### **GEF LME:LEARN**

# 1st Annual



# Asia-Pacific Regional Network Meeting Report

3-4 May 2018

Bangkok, Thailand









United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Intergovernmenta Oceanographic

#### **SUMMARY**

The <u>first Asia-Pacific annual regional network meeting</u> was organised by GEF LME:LEARN and the IOC of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) at the Chatrium Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand (3-4 May 2018). The primary objectives of the meeting were to provide a forum for GEF funded project leaders, non-funded GEF projects, regional agencies, academia, NGOs and the private sector to network with one another; to enhance their understanding of related activities in the region; and to identify partnership building opportunities by engaging members actively involved in key thematic areas (marine and coastal management, biodiversity, fisheries and coastal climate change).

During the 2-day meeting, 33 participants from 12 countries attended with the group composition summarised in Figure 1.

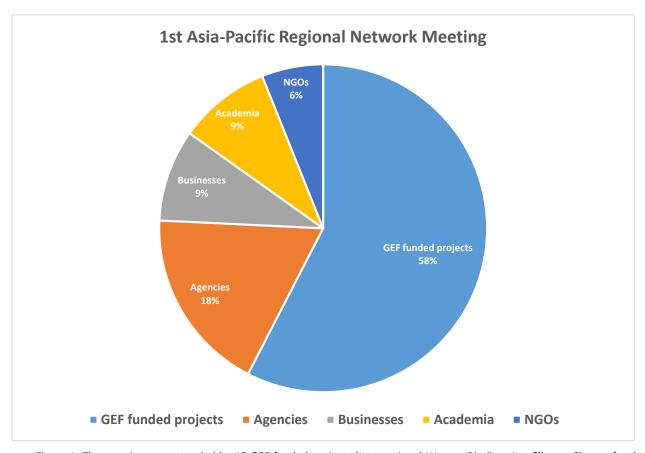


Figure 1. The meeting was attended by 19 GEF funded projects (International Waters, Biodiversity, Climate Change focal areas); 6 agencies (Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, UN Environment, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, United Nations Office for Project Services, Global Environment Facility); 3 Universities (The University of Queensland, Western Sydney University, University of New South Wales); 3 companies (Thai Union, China Navigation Co. Swire, World Aquaculture Society) and 2 Non-Governmental organisations (The Nature Conservancy, World Ocean Council).

#### More specifically, the meeting aimed to:

- Establish the Asia-Pacific Regional Network and enable members to build connections with one another;
- Introduce the twinning and Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities offered by GEF LME:LEARN and discuss how these can or should progress with identified partners;
- Foster an environment for regional private sector engagement;
- Engage members in science-management discussions and how best practice could be replicated in the region.

#### Targeted outcomes of the meeting included

- Increased awareness and familiarity among the projects/activities under implementation in Asia-Pacific:
- Network members committed to taking advantage of the opportunities offered by GEF LME:LEARN;
- Establishment of a foundation for private sector engagement at a regional level;
- Suggestions for replicating best practice in science-management.

#### Summary of key findings from the sessions

#### **Activities in the region**

- 1. Participants had similar challenges in their work i.e. internal capacity, difficulty in replicating results, lack of awareness of other regional activities, lack of access to experts
- 2. Through the presentations and discussions it became clear that this regional network would be useful for developing partnerships in marine and coastal information sharing at the regional level, enhancing knowledge exchanges, creating opportunities of future mutual cooperation, creating partnerships among its members, access to specialists, access to best practices
- 3. The support offered by the GEF LME:LEARN project would help facilitate the required learning exchanges and partnership building activities to strengthen collaboration in the region

#### **Private Sector Engagement**

- 1. The term "Private-Sector engagement" needs to be changed to "Engaging Businesses"
- 2. Projects want assistance from industry but are not sure how to involve them and they need more examples of good practices which demonstrate how this can be achieved
- 3. Businesses want to know what projects need from them and how much it will cost the company

- 4. Projects will have better results engaging businesses if they can demonstrate that they are solving a problem which impacts a company (financially or reputationally) and building a relationship together will create value
- 5. Projects will have a better chance of success if they try to align themselves with companies which are reputationally driven
- 6. It is important to start small with one issue or one site and then build the trust from there

#### Science to Management and highlighting best practices in using science to influence policy

- 1. Research needs to be integrated with other applied science
- 2. Information needs to be made available in simple language
- 3. More effort needs to be placed on science communication
- 4. Issues of high concern in the region are coral bleaching, ocean acidification and marine debris/plastics

## Best practice from the GEF/World Bank Capturing Coral Reef & Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) project:

- Engage stakeholders in shared vision and objective setting for resource management
- Improve marine spatial planning to benefit people and capture ecosystem services
- Identify opportunities and strategies to influence behaviour

#### Best practice from the GEF/UN Environment South China Sea SAP implementation project:

- There has to be an application of science tools to better inform management
- It is important to determine regionally applicable economic values for coastal habitats. By demonstrating the costs of intervention versus the cost of no action you have a powerful instrument when you talk to countries
- Asia-Pacific region has a rich science and coastal community, have to harness it, include this community in national and regional programming, without it consensus is limited
- Key lesson: This is more an exercise in community building than science data gathering

#### Key messages from the GEF/UN Environment IW: Science project:

- Significant advances in the field of systems science (AM and DPSWR) should be incorporated into the scientific framework underpinning the IW focal area
- GEF IW programmes and projects provide good examples of the practical application of adaptive management and this has wider value as case studies for future policy making
- Scientific discovery must provide the bridge between research and management through which alternative solutions can be "test-driven."

