PROGRESS REPORT TO SECOND ASCLME PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 2009

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2009 PLANS:

Since the First Workshop and Inception Meeting in Durban, South Africa (January 2008), the ASCLME Project has moved into a very active phase with a lot of initiatives and activities now under implementation. Initially this placed a lot of strain on the PCU until all of the requisite staff and supportive consultants could be hired. We have since realised the importance of careful delegation of activities and deliverables through the allocation of dedicated PCU Outcome Coordinators (at the regional level) supported and guided by national level coordinators. Now the Project has the direct involvement and support of the countries at the national level to the MEDA and TDA development process, we are seeing a lot of activities beginning to happen 'on the ground'.

The data capture and research cruises have been a great success so far and promise to continue to collect new and exciting data through 2009. A significant and largely unsurveyed area of the Agulhas LME has now received the attention of some 50 regional ecosystem experts plus a small group of international technicians and scientist. These experts have brought with them many and varied skills ranging from physical oceanography through nutrient and productivity analysis to fish taxonomy and genetics. Local trainees and counterparts have been carefully selected by the countries, in co-ordination with the PCU, to work alongside these experts and learn from their skills. Many of these received their initial training earlier in 2008 during the Ecosystem Analysis Training Workshop held at the University of Cape Town, sponsored by the Project, and supported by the South African government, including the use of their research vessel, the *Africana*. 2009 will see the Project move its focus, in August and September, to the Somali Current off the east African coast. This will be followed by some cooperative research cruises around Comoros (in partnership with the CORDIO WIO Coral Triangle Project), through the southern islands of Seychelles (at the specific request of the Seychelles government), down the 55° E longitude to service two ATLAS moorings and deploy a third (working with NOAA), and then onto the final leg from Réunion and down to the Agulhas Return Current to map the eastern and southern boundary of the LME and to survey the seamounts along this boundary (in cooperation with another UNDP GEF Project). We have also recently entered into negotiations for a cooperative cruise in early 2010 which would be funded by the US Navy to test state-of-the-art seismic technology for capturing data on smaller scale water-body movements.

Further data capture is planned for 2009 focusing on small-scale artisanal and coastal fisheries, mariculture and coastal tourism (with an emphasis on the value of these activities and how this relates to their sustainability through the ecosystem approach). The Project will also start to address those concerns related to non land-based marine pollution (from shipping and offshore exploration) and the introduction of invasive species through ship movements.

There has been a strong focus on data handling and management over the last year with a lot of discussion about national inputs to the MEDAs and the TDAs. The MEDAs (Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses) are a new LME-Based approach that is being pioneered by the ASCLME

countries. These were discussed and adopted at the First Regional Meeting for ASCLME National Coordination Groups held in Mauritius in 2008. These aim to start the regional TDA (Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis) process for the LMEs at the national level which A. delivers a product that is of direct value to the countries themselves and B. creates national ownership of the overall regional process. This process is progressing to schedule following a more recent meeting of all of the national Data and Information Coordinators in Grahamstown, South Africa (where the PCU is based) in February 2009. The issue of Data Management and Ownership has been attracted a lot of interest and discussion and we now have a Data Management Agreement that has been reviewed by each participating country that fully embraces the concerns and wishes of each country as well as the regional needs of the LME Project itself. Plans for further data synthesis and generation through GIS and predictive modelling along with remote sensing and multidimensional mapping activities are also under development through partnerships with IRD, ReCoMaP and others.

The arrival of the new Policy and Governance Coordinator (a post and activity created during the 2008 Steering Committee Meeting) is an exciting step forward and will allow the Project to maintain a clear focus on its primary objectives of developing effective governance mechanisms and policy strategies in support of a long-term LME approach through the Strategic Action Programmes. Discussion is already underway with regional governance agencies (e.g. AU, NEPAD, SADC, etc) regarding the long-term requirements for an effective regional governance strategy and these will evolve and take shape through further discussions at the bilateral and regional level to ensure that this process is truly country-driven. This is essential if there is to be real ownership of the overall policies and governance structures for LME management, both regionally and nationally.

Communications and public/stakeholder participation are being addressed through a number of activities. Probably the largest and most intensive is the DLIST (Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool) initiative which will be working in all of the countries to undertake rapid assessments of community linkages to ecosystem management and requirements for strengthening community involvement and ownership of ecosystem governance. This DLIST initiative was launched in late 2008 and is currently opening up dialogue with all of the countries. Also, in terms of communications, the Project has commissioned the production of two films on the ASCLME approach. One of these will be a longer educational film aimed at all stakeholders; the other is a shorter promotional film specifically focusing on raising the awareness and sensitivity of policy-makers and leaders of government.

The project has also been very active in promoting itself through media promotions (e.g. published articles and interviews, short television pieces and the Newsletter) and the ASCLME website has been a big hit around the world with a lot of our co-funders and supporters logging in to keep a close eye on activities. In this respect, the 'cruise-blog' has been enormously popular with daily updates on the various happenings and events associated with the cruises, and this will certainly be an activity which will be given high priority during the 2009 cruise season.

In summary, it is fair to say that ASCLME, as a Project, is successfully raising its profile both regionally and globally and has entered into a number of new partnerships both for science and data capture, and for development of long-term governance mechanisms. The dynamic nature of such a Project has required a re-think of the project activities, not in terms of alterations so much as in terms of additions. This, in turn, has required some fine-tuning and re-allocation of the budget.

Annex 1 (end of document) provides a summary of the previous Steering Committee and Inception Meeting discussions and includes a list of SCM Decisions and Agreed Actions. These are abbreviated and highlighted in **Table 1** below:

TABLE 1: DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 2008 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM FROM 2008 STEERCOM	DECISION	ACTION TAKEN
PSC stressed critical importance of LME governance module and need for specific actions to brief and sensitise policy makers	PCU to develop ToR for a person to undertake specific role and functions, and to hire new Coordinator	P&G Coordinator hired
Meetings of an ASCLME Programme Policy Committee and engagement of Policy Makers	A. Formal meetings of Policy-Makers from each country and B. Use of opportunistic side events (e.g. AMCEN)	A. P&G Coordinator to liaise with countries and develop a ToR for Policy Meeting. B. P&G Coord. Identifying possible venues for side events
PSC felt ASCLME should take a central coordinating role for LME-related data and Information management	PCU to structure a data and information management mechanism at national and regional level	This data and information mechanism has been discussed and evolved through meetings of the national CoGs and specifically the national D&I Coordinators
PCU requested clear support to national institutions and working groups for Data and Information management and collection	PCU agreed to provide details on support to countries as well as expected deliverables from countries	Presented at 1st Regional Meeting of National CoGs and further discussed and agreed at D&I Coordinators meeting in Grahamstown. Need NFPs to agree on mechanisms
Data Capture and Management MoU Required	PCU requested to draft an MoU for country review and adoption	MoU developed though CoG meetings and D&I Coordinator WORKSHOPS
Sharing of data as well as CB&T between ASCLME and ReCoMaP	2 Projects to coordinate closely and develop appropriate requirements and mechanisms for shared activities and data	Data Sharing Agreement developed and adopted by countries
Quality -assurance of all data used in TDA	All new studies and research to be properly peer-reviewed. All cruise reports to be evolved into scientific publications	Peer review of all data required in contracts of scientists. Being enforced by Principal Oceanographic Advisor. Publications list already drafted
Quality Control of actual TDA	Peer-Review Committee or Mechanism to be established	Part of the ToR for the MEDAs and the TDAs
Nairobi Convention to contribute appropriate info to TDA process	Secretariat to communicate with PCU on possible areas for collaboration and data sharing	D&I Coordinator has discussed this with NC Secretariat and appropriate information is being identified
Gaps in both coastal and offshore issues and activities (e.g. mariculture, marine pollution, invasive species, etc)	Various stakeholder institution to liaise with PCU to provide a detailed list of gaps	PCU has, in close coordination with the countries (through CoGs and NFPs), identified the priority gaps to be coastal fisheries and mariculture, tourism, invasive species and offshore pollution. PCU has developed new activities to address these at national and regional level.
National prioritisation needed on all LME issues	Development of an action plan to address once country priorities confirmed	
LME data gaps not address by 3 projects	Countries to review deliveries to TDA/SAP and amend in light of any gaps	
Timing of 3 TDA/SAP deliveries from 3 ASCLME Programme projects	Specific Agenda Item for 2009 SteerCom	Discussed at Agency level. Need PSC and country input and guidance at 2009 meeting

