

LME21

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21st Annual Large Marine Ecosystem Consultation

Session 3. The LME Partnership Approach

Wednesday, September 18, 14:30-18:00

The purpose of this session is to present via clinics *best practices and lessons learned* that have arisen from the development and adoption of partnerships within LMEs, which can be very usefully replicated in other regions.

Please **select 3 clinics** to attend during the session, based on the information provided in this document and the presentations at the beginning of the session. There will be three rounds of 30 minutes, and each clinic will only accept 15 participants at a time.

Partnership Clinics:

- **Clinic 1.** Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). Multi-level coordination;
- **Clinic 2.** Funding partnerships (The Mediterranean Partnership);
- **Clinic 3.** The Pacific Community (SPC). Action planning for SIDS (Pacific Ridge to Reef);
- **Clinic 4.** Regional Framework for Ocean Governance. Global partnership for the sustainable management, use and protection of the Caribbean and north Brazil shelf large marine ecosystems (CLME+ Partnership);
- **Clinic 5.** The Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Science to Policy (WIO LME SAPPHIRE).



Clinic 1. Multi-level coordination (PEMSEA)

The Seas of East Asia encompass six large marine ecosystems: The South China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, the East China Sea, the Yellow Sea, the Sulu-Celebes Sea, and the Indonesian Seas. Together, they are surrounded by countries such as: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam (see Figure 1). Collectively, they occupy a total sea area of 7 million sq. km. and 235,000 km. of coastline, with an estimated population of more than 2.1 billion people. Considered to be the global center of marine biodiversity, they are home to 35 percent of the world's mangroves and 33 percent of both seagrass beds and coral reefs. The Seas of East Asia have global economic significance, as they serve as conduit for 90 percent of world trade through shipping, produce 80 percent of global aquaculture output and 40 percent of capture fisheries, and receive 26 percent of the world's tourists. With growing economies and population that are highly dependent on the ocean sector and coastal and marine ecosystems, countries of the region are facing increasing pressures and challenges in their development processes.



Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is an international organization specializing in coastal and ocean governance with an annual budget of US\$2.4 mln. In 1993, it started as a marine pollution project, with two pilot demonstration sites in Xiamen, China and Batangas, Philippines applying integrated coastal management approach to plan and manage their coastal and marine resources. In 2003, 14 countries agreed to adopted a regional marine strategy called the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). The SDS-SEA harmonizes relevant international and regional conventions, action programs and agreements and provides a framework for sustainable development of coasts and oceans in East Asia. In 2006, 11 countries signed the formal East Asian Seas Partnership Agreement and subsequently created governance mechanisms, namely: the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments and the PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers. The SDS-SEA was updated in 2015 and an implementation plan was developed for 2018-2022. PEMSEA's integrated coastal management approach has proven its effectiveness over 25 years and has been applied across an estimated 29% of the region's coastline.

Top 5 PEMSEA lessons learned

- **Local solutions with global impacts.** Multi-level operating modality: regional, national and local;
- **Mainstreaming ICM in government policies and processes is key to sustaining implementation** making it less vulnerable to political cycles and other expedient decision making;
- **Calibrating strategy /initiatives to adapt to changing priorities, new and emerging issues,** but using ICM as foundation;

- **Tapping local universities to generate new knowledge, provide technical assistance and build capacity to local governments** in scaling up ICM implementation;
- Documenting good practices not enough, need to **quantify impacts and progress.**

Why PEMSEA is considered “best practice”

- PEMSEA was built on partnerships of 11 countries and non-country partners. It is a forum for non-political intra-regional cooperation, partnership and dialogue sans the lengthy and arduous process of regional conventions;
- It has a shared strategic action plan called ‘Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia <http://pemsea.org/our-work/regional-marine-strategy> ;
- It operates at the regional (SAP), national (legislation, policies and institutional mechanisms) and local level (effective implementation of ICM practices);
- It pioneered the application of integrated coastal management (ICM) in East Asia, which offers a wholistic approach for addressing complex coastal issues combining governance, management, economics and cross cutting scientific solutions;
- It has a monitoring and evaluation reporting system: the State of Coasts reporting (SOC) <http://www.pemsea.org/our-services/advisory-and-project-services/state-of-the-coasts-reporting-system>;
- It works with over 80 local governments (PEMSEA Network of Local Governments) to implement and demonstrate the viability and effectiveness of ICM and ably assisted in capacity development and promoting science-policy-action interface with 50 learning centers (PEMSEA Network of Learning Centers).