#### Follow up actions for the GEF LME:LEARN PCU:

- 1. Upload all presentations from the meeting (please find them all available here);
- 2. Write up and dissemination of the meeting report;
- 3. Compilation and dissemination of the <u>full list of members</u> (including those that could not attend the meeting);
- 4. Follow up with the LMEs on the Policy Briefs;
- 5. Disseminate training announcements for the Governance and Transboundary MSP courses

#### Follow up actions for the Asia-Pacific Regional Network:

- 1. Take advantage of the <u>Twinning</u> and <u>ICO opportunities</u> offered. All the forms, guidelines and documents are available for download via the links provided. The final call for ICO grant proposals is 31 July 2018
- 2. Participate in the Lightning Chats. More information on the next chat will be circulated with all network members
- 3. Keep the spirit of the network alive by sharing your updates, news and useful documentation on our Asia-Pacific Network on Slack.com If you are not already part of our online community on Slack, please join us by using the following link: <u>Asia-Pacific Regional Network</u>
- 4. Help grow the network by encouraging non-GEF funded projects, academia, NGOs and businesses to be part of our community (a 1 page flyer is available for distribution)

marine.iwlearn.net

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and Their Coasts through Enhanced Sharing and Application of LME/ICM/MPA Knowledge and Information Tools or LME:LEARN project seeks to improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners and supporting south-to-south learning and north-to-south learning. This project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and executed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC).

A key element of this improved governance is mainstreaming cooperation and coordination between LME, MPA, MSP and ICM projects with overlapping themes and geographic areas, both for GEF projects and for non-GEF projects.

GEF LME:LEARN aims to reach a variety of marine and coastal stakeholders including project managers, international and local project staff, government officials, implementing agency staff, nongovernmental organizations, business community, academia and others through our Regional Networks. Our community interacts via annual face-to-face meetings arranged in each region, which serves to gather the network to enhance collaboration and partnership building among its members, but also to identify constraints and opportunities. Each network also has a dedicated online platform on Slack.com. Members share their news, stories, activities and photos with their community, and have access to Lightning Chats for solution exchanges. The online platform is accessible by signing up via asiapacificnetwork.slack.com.

#### **WELCOME MESSAGES AND OPENING REMARKS**

**Wenxi Zhu**, Head and Programme Specialist, IOC-UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation to the LME:LEARN PCU for organising the meeting. Mr. Zhu stated that the IOC places importance on collaboration and that the LME:LEARN project is very important in that respect. Mr. Zhu also took the opportunity to introduce the *United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)*. The IOC-UNESCO has been tasked with designing the Decade and Mr. Zhu elaborated how it will stimulate action over the next 10 years in areas of critical importance for the planet, people, prosperity, peace and partnership. Mr. Zhu ended by wishing the success for the meeting and the network, asking the participants to think about how we can share experiences and work together.

**Leah Karrer**, Sr. Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility Secretariat, welcomed the participants and expressed her appreciation to the LME:LEARN PCU for organising the meeting. Ms. Karrer expressed the importance of networking in the region and the experience sharing.

**Mish Hamid**, Project Manager, GEF LME:LEARN, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the participants for making time in their busy schedules to attend. Mr. Hamid emphasized that the meeting was a good starting point to initiate collaboration and dialogue between the participants and those that could not attend, and that the GEF LME:LEARN project was in a good position to facilitate and sustain the network.

The participants of the meeting then introduced themselves and stated their expectations for the meeting and the network:

Nora Ibrahim hoped to learn about the work of others in the region and that the network would be instrumental in sharing experience and improve the governance of LMEs. Somboon Siriraksophon was looking forward to the sharing of regional experiences. Christopher Patterson felt that the network could play a role in refining and improving how work is done in the region. Weerasak Yingyuad hoped that the meeting would allow him to know more about the work at a regional level. Tarun Kathula expressed that he was looking forward to the discussions and wanted the network to be a platform for sharing. David Power stated that this was his first time at LEARN activities and that he was looking forward to hearing more about what others were doing in the region. Damian Hine hoped to engage in excellent discussions and to learn more about other projects. Liz Izquierdo wanted to know how the GEF would facilitate greater commitment between the projects. Ryan Whisnant believed that the meeting and network were a good opportunity for partnerships. Somkiat Khokiattiwong expressed his hope for increased information sharing as a result of the meeting and network. Daud Hassan felt that the network was an opportunity to work together. Christine Valentin expressed her wishes to contribute positively to the meeting, especially the private sector engagement session. Louise Whiting hoped to find other projects and people to engage with to enhance her efforts in the region. Susana Siar wanted to learn what others are doing and to establish partnerships. David Brown mentioned that this was his first time attending and IW/LME:LEARN event and he was looking forward to seeing how things worked. Vincent Hilomen mentioned the SMARTSeas initiative and was looking forward to being involved in the network. Andrew Dansie stated that he had previously been involved in GEF IW:Science and had been actively searching for ways to become involved with the community again. Phaedora Harris expressed her excitement to be at the meeting and that she had previously been a teacher but was now looking forward to learning from everyone. Rosalinda Yatilman wanted to learn more, what other projects are doing and where their project could receive assistance. Emma Newland mentioned that it was her first time to a LEARN event and she was identifying areas of opportunity, what could be adapted, and also looking forward to sharing their experiences. Anne Trevor stated that she would like to see her Project Managers join the network and requested the development of a SIDS network for their part of the world. Soseala Tinilau looked forward to learning and finding opportunities with others, as well as knowing more about GEF7. Mataio Tekinene wanted to learn, share, and strengthen his capacity which would be useful for the project. Aya Mizumura was there to represent her organization and as it was her first experience at this type of meeting, she was looking forward to learning from everyone. Sangjin Lee was looking forward to figuring out the differences and changes between projects and he was expecting a lot of things from the meeting, especially regarding sustainable finance and establishing a commission. Lianchawii Chhakchhuak mentioned that her office would potentially start a new International Waters Project but she had hoped that the network could expand to include people from neighboring countries. She also emphasized her interest in Private-Sector engagement and learning from others.