Need for coordination between all LME related projects and initiatives over training needs	Capacity Building and Training Coordinator to liaise with various projects and initiatives for joint training activities	National Needs discussed at first regional COG meeting and at Regional Project Coordination Forum. Training Plan drafted and to be presented to PSC before circulating to all projects and initiatives
A number of similar or overlapping activities and responsibilities exist between the 3 projects, particularly between ASCLME and WIO-LaB	Need for closer coordination and cooperation between the Sister projects	Joint meeting between Projects (primarily ASCLME and WIO-LaB but with SWIOFP representation) in conjunction with PSCs to discuss areas of overlap or similarity
Need to incorporate Somalia in the Project	Create Country Observer status	Somalia now officially a Country Observer and being funded to attend PSC meetings as well as ASCLME regional technical workshops (e.g. 1st Regional D&I Coordinator's Workshop - Feb 2009)
Countries requested guidance on national activities	PCU to provide work-plan and budget etc	Work-plan, structure, logistics and budget provided for national activities.
Project and Programme Websites	Need for an IT workshop	Potential structuring and objectives of such a workshop discussed at Regional Project Coordination Forum in late 2008. A draft agenda to be circulated in 2009 for consideration
Need for continuous monitoring of activities and deliveries	PCU to identify activity and person	Original Project Development Specialist (responsible for LogFrame and Deliveries as per ProDoc) contracted as a 'progress-chaser'
need for better definition of proposed new organisational structure related to revised Outcomes and Outputs	New organigram needed as well as linkages between projects	Organigram presented to Regional COGs meeting and Regional Project Coordination Forum.
Format of future meetings	To be adopted	New PSC Meeting Format in use
Private Sector involvement	Too little discussion of their role in the LME process. Needs to be 2009 Agenda Item	On 2009 PSC Agenda for discussion
Time next SteerCom to be held with WIO-LaB	ASCLME and WIO-LaB to coordinate	ASCLME PSC and WIO-LaB PSC coordinated in 2009 to allow for joint session
Need for quality control on training and capacity building for ecosystem monitoring skill	Trained personnel to present peer-reviewed publications	All trainees now encouraged to undertake specific scientific research objective and to publish their results
Use of local and regional expertise for training wherever possible	If outside expertise used there should be a contractual obligation for counterparting and training of local capacity	Priority has been given to use of regional expertise (> 90% of scientists on *Nansen* cruises from ASCLME participating countries). All non-regional experts contractual required to provide training.

Priorities for Oceanographic / ecosystem cruises	Priorities list to be reviewed by local experts and circulated back to countries and then a regional cruise coordination workshop arranged to adopt schedules for rest of project	2008 cruise schedule significantly expanded due to market and economic forces. Scheduled approved by countries. 2009 schedule drafted and presented to Regional Cruise Coordinators in Mauritius (end of 2008) for approval. Now being presented to PSC.
Effective use of vessels	Countries to provide list of oceanographic expertise in region and list of trainees also	List of expertise and trainees provide by countries for 2008. To be updated for 2009 for inclusion of both experts and trainees on the 2009 cruises
Need for national level cruise coordination	Countries to nominate focal institute and person for national cruise coordination	Done. National Cruise Coordinators all met at Regional COGs meeting in Mauritius in 2008
Sea-Going Allowances	Two levels adopted for junior and senior scientists?	Bilateral discussions between PCU and countries led to decision to have two levels. One nominal level of $20 per day for junior scientists and trainees (to cover simple costs such as shop purchases on board) and another of $80 per day for Senior Scientists with responsibility for the trainees, for on-board work programmes and for data analysis and write-up
1970's Nansen Data - where is it? Important input to TDA	PCU to clarify available data from earlier cruises and attempt to repatriate	Standard Letter requesting repatriation drafted for consideration by the Steering Committee for PCU to act on behalf of the countries

PROGRESS BY OUTCOME:

Outcome 1:   Information Captured for Development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

The 2008 cruises were very successful with some 4 months of work carried out by over 50 scientists and trainees. A mass of new information on oceanography has been captured including a much clearer picture of physical processes around and across the Mascarene Plateau. Two ATLAS (Autonomous Temperature Line Acquisition System) moorings have been contributed to the data collection effort by NOAA and deployed from the *Nansen* in the Mascarene Basin along with a series of Argo floats. A number of new records and new species have turned up in the collections, especially from the Mascarene Ridge trawls. Much of the area visited has never been surveyed for biophysical data collection purposes. A list of detailed publications that are expected from the cruises is already being compiled and agreed. There has also been much excitement at SAIAB (the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity) as the fish specimen collections arrive here from various storage facilities. SAIAB has the primary collection facility for fish in Africa and will be holding the specimen collections for ASCLME. Many of the samples are already turning out to be new records and even new species.

The 2009 Cruise schedule has been submitted to the FAO EAF Nansen planners and has been approved. This will start in the second half of 2009 in Kenyan waters and work down through

Tanzania to Comoros where a detailed survey of the Comoros Gyre will take place along with support work to the Western Indian Ocean Coral Triangle project. Time is then scheduled for a visit to Aldabra at the specific request of the Seychelles Government to collect data around these southern islands. The ASCLME cruise will then steam down the 55 E longitude to service the two ATLAS moorings deployed in 2008 and to deploy a new southerly mooring at 16 S. This will be a 'fully-loaded' mooring collecting information on a lot of additional parameters including carbon flux. The vessel will then continue on down to Reunion to pick up colleagues for the UNDP GEF Seamounts project and from there steaming south to visit the 5 seamounts between Réunion and the Agulhas Return/Subtropical Convergence. This will provide vital information on the southern edge of the Agulhas Large Marine Ecosystem. Finally back into Port Elizabeth where the cruises will terminate toward the end of 2009. However, negotiations are also underway to continue the cruises from PE in early 2010 to accommodate a US Navy request for assistance with data collection (see below) which will provide both significant co-funding as well as significant additional data for the ASCLME Project.

