the LME community. It will</i>			

offer opportunities to reflect on the functionality of Marine Hub of IW:LEARN portal, look into how the portfolio knowledge exchange can be improved and define the outreach activities for the coming year

Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
15.00-15.20	Knowledge Management: strategy, means, products, exchange at portfolio level	Natalie Degger (UNIDO, Former LME:LEARN)	15 mins ppt, followed by facilitated discussion (5 mins)
15.20-15.45	<u>Experiences from the portfolio</u> MedProgramme 10620 Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea	Olfat Hamdan (MedProgramme-UNEP /MAP) Fae Sapsford (Sargasso Sea Commission)	5 mins ppt (x2), 10 mins interventions from the floor on other projects; followed by 5 mins Q&A
15.45-16.00	Opportunities to extend outreach: means, products, key events	Khristine Gudczinski (IW:LEARN)	Facilitated discussion

Coffee break (16.00-16.15)

Session 10 – LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy

Session chair: Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)

Rapporteur: Khristine Gudczinski (IW:LEARN)

Objectives of Session *This session will 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.*

Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
16.15-16.30	LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	10 mins ppt, followed by 5 mins facilitated discussion
16.30-16.45	Review of LME concept (follow up of outcomes of break-out session A)	Adnan Awad (UNDP)	Facilitated discussion

Session 11 – Closing session: Conclusions and next steps

Session chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)			
Rapporteur: Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)			
Objectives of Session: <i>This session will outline the key messages, conclusions and way forward</i>			
Time	Title	Name	Format of Session
16.45-17.00	• Key conclusions	Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)	Two paragraphs from rapporteurs of each session
	• Agenda topics for next LME meeting	Claudette Spiteri (IOC/UNESCO & IW:LEARN)	Plenary, presentation
	• Longer term perspectives and future priorities	Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO)	Closing remarks
END OF MEETING			

Annex ii: List of Participants

First Name	Family Name	Organization
Abdoulaye	Diagana	Abidjan Convention
Aboubacar	Sidibe	FAO/CCLME
Adnan	Awad	UNDP
Alejandro	Arrivillaga	World Wildlife Fund
Alison	Clausen	IOC/UNESCO
Anna	Carlson	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
Aur�lie	Rossignol	World Bank Group
Blake	Ratner	GEF STAP
Carole	Martinez	MedPAN
Claudette	Briere Spiteri	IOC/UNESCO
Cynthia	Barzuna	WRI
Cyrille	Barn�rias	French biodiversity agency (OFB)
David	Vousden	Rhodes University, South Africa
Emma	Heslop	IOC/UNESCO
Ergi	Dibra	Cibola Partners
Fae	Sapsford	Sargasso Sea Commission
Fatou	Sock	FAO
Free	de Koning	Conservation International
Iryna	Makarenko	Black Sea Commission's Permanent Secretariat
Jared	Bosire	UNEP-Nairobi Convention
Jasdeep	Randhawa	UNFCCC
Ju Hyun	Park	IMO
Julian	Barbi�re	IOC/UNESCO
Kirsten	Isensee	IOC/UNESCO
Khristine	Gudczinski	IW:LEARN
Klaudija	Cremers	IDDRI
Konstantina	Toli	IOC/UNESCO
Itahisa	Deniz Gonzalez	IOC/UNESCO
Leah	Karrer	GEF
Lilia	Khodjet El Khil	IMO
Lorenzo Paolo	Galbiati	FAO
Lorna	Innis	IOCARIBE
Louise	Lieberknecht	GRID-Arendal
Luiz	Amore	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization - ACTO
Lynn	Sorrentino	IUCN
Madeline	Beattie	Conservation International
Maeve	Nightingale	IUCN Asia

Mahesh	Pradhan	UNEP
Malek	Ameri	IOC/UNESCO
Manon	Cassara	World Bank
Mario	Caña Varona	GRID-Arendal
Mario	Escobedo	CCAD
Mauricio	Galvez Larach	UNDP
Michele	Quesada Da Silva	IOC/UNESCO
Mika	Odido	IOC/Africa
Mohamadoul Bechir	Ndiath	IUCN
Nancy	Soi	UNEP
Natalie	Degger	UNIDO
Nicola	Ferri	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
Niccolo	Bassan	IOC/UNESCO
Olfat	Hamdan	UNEP/MAP
Patrick	Debels	UNOPS
Peter	Whalley	Independent Consultant
Ran	Xie	UNEP
Shannon	Hampton	Research Institute for Sustainability
Si Tuan	Vo	UNOPS
Susanto	Handoko Adi	PEMSEA
Tim	Andrew	UNEP/Nairobi Convention
Viktoria	Varga Lencses	FAO
Viviane Victorine	Kinyaga	ORASECOM
Vladimir	Mamaev	UNDP
Vladimir	Ryabinin	IOC/UNESCO
Wojciech	Wawrzynski	ICES

Annex iii: Break-out session A: Outcomes of the break-out discussion on Identifying capacity building needs