#### **SETTING THE STAGE**

**Wenxi Zhu** gave a presentation on the role of <u>IOC-WESTPAC</u> and how they are advancing ocean knowledge <u>for sustainable development</u>. The presentation also highlighted how WESTPAC is empowering people in marine science.

**Mish Hamid** provided an overview of the <u>GEF LME:LEARN project</u>, the project partners and the <u>services</u> <u>which are available</u>. Mish emphasised how the GEF projects and other could access the opportunities offered by GEF LME:LEARN and encouraged the network members to leverage these opportunities to

enhance collaboration between the LMEs and those involved in Integrated Coastal Management, Marine Spatial Planning, and Marine Protected Area work.

#### **ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION**

Short presentations by regional meeting participants were shared and discussed (all presentations are <u>available for download</u>). The presentations served to introduce the project or organisation/institution, the thematic area worked in, what would be achieved through the project or area worked in, the challenges the project/organisation faces, how the Regional Network could be useful to the project/institution, full contact details and the website link to the project/institution.

A short summary of the presentations, links to the content, project links, as well as any questions and responses are provided below:

**Susana Siar** <u>presented</u> the <u>Bay of Bengal</u> and <u>Indonesian Seas</u> LME projects, both of which are set to start soon despite some delays. At the end of her talk Susana stated that the regional network could assist in their project implementation by knowing what others are doing, it is a platform to exchange best practices, and it is the place to go when you have a question.

- Question from Nora Ibrahim: there is an area overlap with coral triangle, we are doing similar things, we have technical working group on seascapes.
- Answered by David Brown: We are very aware of the overlap, the project is just starting a TDA-SAP process though.

**Damian Hine**, <u>spoke</u> about the <u>Capturing Coral Reef Ecosystem Services project</u> and the tools they have developed (protected area tools, planning tools, larval dispersal tool, my future/my oceans which is a behavioural change tool). Damian also demonstrated how the tools are inter-disciplinary and interlinked.

- Question from Guillaume Drillet: Have you been crosschecking with terrestrial models? Secondly, out of all the tools you developed, some are very transferable, but some are not transferable.
   How do you scale up?
- Damian: One of the more prominent aspects of the project is systems dynamics. So we bring things together as a system. Nothing is all encompassing, but we bring together critical elements. This is why some of our tools are learning tools, so people can build up concepts. Answering your second question...if you look at some of the marine spatial planning, we have been very conscious in the design of those tools of integrating the data. We have gaps in some places but we want to integrate with existing ones.

Nora Ibrahim, gave a <u>talk</u> on the <u>Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle:</u> <u>Southeast Asia under Coral Triangle Initiative</u> project and the different thematic areas they work in (biodiversity, conservation, food security). Nora mentioned the challenges in capacity for data management and analysis, as well as the desire to have international recognition as a global marine biodiversity area or world heritage site.

- Question from David Power: How do you link the high-level objectives to on-the-ground level actions (at the reefs)?
- Nora: It is very difficult, we are a young organization, especially in remote areas, and it would be great if we could work in more areas, for example in the Solomon Islands' eastern parts.

**Ryan Whisnant,** <u>presented</u> an overview of Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (<u>PEMSEA</u>) and the <u>LME-EA Scaling Up Partnership Investments for Sustainable Development of the Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia and their Coasts project. PEMSEA is developing a regional ocean investment facility to develop a pipeline of projects that can attract especially private capital and it could be replicated in other regions.</u>

- Question from Tarun Kathula: How do you avoid PEMSEA overlapping with other work in the same region?
- Ryan: We open the tent, if there is a new initiative or project with similar work, we bring them into the fold, the new knowledge platform is about that too, and a meeting like this is very useful because we are interacting with new projects

**Tarun Kathula**, spoke about the <u>India Godavari River Estuary Coastal Marine Biodiversity project</u> highlighting their key achievements in fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, oil and gas, ports and shipping, biodiversity, coastal and marine protected areas, and policy. Tarun also shared many videos from the project (<u>available in his presentation</u>).

**David Power** <u>presented</u> the <u>Pacific SIDS Fisheries Conventions</u> project and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) whose main function is to act as a secretariat to support cooperation on Pacific SIDS and the tuna resource. There are linkages to other programs, especially on ecosystem-based management, monitoring and data collection, climate change, and surveillance.

- Question from Daud Hassan: Can you elaborate on your target reference points?
- David: The agreed target is 50% of unfished biomass, there are some challenges, but it has worked for purse seine fisheries, but not the long-line fisheries

**Vincent Hilomen** gave a talk on the Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines. Vincent highlighted that the management of key biodiversity suffered in various years with inadequate habitat representation and spatial coverage. The main challenges the project faces include improving and strengthening capacities of managers of MPAs and MPANs (specifically in reduction of threats, law enforcement and information campaigns), convincing public and private investments in conservation and management, and finding local conservation champions.

- Question from Liz Izquierdo: What tools are you using?
- Vincent: Since the project is implemented by DENR, which also handles CCRES, we were instructed to adopt the CCRES tools.

**Somboon Siriraksophon** presented the <u>Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries</u> Refugia in the <u>South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand</u> project, which focuses on operational management of key threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages. Their recent initiative SCS:LEARN – '<u>Stories from the South China Sea</u>' showcases many videos and acts as an entry point for knowledge sharing initiatives.