In line with discussions at the last Steering Committee Meeting in Durban (January 2008), the Project has developed ToRs for coastal livelihoods assessments and coastal habitat mapping and is in the process of hiring the appropriate regional coordination team. The coastal livelihoods activity will focus on collecting vital data on near-shore artisanal and subsistence fisheries and tourism as economically important sectors and translation of this data into an economic resource assessment that highlights the cost-benefits of the ecosystem approach. This activity will be reflected also at the national level through the hiring of national support teams.

Outcome 2:   Long-term LME Data Collection, Management and Distribution Mechanisms Established

Following the first regional meeting of the ASCLME COGs (National Coordination Groups) in Mauritius in September 2008, good progress has been made toward the development of the MEDAs (Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses) reports. These national reports will update each country comprehensively on the state of their marine environment (scientific, economic, social and policy-wise) and provide a conclusive set of Policy Briefing Guidelines for each country. Equally importantly, these documents will provide the basis for the overall LME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (one for Agulhas and one for the Somali Current LME) which will be the foundation for the Strategic Action Programmes that are the primary objective of this Project and which will form the legal agreements by the countries to manage the LMEs.

The first Regional Meeting of the Data and Information Coordinators was held in Grahamstown. Each ASCLME National Focal Point has appointed a Coordinator from a focal institution in their country to set policy and define activities for D&I management on the ASCLME Project, as well as to oversee the collation and synthesis of information for their national MEDAs, which will be each country's contribution to the TDA. This working meeting addressed all aspects of the national work programmes for 2009 and 2010, leading up to the formulation of the TDA documents. Specifically, this included developing a template for the national MEDA documents, so that the content produced by each country is relatively consistent in layout. The meeting also reviewed the regional ASCLME Data and Information Management Plan which translates the ASCLME data policy documents (finalised at previous working group meetings) into technical actions for data management in institutions. Countries have commenced writing their own national Data and Information Management Plans.

The Terms of Reference of sub-consultants and specialists were reviewed to prepare for the ASCLME Steering Committee meeting, and work and data plans for specialist projects (on coastal livelihoods,

habitat mapping, and the oceanographic cruises) were discussed to ensure seamless incorporation into the MEDA documents. Among other items discussed during the week, were data products, data and information dissemination online, data repatriation from previous expeditions, data exchange between projects and programmes, the ASCLME communications strategy, as well as overall timelines, deliverables and reporting periods.

The ASCLME project has worked closely with its Sister Projects SWIOFP and WIO-LaB, as well as other agencies in the region responsible for marine and coastal data management, notably the Nairobi Convention and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

<u>Outcome 3</u>:   <u>TDAs and SAPs and Associated Sustainability Mechanisms in support of an LME Approach Adopted</u>

The ASCLME Project now has its new Policy and Governance Coordinator (Magnus Ngoile) on board and full functional. Magnus has an impressive track record in the evolution and development of policy and governance initiatives in the marine environment and is well-known both regionally and globally.

On the Policy and Governance front, the new P&G Coordinator and the Project Director attended a high-level workshop in Singapore at the end of 2008 to discuss Governance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and presented a paper and a power-point slide show. This effectively described the need for the LME approach to take into account those areas that are part of the ecosystem but beyond national jurisdiction (but which might still impact on or be impacted by activities within national waters). This was well-received and resulted in GEF acknowledging that the ASCLME System Boundary must expand to include the entire western Indian Ocean which reflects our new partnership also with the Seamounts Project in southern waters. The ASCLME Project was also adopted as the global model for developing a mechanism for governance of ABNJ and linking this in with governance of national waters within the regional LME approach. This has immense implications for the global profile of the ASCLME Project as well as securing the importance of our work (and hopefully associated funding) for the next 8 years. This new and innovative dimension to the Project will be presented and discussed during the forthcoming Steering Committee in the Seychelles.

Following last year's highly successful training programme in Cape Town for regional oceanographic trainees, ASCLME is planning another such 3-week course in early to mid 2009 using (at the request of the National Focal Institutions) the same facilities (class and field) in Cape Town. Its is hoped that ASCLME will once again be able to use the South African vessels *Algoa* or *Africana,* as well as smaller vessels for training on inshore monitoring. Following the success of last year's training programme, both the FAO EAF Project (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) and SWIOFP (South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project) have asked to be included as partners so they can send trainees also. ASCLME trainees will then also be invited to attend the NanSis training programme scheduled for 2009 which will train them specifically on the use of the instrumentation on the Nansen and on compatible data analysis techniques.

Other CB&T activities include attendance of ASCLME personnel at a number of EAF workshops. A new CB&T Programme is being developed early this year for presentation to the Steering Committee.

<u>Outcome 4</u>:   <u>LME Coordination, Communication and Participation Mechanisms Established</u>

The contract with DLIST was finally approved and signed and the field-work is now well under way. A further contract with IKM and FOP has been signed for the two ASCLME films (educational and

promotional) and filming has commenced. The cost of the educational films is being shared with WIO-LaB project and this film will also highlight that Project's achievements.

ASCLME has signed or is in the process of signing agreements with a number of new partners include the FAO EAF Nansen Programme, IRD (French Institute for Research and Development), NOAA (US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) and the UNDP-IUCN joint project on 'Applying an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management with a focus on seamounts in the southern Indian Ocean' (the Seamounts Project).

ASCLME is expanding its very fruitful partnership with NOAA to deploy yet another ATLAS mooring in 2009 (as well as to service and maintain the existing line of moorings deployed in 2008). The data form these large oceanic instrument arrays will be invaluable both to ASCLME and the countries in terms of the LMEs but also for gaining a clearer understanding and predictive capacity for climatic change. This will increase the level of co-funding from NOAA to nearly US$1.3 million.

Further co-funding is under negotiation through a partnership with the US Navy's Naval Research Laboratory at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. They wish to undertake some cutting edge seismic water column surveys using new technology, specifically around the Agulhas Return Current area west of where we would finish our cruise lines in 2009. They have funding but are seeking a cost-effective platform (ship) from which to operate. ASCLME is acting as a broker to secure the *Nansen* and the US Navy has agreed to share data and train local scientists whilst on-board. This will help to fill in one of our missing gaps re: the identification of the LME system boundary immediately south of the Agulhas shelf. This constitutes some $500,000 of additional funding for ship's time plus free access to state-of-the-art survey equipment and training.

Specific mention should be given to the close and mutually beneficial relationship between ASCLME, SAIAB and ACEP which seems to grow stronger day-by-day. ACEP's support to ASCLME through provision of a Cruise Coordinator (Tommy Bornman) has been both generous and absolutely essential to the successes achieved in 2008. In return, ASCLME has managed to secure additional funding to support Tommy and possibly another assistant for ACEP through our partnership with the Seamounts project. In return for ACEP's input and support to this additional work, they will receive some support funding for technical assistance through ASCLME. Logistical and administrative support and the provision of accommodation from SAIAB is a clear demonstration of commitment by RSA to this critically important regional project.

GENERAL PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

With the arrival of our new Policy and Governance Coordinator the ASCLME staff complement is complete. The next Steering Committee is a particularly important meeting as we will be holding it jointly with our Sister project WIO-LaB (Western Indian Ocean Land-Based Activities). We are still planning to hold a high-level policy meeting in 2009 for all 3 projects within the ASCLME Programme. We hope to attract senior level government people (Permanent Secretaries, Director-Generals) as well as senior representation from entities such as the Nairobi Convention, SWIOFC, IOTC, etc. This will set the scene for a more permanent Policy Level group to drive the policy and governance development of the Strategic Action Programmes. The Project's Policy and Governance Coordinator will be taking a key role in negotiations for this Policy Meeting and will be raising awareness of its importance in the coming weeks and months.