Topic	Region	Format	Training material	Organizations to be consulted
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and targets, incl. MSP	Asia & Pacific Africa LAC	In person + hybrid Possible first webinar		Regional seas; marine and coastal organizations e.g. SPREP; COBSEA; Regional bodies
Plastics and marine litter (source-to-sea management)	Asia & Pacific Africa LAC		Plastics Treaty specialization Circular economy	ASEAN (Sea of Solutions) Regional Seas (UNEP) FAO SPREP IUCN Industry/private sector
Governance, including high seas governance	Asia & Pacific Africa LAC		World bank ocean governance course (https://tinyurl.com/32tbu8pe)	SPC FAO ICCAT Regional seas
Finance Bankable projects	Asia & Pacific Africa LAC	In person or on process		World Bank Asian; African Development banks

Project development for communities				GEF GCF Foundations e.g.: PEW, Private sector
Data management and collection	Africa LAC Pacific High seas		High seas Artificial intelligence/remote sensing Fisheries Performance Assessment Toolkit (FPAT)	IOC/UNESCO RFMOs OBIS (Pacific data hub) GEMS Ocean FAO IUCN Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON)
BBNJ, incl. area based management tools; MPAs, incl. gaps in national legislations and awareness/ outreach of the BBNJ, shipping impacts	Global Africa/LAC/Asia		SARGADOM MOOC (www.sargadom.com)	Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC) Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC (www.opocbluepacific.org/) University of Brest (UBO - www.ocean-univ.org) IUCN RFMOs UNDP

				FAO World Bank UN Oceans initiative
Ecosystems Valuation (accounting)				World Bank (e.g. Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)) UNEP
Communications (incl. branding; guidance on specific products: e.g. press release, logo use; conflict resolution and facilitation; using GEF IW projects as case studies etc.) Stakeholder engagement		Mentoring Massive online training		IUCN, UBO Media/ Press Conservation International WWF National Organizations
Marine Plastic Pollution Circular economy	Arafura & Timor Seas	Face to face/ Hybrid Modality	Blue capacity hub (bluecapacityhub.info; GRID-Arendal)	Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) WWF UNEP GRID-Arendal

Cost benefit analysis of management options	Seas of East Asia	Face to face/ Hybrid E-Learning onsite	MSP, Blue economy	
GHG emissions from ships	Med Sea, Red Sea Black sea Pacific Asia Africa			
Strengthening ocean integration into UNFCCC process, including Global Stocktake (GST)				Nairobi Work Plan
Ocean Accounting	Global			Global ocean account partnership (WB-funded)
MSP			Blue capacity hub (bluecapacityhub.info; GRID-Arendal) MSPglobal2.0 (F2F: MSP Challenge; Online: OTGA)	GRID-Arendal IOC/UNESCO

ICZM			MedOpen (medopen.org)	
Blue economy	Local/ Regional	Interactive workshops/ structured problem solving	Blue capacity hub (bluecapacityhub.info; GRID-A)	GRID-Arendal IOC/UNESCO IOI ICES
TDA/SAP for beginners	National/Regional	Video Short documents (e.g. infographics) Mentoring for IW GEF Project Mangers		
Unpacking the Ecosystem Approach	Regional			

Annex iv: Break-out session B: List of challenges identified during the break-out discussion on Consultation on the development of a practical approach to integrate MSP into the TDA/SAP process

1. Capacity for MSP in LMEs: The need for adequate human and technical capacity to effectively implement MSP in Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs).
2. Transboundary Issues: Dealing with complex transboundary challenges where multiple countries are involved.
3. Global Shipping Impact: Addressing global shipping issues, while acknowledging the International Maritime Organization (IMO) mechanisms for protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems.
4. Cross-Sectoral & Institutional Complexity: Managing cross-sectoral and institutional complexities, especially at the regional/LME level.
5. Differing National Goals: Recognizing that different countries may have varying national goals for MSP.
6. Capacity Disparities: Managing differences in capacity and resources at the national and organizational levels.
7. National MSP Gaps: Recognizing that many countries do not have established national MSP frameworks.
8. Data Sharing: Overcoming challenges related to data sharing among countries.
9. Divergent Policies: Navigating the differences in policies and regulations in each country.
10. MSP Framework Development: Developing a cohesive MSP framework for the entire region of interest.
11. Development Disparities: Addressing disparities in development levels among countries.
12. Varying Political Will: Acknowledging varying levels of interest and political will in each country.
13. Ecosystem Approach: Incorporating an ecosystem-based approach into MSP.
14. Large LME Size: Coping with the vast size of LMEs and the multitude of stakeholders involved.
15. Inter-Sectoral Complexity: Managing the complexity of inter-sectoral processes.
16. Connectivity Understanding: Ensuring a comprehensive understanding of connectivity.
17. Transboundary Marine Eco-Regions: Recognizing the importance of transboundary marine eco-regions as management units.
18. SDG Alignment: Aligning MSP with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their relevance to planning, financing, and decision-making.
19. Scientific-Political Balance: Balancing the scientific approach with political and economic considerations.
20. National vs. Regional MSP: Navigating the tension between national MSP policies and regional transboundary issues.
21. SAP and Transboundary Cooperation: Identifying SAP actions as potential hotspots for transboundary cooperation.
22. Common Objectives: Emphasizing the importance of shared objectives to reduce threats effectively.