**Soseala Tinilau**, introduced the participants to the <u>Tuvalu Marine Based Livelihoods and Climate Hazard Response project</u>, where the resilience of island communities to climate change variability and risks is strengthened through participatory island-level planning, budgeting and execution and community-led investments. For this project the network would be a place to coordinate with fellow GEF projects, build partnerships, embrace multi-stakeholder approach.

**Sangjin Lee**, <u>spoke about</u> the <u>Yellow Sea LME SAP Implementation</u> project where eutrophication is a big issue, there is a changing ecosystem structure and size of the croaker is getting smaller, an indication of

overfishing. The project aims to establish a commission by 2019 and the team is currently trying to find the best way to do this. The project is looking for more participation from private sector stakeholders as an urgent priority is to establish governance rules and also sustainable financing.

- O Question from Daud Hassan: How can you make the commission effective? What are the steps?
- Sangjin: We have developed terms of references on the rules of governance, the structure, and we are recruiting a financial specialist. Once these experts are on board, then we will ask six experts to come together from each country to work with these experts.
- Comment from Wenxi Zhu: You should include the provincial governments because of these large cities. Working with entities like the Shandong government, to come and share their experience, you could create a sistership between the cities.

**Aya Mizumura**, gave a talk about The Nature Conservancy which has a strong presence in several countries in the region working on thematic areas such as Ridge to Reef, Coastal Fisheries, Pacific Tuna Program, MPAs, and cross cutting themes such as Gender. Aya has emphasised that they wanted to work more with the GEF projects.

- Question from Nora Ibrahim: What happens when they do catch fish that cannot be certified as sustainable?
- Aya: The main purpose is take pressure off the reefs, we are trying to bridge the gap between nearshore and offshore fisheries

**Andrew Dansie**, <u>introduced</u> participants to the Global Water Institute, University of New South Wales which focuses on three interdisciplinary thematic capabilities (Women Empowerment and Gender, Source to Sea, Transboundary Water Management). The institute is looking to share knowledge and prioritise gaps to be plugged by science or replication of best practice. Andrew also shared the <u>CoastSnap initiative</u> with the group.

**Louise Whiting**, <u>presented</u> FAO's progress on Source to Sea and how FAO was looking at source to sea in GEF7, specifically that they are trying to focus on a few issues and get results on the ground. Louise mentioned that there needs to be management of government expectations and that countries want to see more action on the ground and less policy/governance work. The next steps for their programme include: draft regional s2s strategy, undertake extensive partnership consultation, continue national scoping and liaison, work with GEF IW to develop guidance notes, share knowledge, and to advocate.

**Emma Newland**, introduced the <u>GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme</u> which is a multi-focal area, multi-agency, and multi-country approach. Emma highlighted their experience in science to management and their Community to Cabinet approach with the Mataniko River, Honiara, Solomon Islands being an example. Emma stated that the network would provide opportunities such as opening the dialogue for research opportunities, sharing application of technical approaches to environmental problems, building a network of practitioners and sharing the Pacific experience and the tools used.

Anne Trevor, provided an overview and introduction to the <u>projects being implemented by the UNDP Multi-country Office for Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau</u>. Anne focused on the objectives of these Ridge to Reef projects and provided insight into the challenges the projects face (limited technical capacities, delayed procurement of project, political influence, limited human capacities in-country, data/information challenges). Anne expressed the view that the network would enable networking opportunities with other projects, twinning, learning and website establishment.

**Rosalinda Yatilman**, spoke about the <u>Ridge to Reef Federated States of Micronesia project</u> which focuses on International Waters and Biodiversity. The project faces some challenges including coordination issues due to geographical spread; it is complicated to push policies forward at the national level; and they are experiencing communication issues as well.

- Question from Leah: How do you see the linkage between IW and STAR projects?
- Rose: We have a small allocation, and the IW project started later, better that this
  happened because then the people already knew what they were doing. Decided to
  combine the projects with a common communications strategy and so forth.

**Phaedora Harris**, provided an overview of the <u>Nauru National Pacific Ridge to Reef project</u> which addresses marine management, sustainable land and water management, governance and knowledge management. Phaedora mentioned that it was important for the project to be part of the network so that best practices are learned from other IW and R2R projects, as well as how to use tools and approaches appropriately.

Mataio Tekinene, spoke about the <u>Tuvalu Pacific Ridge to Reef project</u> and provided information on the thematic areas which include Biodiversity, Land Degradation and International Waters. Some key achievements of the project include community based R2R approaches, a complete review of the algal bloom assessment in Funafuti, development of manuals (IWRM, sustainable land management, GIS training, locally managed marine areas training), a project newsletter and e-library. Through the network the project hoped to increase relevant information sharing, lessons learnt, strengthening partnerships, training programme exchanges (practical/visit).

**Lianchawii Chhakchhuak**, introduced <u>case studies from India</u> which build partnerships for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation. Chawii emphasised the outcomes and achievements of the following projects:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in Sindhudurg Coast;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in East Godavari, and Andhra Pradesh;
- Conservation and sustainable use of the Gulf of Mannar biosphere reserve's coastal biodiversity; and
- UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme in India.

#### OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE GEF LME:LEARN PROJECT

**Natalie Degger** (Deputy PM, GEF LME:LEARN), led an Information session on the Twinning funding offered by the LME:LEARN project: how it works, what are the guideline and proposal form, who should be involved, how to submit the proposal, and the development of a Mission Report and Experience Note after the exchange. Information on the Twinning Portal was shared and how it can be used.