The original project budget for 2008 was $2,333,610. The actual expenditure has been $2,388,175. This represents an over-expenditure of just 2.3% above estimate which is acceptable considering the extra work undertaken through the expansion of the sea-going activities toward the end of 2008. It does mean that the Project is clearly meeting its disbursement targets. Even more accurately, at the last Steering Committee we had predicted expenditure for 2008 of $2,338,200. This was within 2% of the actual figure which is a very accurate estimate considering it was predicted 12 months in advance (See **Table 2** below).

TABLE 2:   SUMMARY OF PROJECT BUDGET EXPENDITURES

DRAFT OUTCOME TOTALS				
Outcome	**2007 Actual**	**2008 Predicted**	**2008 Actual**	**2009 Predicted**
1. Information Captured for Development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis	$249,530	$1,180,440	$1,952,406	$1,945,080
2. Long-term LME Data Collection, Management and Distribution Mechanisms Established	$19,475	$628,560	$266,681	$506,250
3. TDAs, SAPs and Sustainability Mechanisms in support of an LME Approach Adopted	$0	$189,810	$6,274	$476,010
4. LME Coordination, Communication and Participation Mechanisms Established	$10,162	$334,800	$162,813	$523,530
Grand Total	**$279,167**	**$2,333,610**	**$2,388,174**	**$3,450,870**

From this Table we can see the following:

Outcome 1: 60% more actual expenditure than predicted. This reflects the unexpected requirement to extend the research cruise day allocation from the originally planned 35 days to the 119 days that was used in the final analysis. The increased daily cost of hiring the *Nansen* alone would have increased this Outcome budget by $840,000.

Outcome 2: This Outcome's expenditure was 58% less than predicted. This shows a reduction in the expected expenditure on contracting individuals and purchasing equipment related to data management and storage. The Project took a deliberate decision to stall this process in order to give the countries more time to nominate their Coordination Groups and define their needs in terms of capacity building and data management so that these could be country driven and not defined by the PCU or the Agencies. The Project would expect to see these activities progress in 2009.

Outcome 3: The MEDA-TDA-SAP process has been redefined and is now delivering first at the national level before being expanded to the regional level. This important change in the focus of the Project also creates a more country-driven process with ownership of a national product as well as a regional product. The re-structuring and the need to set up national level groups with clearly defined

ToRs and contracts has resulted in under-expenditure in 2008 which, again, should rectify itself in 2009

Outcome 4: The focus in this Outcome has been on setting up the website and newsletter which are not major cost items but are time-consuming yet very important in terms of awareness of Project activities and as a source of information. Major expenditures under this Outcome which were delayed were the DLIST contract and the promotional film. These expenditures have rolled over into 2009 and will be reflected in that year-end budget

We can also see that the budget predictions for 2009 are equally as high which reflects again the emphasis on field data collection, especially through use of the Nansen.

WORK-PLAN UPDATE

There have been quite a lot of amendments in the work-plan over the last 12 months as we fine-tune the project to try and capture all the additional responsibilities and deliverables which GEF added at the last minute before approval of the Project Document, especially in terms of coastal livelihoods and nearshore resources. Furthermore, as new approaches have been identified to address this need, some of the original proposed timing for delivery becomes inappropriate or redundant. Well over 70% of the original planned work programme for 2008 has been addressed and completed, while much of the rest has been rescheduled for a more logical delivery. This should be seen in the context of new activities that have been progressed which were not in the original work-plan and which have significantly moved the Project forward. One example is the adoption of the MEDA (Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis) approach that has been introduced at the national level. Despite requiring considerably more effort and input, both from the PCU and from the national coordinators, this approach adds an important dimension of ownership to the project at the country levels. The original Project Document had no activities for the development and adoption of these MEDAs which actually deliver most of the work that will be needed in order to produce the TDAs. This means that the Project is already well in advance in terms of the structure and logistic for delivering these TDAs but this is not reflected in the original work-plan. The Project has also expanded its efforts and activities in terms of coastal studies (coastal livelihoods, artisanal fisheries, tourism assessments) which were also not in the original work-plan but which the Steering Committee (January 2009) considered to be an essential part of the Project. In summary, the achievement and deliverables for 2008 have been well in advance of Project requirements despite some re-balancing of delivery time. It is intended to present a revision of the outputs, activities and deliverables for each Project Outcome at the Steering Committee meeting to capture this re-focusing within the Project and to ensure Steering Committee support and concurrence.

Annex 2 (below) shows the original deliveries expected as of January 2008 against actual delivery as well as notes on realignment and additions to activities.

LESSONS AND NOTES:

Despite the somewhat stressful requirements placed upon the Project to increase its 2008 cruise schedule from less than 30 days to nearly 120 days, the cruises were immensely successful and we have to thank many of our local/regional scientists for rising to the call and making the time to get on-board the *Nansen*. The feedback from their work was very heartening and we have definitely created a strong team of scientists in the region for this sort of work.

As ASCLME becomes 'known' both regionally and globally we find ourselves developing very valuable and fruitful partnerships with other regional and global agencies such as FAO, IRD, NOAA, US Navy, etc. Now that we have 'proven' ourselves as a Project that can deliver (especially in terms of the cruises) there is a strong movement to work with ASCLME from those sectors that are at the cutting edge of ecosystem and oceanographic science.

It is also clear now that the ASCLME project is adopting the role of being a GEF flagship for LMEs. This became particularly poignant and important following a recent meeting in Singapore entitled 'Workshop on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Management Issues and Policy Options' which was organised by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, the National Parks Board, Singapore, and the University of Delaware Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy, with funding support from the Nippon Foundation, Japan, and the Global Environment Facility. This meeting had major global attendance and ASCLME was invited to give a detailed presentation of its work. Following this, the meeting (including GEF) proposed that the ASCLME Project should be adopted as a model for developing governance strategies at the LME level dealing both with areas within, and areas beyond national jurisdiction. This is a very exciting development which will be shared with the Steering Committee at the next meeting in Seychelles in March 2009.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION OVER NEXT 12 MONTHS:

The main priorities for 2009 will include:

➢ The Second Steering Committee (and action on its outcomes and decisions)
➢ Implementation of the Coastal Livelihoods Assessment and Data Capture Activities
➢ Development of the National Data and Information Management Plans (these are detailed plans dealing with data handling, specimen collections, bibliographies and meta-databases)
➢ Allocation of the specialists to the national teams for MEDA and TDA development
➢ Finalisation of WIO habitats assessments contract and commencement of data processing
➢ Finalisation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants contract
➢ Presentation and endorsement of a Policy and Governance work-plan (at PSC)
➢ Further expansion of dialogue with AU and NEPAD regarding overall governance process for the LMEs (already successfully started in initial meeting in Grahamstown in February)
➢ Assistance to Participating Countries to access the Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund for coastal fisheries issues
➢ Further development of the 2009 cruise schedules and partnerships
➢ Finalisation/Implementation of the 2009 training work-plan
➢ Development and implementation of an integrated Stakeholder Assessment and Involvement Plan
➢ Early drafts of MEDAs completed
➢ Policy Level Round Table group established

Signature of ASCLME Regional Director

OVERVIEW

This was the first meeting of the Steering Committee for the ASCLME Project and constituted the first time since the preparatory phase that the representatives of the countries had gathered to discuss project issues and implementation. As per UNDP requirements this meeting of national representatives, agency partners and observers was also used to inaugurate the Project through a formal Inception Workshop.