Is the private sector involved and how? If not, state why and implications.

Over the past five years, PEMSEA has been establishing the foundations for blue economy investment in East Asia with engagement from the private sector through:

- Facilitating local, regional and international dialogue and establishing a network of project developers, investment funds and facilities with an interest in blue economy investment in East Asia;
- Generating pilot investment cases in various stages of development with benefits for local communities, especially PEMSEA ICM sites;
- Producing a number of knowledge products with private sector partners;
- Building local understanding and capacity for identifying potential pipeline investment projects;
- Helping build understanding within the investment community of the role and benefits of ICM in managing the various technical, financial and political aspects of investment projects;
- Establishing standardized and replicable approaches and templates for investment based on best practices and trial and error learning from its pilot projects;
- Identifying and evaluating options for generating returns from investments to support PEMSEA’s pre-investment services and contribute to PEMSEA’s work as a regional coordinating mechanism.

Clinic moderator contact: Aimee T. Gonzales, agonzales@pemsea.org www.pemsea.org

Clinic 2. Funding partnerships (the Mediterranean Partnership).

The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security

The **Mediterranean Sea** - the largest semi-enclosed sea in the world - is shared by 21 countries with a coastline of 46,000 km. Its coastal areas are undergoing a dramatic process of development. The populations of coastal states have doubled in the last 40 years to 450 million and will reach over 600 million in 2050. The region is characterized by a unique and rich, yet fragile biodiversity, hosted by many diverse ecosystems, which together form an invaluable natural capital on which populations and economies depend on. A range of human activities threatens many of these species. Pollution from land-based sources, such as discharges of excess nutrients and hazardous substances, marine litter, and degradation of critical habitats, are among the key factors responsible for this biodiversity loss.



UNEP established its Regional Seas Programme in 1974 with the scope of coordinating activities aimed at the protection of the marine environment through a regional approach. The **Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)** was the first UNEP initiative to be developed under the Programme and became the model for other seas across the globe. The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (**Barcelona Convention**) was adopted on 1976 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, held in Barcelona.

The collaboration between **UNEP/MAP** and the **GEF** goes back to **1997**. This partnership gradually grew by engaging UN organizations (FAO, UNESCO and UNIDO), global organization (GWP and WWF) and Regional Activity Centers (RACs). Each of this partner brought knowledge, experience and network on specific issues such as biodiversity, fishery, LBS pollution, IWRM, ICZM, POPs & Hg, SCP, and sustainable development. The partnership delivered several important products in the period **1997-2015**, as highlighted in the [box No1 below](#).

1 1997 – 2015 period and the GEF projects MedPartnership and ClimVar&ICZM

The partnership between UNEP/MAP and the GEF delivered several strategic products between 1997 and 2015, among them: 1) the Mediterranean Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA); 2) the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED); and 3) the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO) and the Mediterranean National Actions Plans (NAPs).

In its later stage, this process was supported by two GEF projects, the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem" (MedPartnership - GEF ID 2600 – 2009 to 2015) and the "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" (ClimVar&ICZM - GEF ID 3990 – 2011 to 2015).

The two projects fostered a coordinated effort to setup and catalyze the policy, and legal and institutional reforms necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean LME.

Together they executed more than **150 activities** and **80 demonstration projects** on ground impacting long term the sustainability of the region. They held more than **500 meetings, workshops, and trainings**, reaching out to thousands of stakeholders and getting together local actors, civil society, regional experts and international institutions. They produced **over 300 documents** including technical reports, guidelines and policy analysis.

Completed the 1997-2015 stage of assessments, diagnostics, priority setting, planning and experimentation, the countries of the Mediterranean have agreed that a higher level of effort was required at the national and regional levels. This renewed and expanded effort aimed to accelerate the response of the countries to the multi-faceted challenges facing the shared sea, further assistance is being sought from the GEF through the joining of forces of several GEF Focal Areas, Agencies and funding sources in a Programmatic Approach.