She also provided information on the <u>Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities (ICO)</u> namely how to apply, what the ICO funds (<u>travel costs only</u>), and the development of an Experience Note after the exchanges. Network members were encouraged to collaborate to develop the proposals and should seek assistance from the PCU when required. The deadline for the submissions of ICO proposals is 31 July 2018.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

**Christine Valentin**, COO and Board Member of the World Ocean Council (WOC) gave an introduction on Ocean Business Leadership and Collaboration on Sustainable Development. During her talk she highlighted the work of WOC, their regional business networks and the various sectors their members were involved in.

The session then turned to the companies in attendance to give the perspective from the private sector:

Darian McBain, Global Director of Sustainability, Thai Union, provided an <u>overview of the company</u> as the largest seafood provider of species such as tuna, crab, lobster, shrimp and salmon. Darian spoke about Thai Union's sustainability efforts which align with SDGs 2, 8 and 14, as well as their initiatives <u>SeaBOS</u> and <u>SeaChange</u>. The company is committed to responsible sourcing and has invested USD 90 million to improve this through vessel barcoding which gives information on the vessel, species and crew manifest. According to Darian "the more we know about our vessels the better it is for our supply chain". In addition, Darian mentioned that they work closely with NGOs, government and other industry stating that "We have to work in collaboration with others. Don't think that industry is not interested in collaboration, these issues are too big to work on alone". Darian ended by saying that they want to find ways to better engage the LMEs.

- David Power: Interesting to see the broad scale of where Thai Union is involved. You are linked to a lot of us in the room. I am encouraged to see these approaches by industry. When you look at objectives of regional fisheries bodies, they are similar to what industry wants in the long-term. Everyone wants sustainable practices. People want win-win situations. Our fisheries agency in the Pacific would want to maintain dialogue on monitoring, and traceability, etc. so we will be in touch on that.
- Darian: There is sometimes a perception that business doesn't want regulation. It is not true. We
  want regulation to make sure that everyone has to work at the same playing field. Business is
  generally supportive. Seafood industry hasn't always been as vocal. We are a somewhat insular
  industry compared to shipping or tourism.
- Leah Karrer: Do you have examples of what your role has been in affecting change? What would be your advice to countries in having more impact?
- Darian: One of the comprehensive parts of a FIB is to involve the country. One thing we've done is eliminating recruitment fees for workers. We also need to work with regulators, as once you get a disease in aquaculture it's a big problem. If you take just the environmental perspective and looking at what the market is asking. The major retailers and food services, they all have high environmental standards for fish productions, whether ASC or MSC. If governments are not planning for those standards, we cannot source to that standard. Challenge is feeding the global population, as we get up to 9billion.
- David Brown: Could you elaborate more on the FIB in the Indian Ocean. We are moving forward to the SAP implementation in the Bay of Bengal LME. What is the timeframe and the strategy for the Bay of Bengal?
- Darian: Which species are you talking about? The Indian Ocean FIB was launched last year. You have different starting points for each species. We are working on multi-species FIB in the Gulf of Thailand, we need ten years. We are looking at this...it will depend on the baseline that we are

looking at. There are numerous fisheries around the world. If we are sourcing from that area then we have an interest. We generally don't support a FIB unless it affects our supply chain.

**Guillaume Drillet**, WAS-APC president, The World Aquaculture Society Asia-Pacific Chapter, introduced the society which is the largest Global Professional Organization supporting sustainable development of Aquaculture. They focus on promoting the educational, scientific, technological development, and advancement of aquaculture through workshops and conferences. In addition, they gather information and disseminate scientific, technical and non-technical reports on critical and emerging topics in aquaculture. Guillaume mentioned that the *Society can support GEF projects in the region through provision of experts and they could finance the travel of the expert to the projects*.

**Simon Bennett**, General Manager for Sustainable Development, The China Navigation Co. Swire, provided an <u>overview of the company</u> and the different areas they are involved in (property, aviation, beverages & food chain, marine services, trading and industrial). Simon also emphasized the Swire Thrive approach to sustainability which states: "We stood the test of time by always looking ahead and taking the right decisions for the long term. The world is facing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. We are committed to being part of the solution. Because when we help the world in which we operate to thrive, so do we". Simon presented an example where they are trying to be part of the solution, the <u>Moana Taka Partnership</u>, where Swire Shipping (SS) is working with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). SS has a general imbalance of full boxes bringing finished goods (and their associated plastic packaging) *into* the Pacific Islands and a *general* paucity of export cargoes leaving the region.

The basic working principle of the partnership was summarised:

- SPREP will advise Swire Shipping (SS) where in the Pacific Islands the various classes of waste are, and how much of each exist;
- SPREP will separately advise SS where the best recycling plant/s for each waste class are located;
- Swire will then see which of these port pairs best match their MT repositioning requirements, and on which port pair sailings we have capacity, so they don't shut out their revenue-earning freight. (Note: this will not be the establishment of a new "liner waste trade", shipments will explicitly be ad hoc, and at their option);
- SPREP will then establish for each port pair as SS takes them up as to whom has responsibility for stuffing, craneage, stevedores, raising and other documents required, import fees, unstuffing, storage, box cleaning and so on;
- This established model will be used as the basis for pro bono charity shipments

A panel discussion led by Christine Valentin (WOC) then followed:

The panelists included **Sangjin Lee** (Yellow Sea LME), **Ryan Whisnant** (PEMSEA), **Tarun Kathula** (GEF-UNDP India Godavari River Estuary Coastal Marine Biodiversity project), **Leah Karrer** (GEF Secretariat), **Simon Bennett** (China Navigation, Swire) and **Guillaume Drillet** (World Aquaculture Society).