The first day of the meeting included the permanent members of the Steering Committee which are the countries, the executing and implementing agencies and the direct partners/co-funders as identified in the Project Document.   The agenda focused more on issues related to policy, protocol and management of the Project as well as internal Project issues related to budget and delivery, monitoring and evaluation.

The second day of the meeting included important national and regional observers and expanded the subject matter into technical and scientific issues as well as those relating to the modular approach, and especially long-term governance requirements.

Both meetings were extremely valuable and re-stated the intent for cooperation and understanding between the countries, the PCU and other partners and observers that promises to evolve into a most effective, supportive and successful partnership for guiding the Project, coordinating outside of the project and delivering the overall objectives and outputs that will ultimately be critical and essential to the sustainable management of these two important LMEs.

The following sections of the summary list some of the specific highlights of discussion and some of the agreed actions to be taken (the latter in red). The full proceedings of each day's meeting follow this summary.

SPECIFIC CONCERNS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

The Steering Committee discussed the need for long-term sustainability and ownership of the Project and concluded that governance and policy issues and support would be critically important to the long-term success of any LME Project and that these needed to be factored in at the earliest stages in the ASCLME project. There was discussion regarding the expansion of the project from what was a more 'blue-water' oceanographic research effort to what is now more equally balanced with coastal issues. This has been generally welcomed by the countries and it was noted that most of politicians and decision-makers in the countries (esp. Continental Africa) are more concerned with the near-shore issues than the offshore concerns so that these additions will tend to encourage policy-level support for the Project. Artisanal fisheries are very important in this respect and should be the subject of clear policy briefings. However, policy briefings are not the only requirements to achieve stakeholder buy-in and, at the other end of the spectrum, there is a clear need for community outreach and a need to forge links between Policy and Community. In this context it was pointed out that the former may expect/require the latter to forego fishing rights in the interest of overall LME management

It was noted that the ASCLME Project was taking the correct approach in recognising that the TDAs and SAPs may represent the end deliverables from this project but actually represent the beginning of

the overall LME management process and that this is an on-going and long-term process that will need sustainability in terms of financing, long-term capacity, on-going monitoring and data/information collection, and political support. It was agreed that there was a need for a clear work programme for the SAP development at national and regional level with defined focal points, working groups, tasks, deliveries, etc. The Committee also noted that it was important that the SAP documents also identified the national structures, mechanisms and long-term resources to implement the SAPs.

The committee discussed and endorsed on the importance of the socioeconomic and cost-benefit analyses and how these would be vital to 'selling' the project and capturing senior level 'buy-in' from policy makers who are more likely to appreciate the importance of the LME approach when supported by such information on benefits and advantages in terms of long-term economic and social value. ASCLME should build on what WIO-LaB and the Nairobi Convention are doing at the national level also. It was considered to be important therefore to explore their activities and achievements. It was also noted that the EU have undertaken a number of economic assessments and studies in the region and that these would be valuable for ASCLME. Further information should also be available from IOTC.

There was general support from the Steering Committee for an ASCLME Programme Approach incorporating close coordination between the three sister projects (ASCLME, SWIOFP and WIO-LaB) but this needs to be understood, accepted and 'sold' by engaging people and national institutions which are cross-cutting in the region, as well as regional organisations.

The Committee reviewed the revised structure for project administration and management as presented. This is as follows:

1. A Programme Policy Committee (PPC): This will be a higher level committee advising all three ASCLME Programme projects (ASCLME, SWIOFP, WIO-LaB) and providing guidance at the policy level towards the development of effective TDAs and SAPs. The level of representation on this PCC should be at the DDG or PS level or above.

2. A Programme Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC): This will be a technical level group comprised of the 3 project managers and key experts from the region, coordinating action across projects. Although not originally foreseen in the Project Document the Steering Committee recommended inclusion of ReCoMaP on this Committee as well as other relevant regional initiatives.

3. A Project Steering Committee (PSC): This would consist of

3.A. A core membership including one representative from each GEF eligible Country, one representative from each of ACEP, UNDP, NEPAD, GEF, UNOPS and the Nairobi Convention, and the Project Managers of the other regional Sister projects under the ASCLME Programme (WIO-LaB, SWIOFP) as well as ReCoMaP The Steering Committee also agreed that Somalia should have a special status as a Country Observer.

3.B. A stakeholder membership of additional observer members as agreed by the PSC Core Membership. This would include donor agencies providing co-finance (e.g. France, Norway) as well as technical agencies (e.g. NOAA, FAO)), and anyone else invited by the PSC to attend.

4.   A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) – Hosted by the South African Government and based in Grahamstown.

5.   A Cruise Coordination Group (CCG): This group would aim to ensure the most efficient use of ship's time amongst the Projects. It would also coordinate the inputs from the individual national cruise coordinators.

6.   Inter-Ministerial Committees (building on existing IMCs in each country as per the WIO-LaB project).

7.   TDA/SAP Preparation Teams

A question was raised regarding recruitment procedures within the Project. It was explained that all recruitment processes had to adhere to UNOPS procedures for fair selection and that recruitment of staff would be done on the basis of merit ("the best person for the job"). It was explained that recruitment would need to be primarily 'local' wherever possible to avoid the significant additional cost to the Project of relocation and additional benefits for education, medical and pension support. However, the Project would make every effort to balance this by recruiting consultants and experts within individual countries for project activities in an attempt to ensure a more equitable distribution of funding support and capacity building. It was also noted that if there is a source of strong capacity within the region, then this should be exploited wherever possible to provide training and capacity building for the less developed parts of the region, rather than bringing in expertise from outside the region. Counter-parting skilled staff from one country with less experienced trainees from other countries was in line with the practice of using locals to train locals. The aim should always be to use expert capacity from within the region to build capacity within participating countries wherever it is seen to be weak so that, at the end of the Project, there is clear evidence of transfer of skills and expertise and of increased capacity and more trained personnel where they did not previously exist.

A revised budget and work-plan was presented to the Steering Committee based on a more logical definition and sequence of Project Outcomes and Outputs (as revised from the original Project Document). These were approved by the Committee.

<p style="text-align:center">DECISIONS AND ACTIONS</p>

Policy and Governance Issues

The Steering Committee were in clear and strong agreement on how vital the issues of policy and governance are to the success of the LME process. It was noted that this is one of the five LME modules that usually gets the least attention from Projects and Programmes. It was noted that that the TDA and SAP need to move forward in concert, together with a simultaneous process of awareness-raising and sensitisation at the policy level, so key decision-makers are aware of the TDA process and the significance of the SAP when it arrives at their desks and does not represent a mysterious and unexpected document. In this context, the Steering Committee discussed the need for a very specific mechanism that would focus on briefing and informing the policy level stakeholders, and it was agreed that there should be a dedicated section and activity within the project coordination unit specifically focused to ensure this vital module receives appropriate attention. Furthermore, the countries supported the need for a clear policy and governance mechanism and structure, not only at regional/PCU level but also at national level – PCU agreed to develop ToR for a P&G Coordinator, circulate, and hire as a priority. This person would then be responsible for developing guidelines and providing support to implement appropriate national policy organs and focal points.