Framing questions for the panel included:

- What are the global and regional priorities and opportunities regarding sustainable development from the ocean business community?
- What are the needs and opportunities to collaborate across the sectors and at a regional scale?

- How can other stakeholders best work with and through intermediary organizations to engage the private sector?
- How can we develop an Asia-Pacific ocean business leadership community for ocean sustainable development?

Notes from the panel discussion can be found in <u>Annex A</u>

#### SPECIAL THEMATIC SESSION ON SCIENCE TO MANAGEMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

**Dr. Somkiat Khokiattiwong**, Marine Biodiversity Research Specialist, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand opened the session by giving a talk on how <u>Science Works along with Policy and Governance</u>. Dr. Khokiattiwong emphasized the following important points:

- Scientific publications are always on a specific subject or issue. It therefore needs to be integrated with other applied *science* to generate the information to be *available* in *simple* language;
- There is a lack of knowledgeable people who can help to translate science to support social, policy, and management (*science communication*);
- Science needs time to carry out research, but most policy and managers cannot wait. It is most difficult for science to deal with; and
- Issues of high concern in marine science are coral bleaching, ocean acidification and marine debris/plastics.

The session moved to sharing examples of best practice from around the region, how science has helped to inform/influence policy and what contributions are being made by the projects.

**Liz Izquierdo**, Project Manager, <u>Capturing Coral Reef Ecosystem Services</u> (CCRES) project, discussed the aims of the CCRES project which focuses on demonstrating how coastal communities in the developing world can sustainably capture the benefits of ecosystem services; the fundamental relationship between the ecological value of healthy coral reef, seagrass and mangrove ecosystems; and the economic value and market potential of the services they provide that address policy needs in the East-Asia Pacific region. In this way CCRES has developed a series of tools to assist coastal managers, policymakers, scientists and planners in the management of coastal ecosystems.

**Chris Patterson**, Project Manager, South China Sea SAP Implementation project, shared a <u>video</u> which gave a succinct overview on implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea. Chris also shared key messages and examples from the <u>articles from the South China Sea project</u> which have been published in the journal *Ocean and Coastal Management*.

**Andrew Dansie**, Programme Manager, Global Water Institute, University of New South Wales, spoke about the IW:Science project and provided a summary of finding from the project for decision makers.

During the discussion, **Natalie Degger** asked what is the best way to replicate models for science to management, or rather, how can successful models be replicated in the region?

#### Andrew Dansie responded:

- Time invested in activities such as this meeting make one's job easier. Having a core set of
  questions or issues to address are the basis of how you do that to replicate the process of science
  to management.
- As a scientist you want to be published in peer reviewed literature. How to replicate this depends
  whether government has the same problem and you should ask yourselves that question. The
  Cook Islands example was a good one. It can be self-sustaining. Governments will want to do that.

#### **Chris Patterson** weighed in on the question:

- Both in Asia and the Pacific, targeted communications can be effective and bringing about transformational change.
- A microcosm example: In Tuvalu working on eco-sanitation and trying to reduce nutrient
  pollution. We worked on toilets to reduce pollution by 5%. Through targeted communication to
  policymakers it made it easier to upscale the application throughout Tuvalu. Communicating
  those results led to further donors, such as the EU, to go from 40 units to 400 units which led to a
  20% reduction. Then that led to Tuvalu converting this into national policy.
- We are now doing that in the framework of the South China Sea project, where we have launched an initiative called SCS:LEARN, where we have *short videos translating the science* of what we are doing. Look at those to see examples of how communications can support uptake.
- For the GEF Secretariat, a suggestion would be to have a *review sheet to ensure that lessons-learned have been taken up* into the project design and by the Agencies. There is somewhere there, a statement about that, but what would be more practically useful is a simple listing of regionally applicable best-practices that agencies can be driven to.
- Leah: I agree it should be incorporated into the review process. We have now added a knowledge management section into the PIF, so that it requires a discussion of plans for sharing experience and learning as well as drawing on experience from the given region.

#### **David Power** provided insight from his experience:

- One experience I have with policy is trying to understand the policy process in a country. I love doing research but we have to understand what politicians want.
- We also talked about peer-reviewed literature. My experience with policymakers is that they can be influenced by that, they do look at the information being provided, and it can be a powerful mechanism.

**Dr. Somkiat Khokiattiwong** closed the session by stating that we had learned a lot and that now we need to look at how we can share this information at a regional level so participants can bring this back home to their respective governments. This session was already a good start and we have already had a lot of discussion.

#### LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM POLICY BRIEFS

**Natalie Degger**, mentioned to the network that the project will be working closely with the LMEs to develop 9 policy briefs. This is an activity based on the synthesis of experience accumulated across various LMEs and the time has come to prepare short briefs that will help policy makers to decide on a certain issue. The project managers of the GEF funded LME projects were consulted via email on 17 April 2018 and the following input was provided:

- Adrian Ross, CTA, PEMSEA, shared 4 policy briefs with the PCU on shipping/ports; fisheries/aquaculture; tourism; and renewable energy which would help stimulate further discussions;
- Yinfeng Guo, Project Manager and CTA of Yellow Sea LME, mentioned that the dynamics of the
  coastal habitats for spawning sites, salinity change, and impact of climate change are being less
  co-related to the fish stock fluctuations reported by FAO. IUU and overfishing consequently

become the scapegoats. What is happening to the spawning sites and nursery ground of target species? How these are related to the fish stocks? Are the efforts adequate to conserve the sites? What can LMEs, RSPs and RFMBs do to help understand and apply adaptive management? Yinfeng felt that these are the issues that might be to the interest of our community for policy briefs;

- Susana Siar, Bay of Bengal/Indonesian Seas LMEs provided the following suggestions for the policy briefs:
  - Mainstreaming gender in LMEs,
  - o Transboundary management of Hilsa fisheries,
  - Assessing, demonstrating and capturing the economic value of marine and coastal ecosystem - valuation of ecosystem services as basis for policy and management decisions for sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation

The GEF LME:LEARN PCU will be working closely with the LME projects to develop these briefs.