Meetings of the Programme Policy Committee and the engagement of the policy-makers could best be achieved through a two tier approach i) though formal meetings of nominated policy representatives from each country and ii) through opportunistic meetings dove-tailed into appropriate regional gatherings of relevant Ministers such as AU meetings, AMCEN or the Nairobi Convention CoPs. It was noted that an AMCEN (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment) was scheduled for June 2008 and this would be an opportunity to initiate this process. **A**. PCU to coordinate with Nairobi Convention Secretariat and with countries to attempt to organise a brief side-meeting at AMCEN and to get the ASCLME on the agenda as a brief presentation. **B**. PCU to develop the necessary ToR and logistics for a Programme Policy Committee (making use of the new Policy and Governance Coordinator)

<u>Data, Information and TDA Development</u>

The Steering Committee requested that ASCLME should take a central coordinating role on coastal and marine data and information management in the region. The Committee further requested that consideration should be given to the use of one single regional system for all projects dealing with marine resource data and information management. The ASCLME and other marine and coastal initiatives could then make their data available to wherever this system is based within the region. It was important, in this respect to ensure appropriate accessibility and storage as well as compatibility of formats. PD said that the PCU would bear this in mind in structuring the entire data and information management mechanism at the national and regional level.

The Committee also made note of the fact that it would be important for the project to provide some degree of support to the appropriate and selected national institutions for data collection and management as well as to assist and support the setting up of national working groups for such data management and collection. The PCU respond by stating that it would provide more detail to each country on what such support would represent and what would be expected of such working groups.

The Steering Committee agreed that, in view of past sensitivities over data capture and ownership, a MoU was needed between the countries and the ASCLME Project regarding access to and storage of data and information used by the Project in defining the TDAs and developing the SAPs. PCU to draft a MoU using other examples such as SWIOPF. This to be circulated to the countries for review and discussion.

The ReCoMaP representative noted that there were a lot of areas of similarity reflected in the activities of the ReCoMaP and ASCLME Projects. It was noted that ReCoMaP could provide ASCLME with a lot of its data needs and that the training and capacity building objectives would also have similarities. It was agreed that the two projects should coordinate closely in these areas and that the Project Director and ReCoMaP representative should develop this requirement.

The Steering Committee discussed the need to ensure that all data used to develop the TDA should be quality assured. In this context it was agreed that, wherever possible, any new studies or research carried out or supported by the ASCLME Project should be properly peer-reviewed. In relation to the expected oceanographic research cruises, it was considered to be imperative that any experts or specialists working on or with these cruises should be required to produce peer-reviewed publications from their studies and results.

Further discussion on the subject of quality control raised the issue for overall peer review of data for the TDA. It was agreed that the PCU would develop a peer-review mechanism for assessing and quality-assuring data for inclusion in the TDAs.

The Nairobi Convention Secretariat is working closely with IUCN on development and implementation of MPAs and could thus contribute a lot of information to the TDA development process on Output 1.2.B (*Key knowledge gaps in near-shore (artisanal/subsistence) fisheries updated, nursery areas and other rich biological habitat mapped or otherwise identified using existing information*) and Output 2.2 (*A region wide socio-economic valuation of near-shore marine goods and services is undertaken to gain greater understanding of the social and economic importance of these areas*). The Secretariat representative will communicate with the PCU on possible areas for collaboration and data sharing.

Following the presentation by ORI on the primary coastal zone issues relating to LME Management, it was noted that there may be some gaps in both the coastal and offshore issues for the LMES (including, but not limited to, mariculture, marine pollution and invasive species) ORI would liaise with IUCN, ReCoMaP and the PCU to provide an expanded list for the PCU to circulate to the countries. The countries would review these and provide comments and agreement. The PCU would include the list of required information to populate the TDA in this circulation.

It was noted that it was now vital that countries confirm their priorities on all LME related issues. In this context, the meeting agreed that a ToR for coastal activities related to ASCLME (along with a list of priorities for the countries to review and amend as necessary) should be drafted and circulated around the SC for comment and to move ahead with an action plan. This document should be drafted through a coordinated effort between EnviroFish Africa, and ORI, CSIR.

It was considered to be equally as important to identify any gaps which were not specifically addressed in any of the Projects through their signed documents (e.g. marine pollution, invasive species, and socio-economic study of industrial fisheries. The PCU would send out a formal request to the countries for feedback on this matter. This would highlight the areas of delivery expected from each project into the TDA/SAP process so the countries could better identify such gaps.

The meeting discussed in some detail the inherent problem of WIO-LaB completing its TDA and SAP on Land-Based Sources (which was planned to be part of the overall LME TDAs) well ahead of the finalisation of the overall TDAs which depend on input from ASCLME and SWIOFP. The concern here is that the TDA and SAP for WIO-LaB will be finalised some 2-3 years before it is possible to implement through the ASCLME SAP structure, yet some of the issues are urgent and should be acted on as soon as possible. It was considered that WIO-LaB should go ahead and implement its LBS SAP through the Nairobi Convention and not wait for the full LME SAPs to be finalised. There will need to be discussion about how this can later be embedded in the overall LME management and Implementation process. In this respect, the meeting decided that the coordination and implementation of the individual outputs form the three projects in terms of the final ASCLME SAPs is an area that will require a specific Agenda Item at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

Coordination and Cooperation

ASCLME needs to coordinate with WIO-LaB and other organisations (e.g. ReCoMaP) and initiatives regarding training needs and activities. WIO-LaB already has some ongoing and planned activities in this area and has identified stakeholders and institutions through an Education Needs Assessment. An

early joint workshop would probably be appropriate. The Capacity Building and Training Coordinator to liaise with WIO-LaB and identify other groups for coordination.

WIO-LaB is also undertaking some similar activities to those listed in ASCLME Output 4.1 *Effective and frequent communication and coordination established among the IAs, the various projects under the programme and other related initiatives and institutions in the region, including linkages with other GEF supported projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and globally* and these should also be closely coordinated between the two Projects – PD, Communications and IT Coordinator and Policy and Governance Coordinator to identify specifics and liaise with WIO-LaB Project Manager.

WIO-LaB specifically requested to work very closely with ASCLME in development of their ToR for Coastal and Socioeconomic Studies in view of high potential for overlap but also for valuable coordination – PD to ensure that Warwick Sauer, ORI and IKM coordinate closely with Peter Scheren on this.

ASCLME needs to coordinate with WIO-LaB over POPS – POPs Coordinator (DAL) to liaise with appropriate WIO-LaB people via Peter Scheren.

The Committee noted that there were overlaps between WIO-LaB's activities in relation to IW Coordination and those of ASCLME. WIO-LaB and ASCLME to coordinate on amalgamating the IW Coordination Meetings (WIO-LaB responsibility) and the Sub-Saharan Africa LME Coordination Meetings (ASCLME responsibility).

Project Management and Steering Committee Functions

The Committee discussed in detail the role of Somalia in the Project. It was clarified by UNDP that the Project could not send people to work in Somalia or schedule research vessels into Somalian waters, but that it could support them financial through payments to Somalian experts for provision of data and information (particularly existing data and the development and capture of RS and modelling data), and for attendance at workshops and at the Steering Committee meetings if the Committee so desired. The Committee agreed to create a specific membership category for Somalia as Country Observers on the Steering Committee and also agreed that the Project should fund the attendance of an appropriate representative.

Countries requested some guidance on the practicalities of initiating and implementing the project activities in each country – PCU to provide the countries with a clear national work-plan and resource requirements ASAP. This to include information on appropriate level of Steering Committee representation and the requirement for a National Coordinator, requirements for an Inter-Ministerial Committee (In coordination with WIO-LaB), required working groups for TDA and SAP development, Cruise Coordination, Capacity Building and Training, etc. This will also identify the sort of financial support each country can expect.

The Steering Committee discussed the set up of ASCLME Project and Programme websites and identified the possibility of keeping independent websites but sharing a common portal at the Programme level. It was felt that a meeting of IT experts from the countries/region would be appropriate to develop recommendations and mechanisms for such website coordination between the ASCLME Sister Projects – PCU to task the new Communications and IT Coordinator with this coordination role and with setting up such a meeting/workshop when that person comes on-board hopefully in April.

The Steering Committee felt that there was a requirement for a continuous process of monitoring and evaluation of activities and deliverables to 'progress-chase' the Project Outputs which would be an on-going, project-driven process separate from the scheduled Independent Mid-Term and Terminal Evaluations. The PCU agreed to develop a mechanism to this effect with consideration given to identifying a specific activity.

The meeting considered the proposed new organisational structure related to the Outcomes and Outputs as presented by the PCU and requested that a new organigram be developed that would clarify this structure at the national, regional and PCU level, as well as defining the linkages between the Sister Projects and the ASCLME Programme. The Project Director agreed to circulate such an Organigram as soon as it was feasible to finalise this structure, and before the next Steering Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the format for future meetings. It was agreed that in future there would be an overall ASCLME stakeholder meeting with all Steering Committee members and Observers present plus any appropriate additional invitees. This would be followed by a meeting of the Permanent Steering Committee members as required and consisting of the countries, the ASCLME Sister projects, ACEP and UNOPS. This Permanent Steering Committee Member's meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss more sensitive and diplomatic issues affecting the countries or the agencies.

The meeting noted that there had been very little discussion of the role of the private sector in the ASCLME Project and it was agreed that this should be a specific Agenda Item for the next Steering Committee Meeting.

The Steering Committee discussed the timing of its next meeting. It was agreed that, if feasible, the next meeting would be held consecutive to the next WIO-LaB Steering Committee meeting, unless the latter was too early in which case a separate meeting would be scheduled for later in the year.

Capacity Building and Training

In discussing the planned training and capacity building for oceanographic and ecosystem monitoring skills, it was agreed that the 'trained' personnel should be encouraged to present peer-reviewed publications from their cruise work to WIOMSA.

It was recognised that wherever possible the project would use local and regional expertise in accordance with the policy to train from within. However, it was agreed that if it where necessary to use expertise from outside of the region, it would be a policy of the Project to ensure that there was a contractual obligation on the part of such external expertise for counter-parting and to undertake training of local capacity.

Sea-Going Research and Data Collection

The priorities for oceanographic and ecosystem assessment/monitoring cruises was presented to the Steering Committee with the clarification that this annex from the project Document was now several years old. It was agreed that A. the proposed cruise schedule for use of available ships in 2008 (training in the first part of the year followed by an ecosystem monitoring cruise off East Madagascar) would be adopted as the initial schedule and B. the priorities list would be reviewed by regional oceanographic experts(s) and circulated back to the countries and C. a regional cruise coordination

workshop would be arranged by the PCU to discuss this and adopt the schedule for the remainder of the Project (with the proviso that this could be amended as necessary to fit in with vessel availability).

In order to ensure effective use of vessels it was agreed that the countries would provide a list of A. Oceanographic expertise available for the various cruises and B. a list of appropriate trainee scientists based on criteria provided by the PCU and agreed by the Steering Committee members.

The Committee also discussed the need for national level cruise coordination as well as regional level. It was agreed that each country would nominate a focal institute and person for cruise coordination within country to provide the information on expertise and potential trainees available as well as to assist in securing permits for vessels and personnel to enter and work in the countries.

The Committee discussed the subject of sea-going allowances. It was considered by some to be an unnecessary expense as A. all expenses on the vessel were already covered by the Project and B. most oceanographers would consider it a professional privilege and an excellent opportunity to be able to get research time on good research vessels. Others noted that a precedent had been set through the BCLME project and that some government departments in the participating countries also paid sea-going allowances. No conclusion was reached on this and a decision will need to be made by the Steering Committee before the Nansen cruises start later this year. The PCU will lobby members for their input and opinion.

The Committee noted that The R.V Nansen had undertaken a number of cruises through the region in the 1970's. It was felt that this data would be of significant value to the preparation of the TDA and particularly as a comparative data set for assessing ecosystem level changes. The Committee therefore requested that the ASCLME PCU should clarify the available data from these cruises and take whatever measures necessary to repatriate this data into the region for use by the Project and the countries.

OUTCOME 1: INFORMATION CAPTURED FOR MEDA-TDA DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT DELIVERABLES	2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OUTPUT 1.1: Review existing data in region pertinent to ASCLME TDA and SAP development (including the collection, repatriation, synthesis and storage of country and regional data, and the repatriation of extra-regional data and information)												
A. Information and Capacity Building Specialist identified and contracted	X	X										
B. Formally-adopted D&I Working Group Report												X
C. Agreed priorities for data collection and 'gap-filling'											X	X
D. Work programme and Budget for data collection and 'gap-filling'											X	X
OUTPUT 1.2.A: Identify and prioritize ecosystem assessment and ecosystemic process information gaps in key oceanographic areas of the ASCLMEs along with work-plans, cruise schedules, budgets and responsibilities												
A. Oceanographic experts identified and contracted	X											
B. Revised and adopted list of Priorities for ASCLME Ecosystem Monitoring and Mapping	X											
C. Project Cruise Plan and Schedule including training exercises both onshore and offshore (with timetable and budget). This Cruise Plan to be closely coordinated with SWIOFP and ACEP, as well as WIO-Lab where appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X							
D. List of expected products from each cruise as an Annex to the Cruise Plan and Schedule	X	X	X	X	X							
OUTPUT 1.2.B: Key knowledge gaps in near-shore (artisanal/subsistence) fisheries updated, nursery areas and other rich biological habitat mapped or otherwise identified using existing information												
A. ToRs developed, sub-contractors identified and sub-contracts signed	**Activity under revision to expand data collection activities in-country**											
OUTPUT 1.2.C: Management and Policy needs identified as part of root cause requirements for TDA development (national & regional)												
A. Create ToR and contract short-term regional governance/policy expert	X	X										
B. Develop a Project Workplan for Governance and Policy Coordination		X	X	**N.B. Full-Time position created and filled at request of Steering Committee**								
C. Contract long-term Governance and Policy Specialist		X	X									
OUTPUT 1.3: Active offshore and coastal oceanographic data collection to fill gaps in ecosystem assessment and status as necessary for development of TDAs and SAPs												
A. Identify cruise coordination mechanism for ASCLME Project	X	X	X									
B. Identify and contract person responsible for cruise coordination		X	X									