#### **CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

**Wenxi Zhu** mentioned that the challenges are big and that there is a clear need for this regional network. **Leah Karrer** thanked the PCU and organisers of the meeting, emphasising that the importance lies in what happens between meetings and keeping the network alive. Leah reminded participants to take advantage of the twinning and ICO opportunities provided by GEF LME:LEARN and to use the platform that has been provided. **Mish Hamid** thanked the participants for their commitment, for making the time to attend the meeting and for their willingness to establish and sustain the network in the region. Mish concluded by emphasising that what is important to focus on now is to show progress before the next meeting.

#### **Private Sector Engagement Roundtable**

#### **Notes**

**Tarun**: Assistance from industries such as oil and gas, the process is a stumbling block. If industry wants to support us, its not clear on how or what can be addressed. Industries are good at taking initiatives, but we need action plans that can be implemented. We had a gas company wanting to be involved, but there are technical challenges as this area is new and we need to develop plan for it. Very happy to have this connection with colleagues in the room, good practices need to be listed to be replicated. Aquaculture is a threat for mangroves, I would like to ask what measures are you taking to improve this with the fish farmers?

**Guillaume**: My first question to you is what do you need from us? Secondly, how much is it going to cost me? The initiative won't work if my business isn't making money. Certification costs money, about 150 000 Thai Baht, farmers will say why should I pay to be certified when I need this money for other things i.e. feed, antibiotics etc. The way to circumvent that is to find a way to get someone else to pay for certification, or the government has to enforce it better. Need to keep communicating. Business needs to see the value, what is the solution? Important to see where we want to invest long term

**Tarun**: Are you providing training or support in certification? Can you give local level standards to compensate for this?

**Guillaume**: Yes, we can support this

Ryan: I come from the corporate world (business and environment resources). PEMSEA is similar to SPREP, our experience, with caveat, is that we are still learning, this takes time, it takes resources, not as simple as saying engage the Private Sector, you have to have someone spending the time to do it in order to see return. It needs a basic understanding, it is about getting people in the room together. We have had sessions on blue economy, once we start talking there is more understanding and commonality but you need people in the room. Businesses are there to run their businesses bottom line. Family or privately owned they are different, large companies have to show a return, you need to understand the value you can bring to the company, it can be as simple as having a problem to solve which aligns with their reputation. The business needs to understand what you have to offer. The terminology "private sector" needs to be changed to "businesses". Start as small as you need to, multinationals easiest to engage with because of resources, find something concrete around one issue or one site, that's where trust can be built.

**Christine**: I have found that Family owned businesses generally do better financially

**Simon**: There are studies that show that family run companies take a longer-term view. Tata in India, they believe in doing the right thing. I have sympathy with SMEs that are cash driven and don't have long term view. At Swire we are reputationally driven. There is charity and there is corporate philanthropy, we do this because it adds value in the long term. After our partnership in the Pacific, I am now inundated with good will, its cash neutral for us. Another example are the ships that are fitted with data portals- once it's on the ship it doesn't costs us anything at all.

Sangjin: I have worked at NOWPAP, trying to get additional resources from Japan and Korea. Panasonic trying to be involved in environmental issues and it is not difficult to get investments from them; they want visibility, showing that they are taking care of the environment. Looking at engagement now as YSLME 6 we have different regional working groups, looking aquaculture and pollution, and of course Private Sector Engagement. We are looking for training, in aquaculture, trying to have high productivity. In September we plan to have training workshop how to improve aquaculture technology. We also need a governmental officer involved for regulation and laws, to help the private sector to do business in better way.

**Christine**: Sangjin, do you have needs for interactions with businesses?

**Sangjin**: Engagement with private sector has improved, there is a more positive side, more positive trend compared to previous years. It has dramatically changed.

**Simon**: I believe in doing the right thing, I have never been interacted with by NGO or UN body. I have never interacted with you in 10 years. Why have I never heard from you?

**Chawii**: Maybe the platform has been missing, this is a rare chance. From our project in India, we want to hear success stories globally where extractive industries have integrated into sustainability practices. We cannot get this, we want to learn best practices specifically from fertilizers, oil, gas and ports. If there are good case studies from around the world we want to learn from these.

**Simon**: This needs to be targeted, we need you to talk to us and you need to be aware what our interests are.

**Guillaume**: If you want to approach the private sector you need to have a value proposition, need to understand what they are doing, and then present your case. Guiding questions could be what is this industry looking for, how can this benefit them? If you say to us that by working together you can investigate what is going on, or increase biodiversity, then you start building trust and improve visibility.

**Ryan**: I want to reinforce that. There are people in companies making strategic decisions, as projects we have to do our homework and show an exchange of value. For example, a beverage company approached us because they needed sites and the relationships to tackle the plastics issue. They saw the value in working with us. You need to understand what you can offer them (business).

**Christine**: Ecosystem services from projects could be part of the value proposition. What do you think of this type of approach?

**Tarun**: We tested it in the fisheries sector. We had a ban period when the fish were spawning, roughly 45 days. We saw more return, it was more sustainable, favorable for livelihoods and economy. Taking 360 degrees approach to fisheries, the catch increased by 20%.