OUTPUT DELIVERABLES												
C. Cruise coordination agreement (including details of equipment requirements and sources as well as formal agreement on ownership/sharing of data)			X	X	X							
D. Sub-Contract with FAO for 2008									X			
E. Sub-contract with FAO for remainder of project												
F. MoU/Agreement between ASCLME and ACEP on use and deployment of SA research vessels		X	X	X								
G. Coordinated Cruise Logistics Plan and Work-programme for each year of project							X	X	X			
H. Individual Cruise Reports based on adopted reporting protocol											X	X
I. Distribution list for cruise reports												X
OUTPUT 1.4: Baseline information obtained on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) within the LMEs through use of key indicator species												
A. Identify and recruit POPs Expert												X
B. Workplan, budget and timeline	**Still under negotiation with University of Réunion**											
C. Final report on POPs and associated indicator species for use in TDA and SAP												

OUTCOME 2: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING TOOLS AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED

OUTPUT DELIVERABLES	2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OUTPUT 2.1: LME based indicators linked to national and regional M&E mechanisms are developed and captured within institutional work programmes and budgets												
A. LME Indicator Specialist recruited and contracted	**Activity under revision to build on ecosystem training workshops and to work with each country to develop country specific ecosystem-focus M&E Programmes with support to institutions and equipment (as per discussions at Regional COG Meeting**											
B. ToRs for development of M&E Programmes and Indicators at national and regional level												
C. Report from national Workshops including information cited above	**Regional CoG Meeting discussed monitoring needs**											
D. Report from Regional Workshop with requirements for LME Monitoring	**Discussion of LME requirements at regional Workshop. No formal LME Indicators adopted as yet**											
E. Nationally Adopted Work Programmes and Annual Reports	**Specialist M&E team to work in each country to develop M&E programme - this activity to resume in 2009 with new in-country deliveries**											
OUTPUT 2.2: A region wide socio-economic valuation of near-shore marine goods and services is undertaken to gain greater understanding of the social and economic importance of these areas												
A. ToR developed for Socio-economic Survey sub-contract	**Socio-economic Survey reformulated into a Coastal Livelihoods Analysis (focusing primarily on nearshore artisanal and subsistence fisheries and tourism) and an Ecosystem Approach Cost-Benefit Analysis**											
B. Sub-contractors identified												
C. Adopted Study Plan for Socio-Economic Survey												
OUTPUT 2.3: National and regional data handling, storage and synthesis focal centres are established												

Deliverable	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A. Formal list of National Data Management Focal Institutes	X	X	X									
B. Report from the Regional Workshop on Data Management									X	X	X	
C. Report from National Workshops on Data Management and Handling					X	X	X					
D. Formally adopted Regional and National Data Management Plans including work programmes and budgets for capacity building					X	X	X	X	X			
E. National Data Management Centres and Regional Data Management Node Annual Reports to ASCLME Programme	This information provided by Data and Information Coordinators from each country											
OUTPUT 2.4: Use of GIS and predictive models expanded to increase systems knowledge												
A. Identification of Work-Group and planning/convening of workshop		X	X									
B. Report from Working Group on GIS and Remote Sensing data handling and management needs, along with a work programme and budget that also addresses training and capacity building at the national and regional level.								X	X	X		
C. Reports from training workshops								X	X	X		
D. Annual GIS/RS data management reports											X	X

OUTCOME 3: TDA AND SAP ADOPTED WITH APPROPRIATE SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS

OUTPUT DELIVERABLES	2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OUTPUT 3.1: TDAs are negotiated and approved by technical stakeholders												
A. TDA Development Coordinator identified and recruited		X	X									
B. Overall Project TDA Formulation Work-Plan and Budget	New MEDA approach developed to supersede TDA development. Work-plan and Budget presented to Regional CoG meeting in October 2008											
C. National Lead Agencies identified/established								X	X	X		
D. MEDA stakeholder consultation plans adopted									X	X		
E. National MEDA Work-Plans and Budgets									X	X	X	
F. Report from Regional MEDA Stakeholder Workshop										X	X	X
OUTPUT 3.2: SAPs are negotiated and adopted by Governments												
A. Interministerial Committees adopted and active	IMCs adopted in some countries. P&G Coordinator to pursue through formal visits											
B. Policy Level Programme Steering Committee established and active	P&G Coordinator to visit all countries first to stress importance of Policy-Level group. Waiting for delivery of ASCLME promotional film											

OUTPUT DELIVERABLES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OUTPUT 3.3: Financial resources are brokered to ensure financial sustainability of monitoring, evaluation and information systems to support the LME approach												
A. Fiscal and Governance Sustainability Advisor recruited	**Scheduling revised as a result of new MEDA-TDA approach. Fiscal review now falls under part of MEDA development Process scheduled for second half of 2009**											
B. National Specialists identified												
C. Donor Consultation and Communication Plan	**Donor consultations also now re-scheduled to follow on from MEDA process - realistic dates for Donor Conference would be late 2009 or early 2010**											
D. Donor Information Update Reports												
OUTPUT 3.4: Institutional, programme and human capacity building requirements are identified and addressed through training initiatives												
A. National CB&T Specialists identified	X	X	X	X								
B. Specialist Training Advisors for Oceanography and Coastal Survey/Assessment identified			X	X	X							
C. CB&T Working Group established				X	X	X						
D. Preliminary Training and Capacity Building Analysis Report (National and Regional Level)					X	X						
E. Report from Regional Workshop on current and planned T&CB initiatives and needs										X		
F. Regional Work Programme (as defined above) for T&CB											X	X
G. National level Work programmes in similar vein	**To be developed now in 2009 as part of the national MEDA process through dedicated national CB&T Coordinators**											
H. Annual T&CB Implementation Reports												X

OUTCOME 4: COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO SUPPORT LME PROCESS

OUTPUT DELIVERABLES	2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OUTPUT 4.1: Effective and frequent communication and coordination established among the IAs, the various projects under the programme and other related initiatives and institutions in the region, including linkages with other GEF supported projects in Sub												
A. Formal coordination mechanism (technical and policy level) established and adopted	**Technical Coordination groups adopted. Policy level still under negotiation**											
B. Annual Reports from ASCLME Programme Policy and Technical Coordination Committees												**Technical Only**
C. Reports from Sub-Saharan Africa LME Stakeholders meetings on "Best Lessons and Practices'	**Global meeting of LMEs called instead in 2008. Only sub-Saharan LME in attendance was ASCLME**											
D. Annual Report to Steering Committee from Policy and Governance Coordinator												X
OUTPUT 4.2: Key policy stakeholders sensitized and engaged in LME process through appropriate packaging and presentation of LME information and concepts												
A. Key Policy Level Stakeholder's list established and adopted		X	X									

OUTPUT 4.3: Stakeholder engagement, public involvement, participation, and environmental education initiatives are developed and implemented in the region													
A. ASCLME Programme website active with individual project pages		X	X										
B. Annual Reports from DLIST programme												X	X
C. Annual Work Programme and Budget for Distance Learning												X	X
F. Work Programme for use of Resource Materials and Media Outreach												**Media Outreach only**	