#### Christine: Leah, you are a donor, is a clear value proposition taken into account?

**Leah**: Appreciate the need to work with companies. We need champions in different industries. We are the largest donor in the world, but USD 1 billion is not enough, we need to be strategic, USD 100 million is for ocean and freshwater projects. We try to be strategic, focus on fisheries and pollution (wastewater, plastics) and its good to hear about role of shipping in plastics. Our role is to encourage projects to identify key players, we are looking at de-risk investments. For example RARE works with communities and impact

investors to only invest in sustainable fishing practices, this enables them to get over the hurdle, to become self-sustaining. We need to get projects to become bankable, finding other sources to give loans for sustainable practices.

**Simon**: Need to have capacity and senior management support to think out of the box. If a company is privately driven and Family owned you have a better chance of engagement. I worry a bit about Singapore and companies that do sustainability reporting- they are good at reporting, but not on being sustainable. Reporting doesn't make you sustainable. Graphs and glossy pictures, we are a long way off. SME have sympathy, they think long term, it's about what adds value, we want to do the right thing.

**Guillaume**: In our industry, unsustainability comes from feed, we cannot reuse it, and you hardly find a fish farm that generates methane to generate energy. The return on investment doesn't makes sense, build one and show me then we will see.

**Ryan:** Companies are still trying to figure this out, and a small amount are doing progressive work. It is a reality check, a report doesn't mean they are enlightened, less about CSR and having photo in a brochure. Tap into associations and intermediaries to get linked with a number of companies. Don't assume that you can just approach any company and that they have a dedicated person for this.

**Chawii:** Simon, regarding your shipping route: Are there areas you avoid because they are high biodiversity areas, and have does it affect your business if you have to divert?

**Simon:** Biodiversity issues of concern are on a register for shippers to avoid, e.g. Gulf in New Zealand, we voluntarily slow down, so that whales are not affected. A bigger issue for us are pirates, avoiding them adds three days, (small diversions for biodiversity and larger for pirates).

**Emma:** Pacific Island access to market limited, Simon your work with SPREP, how small projects with limited access to market and money, how do we engage businesses in risk reduction? Do you think there is an avenue like this to engage with regional companies?

**Simon:** With money from parent company we are looking at low cost, low tech, renewable sailing ships that can go to islands with zero infrastructure, help raise economic viability. Last mile for disaster relief. It is scalable to 200 ships, there is value in this kind of stuff. It is not confirmed but it is advanced.

Fine line for keeping us informed what you need and what the company Is looking for. What we do is transparent, if it is proven it can be replicated. If it is transparent companies will be open to working with a local partner. It needs a local champion.

**Christine:** GEF LME:LEARN making the opportunities possible to do this.

**Aya:** Comment not a question, this was inspirational, from an NGO perspective, agree with what Ryan said where business makes big statements, but when NGOs approach them they say but we are only interested in beach cleaning. Happens often companies want to achieve something big, but don't know how. An NGO can help in this regard, maybe play an advisory role. Show more innovative examples.

**Mish:** Great energy around this, it is a long term process, GEF IW:LEARN itself is learning how to do this, trying it at portfolio meetings, working with businesses. We have a 6 step plan which was never enacted, we will be trying to continue the energy.

**Guillaume**: I am going to say something provocative: We have a mandate to be here, people that you talk to here we are 20%, you need industry leaders in the last 10%, we are not getting them in our meetings. How can we bring this information down there If we want to be impactful, we have to tackle those persons.

**Tarun:** Need champions in every sector. Oil and gas specially.

**Sangjin:** Realise that we are in middle of communication strategy for YSLME, necessary to reflect on engagement of businesses in what we are doing. Will be good for the future of the LME.

**Ryan:** Thank you to Simon and Guillaume. This is a big deal. I encourage you to go to the PEMSEA produced blue economy for business report, what are the risks and opportunities. Be thinking in terms of value, what can you solve in terms of risk and opportunities; you need to demonstrate that you have something to offer.

#### **Annex B**

#### **List of Current Network Members**

#### **Asia Pacific Regional Network**

Agency/Organisation/ Institute	GEF Short Project Title	Name	Surname	Role	Email
PEMSEA	East Asia Seas Sustainable	Adrian	Ross	Chief Technical Advisor	saross@pemsea.org
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СТІ		Andie	Wibianto	Communication and Information Manager	andiewibi@cticff.org
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	Bay of Bengal LME	Chavakat	Muralidharan	Consultant	chavakat.muralidharan@boblme.org
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UNDP	Pacific SIDS Fisheries Conventions	David	Power	Fisheries Management Adviser	david.power@ffa.int
UNDP	Papua - PAS Forest and Coastal Conservation [Bio]	Emily	Fajardo	Project Manager	emily.fajardo@undp.org
SPC	GEF/UNDP/SPC Ridge to Reef Programme	Emma	Newland	Science Officer	EmmaN@spc.int
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UNDP	Pacific SIDS Fisheries Conventions	Hugh	Walton	Project Manager	hugh.walton@ffa.int
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UNOPS	Yellow Sea LME SAP Implementation	Sangjin	Lee	Environmental Economist	SangjinL@unops.org
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World Bank	India Godavari River Estuary Coastal Marine Biodiversity [Bio]	Tarun	Kathula	Project Manager	tarun.kathula@undp.org
ADB	India Climate Resilient Coastal Protection and Mgmt. [Climate]	Vidhisha	Samarasekera	Project Manager	vsamarasekera@adb.org
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SEAFDEC	South China Sea & Gulf of	Weerasak	Yingyuad	Technical Coordinator	weerasak@seafdec.org

	Thailand Fisheries Refugia				
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