The **MedProgramme** will deploy a series of coordinated actions over the **next 5 years** to reduce the main causes of environmental degradation in the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Mediterranean. It will contribute to put the Mediterranean Countries and UNEP/MAP as the frontrunner of a large coordinated and comprehensive effort to promote the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. It will strategically contribute to the sustainable development efforts in the Mediterranean basin and to the dialogue, cooperation, and peace and security in the region (see [box No2 below](#)).

Top 5 lessons learned of the Mediterranean partnership (The MedProgramme)

1. Build your partnership gradually – *it takes time*.
2. Engage a varied set of organizations with clear mandates and scopes – *institutional framework is important*.
3. Use the outcomes of the ongoing process to trigger negotiations for increasingly bigger and more ambitious stages – *there is interest in what we do*.
4. When the partnership is technically and politically mature, seek for the involvement of investors, IFIs and private sector to increase its impact and long-term sustainability – *partnerships in LME are a fertile soil for investments*.
5. Be ambitious and persistent - small and big failures or success do not make the difference - *a well-structured partnership in LME does*.

Why the Mediterranean partnership (The MedProgramme) is considered “best practice”

- a. The Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention are a well-established governance mechanism in a complex and challenging context. This provides a solid environment to work on long term sustainability of the Mediterranean LME.
- b. The UNEP/MAP – GEF partnership supported a full TDA-SAP-NAP cycle in the LME. This process took over 20 years to develop analysis, increase technical capacity, enhance the governance framework to set the “scene”. The further development and assessment of this experience could provide useful indications.
- c. The ongoing GEF MedProgramme is catalyzing the interest from additional actors and partners whose look at the programme as a holistic and flexible tool to address environmental issues as well as socio-economic growth.

Is the private sector involved and how? If not, state why and implications.

The MedProgramme attracted and is attracting interests from private investors and utilities. This dimension is added by the IFIs involved (EIB and EBRD) in the Programme. However, the ongoing challenge for the MedProgramme is to evolve to speak and support the private companies focusing on production and on tourism. Stay tuned to see how it goes...!



Clinic moderator contact

Lorenzo Paolo Galbiati: Lorenzo.galbiati@un.org

Mediterranean Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA): <https://iwlearn.net/documents/5183>

Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED): <https://iwlearn.net/documents/6414>

Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO): <https://iwlearn.net/documents/30084>

The MedPartnership and the ClimVar&ICZM: <https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/basins/lmes/mediterranean-sea>

The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security:

<https://www.thegef.org/project/mediterranean-sea-programme-medprogramme-enhancing-environmental-security>

Clinic 3. The Pacific Community (SPC). Action planning for SIDS (Pacific Ridge to Reef).

The definition of International Waters could have been conceived with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in mind. Our 30, 000 islands, mostly tiny and separated by vast distances, command a vast maritime domain. The Pacific is the largest expanse of ocean in the world. Papua New Guinea is by far the largest country 462,840 km², while Tuvalu, the smallest, sits at 26km². The distance between the easternmost country, Kiribati, and the westernmost country, Palau, is about 7,500 kilometres, while the distance between the northernmost country, the Marshall Islands, and the southernmost country, Tonga is about 4,200 kilometres. Our land to sea ratio is generally so small that all our islands are coastal in character. The importance of the health of International Waters to our islands, cannot be overemphasized.

Pacific R2R Programme overview

The 5-year programme aims to guide coordinated investment of the US\$91 million package of GEF grants, and over USD300 million in co-financing from the participating countries and other development partners. The programme aims to deliver tangible and quantifiable local and global environmental benefits by focusing on crosscutting approaches to water, land and coastal management with linkages across GEF focal areas. Operating across 14 countries, programme activities are organised under the several following programme components:

- National Multi-Focal Area Ridge-to-Reef Demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries;
- Improved Governance for Integrated, Climate Resilient Land, Water, Forest and Coastal Management;
- Regional and National/ Local Ridge-to-Reef Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management;
- Regional Programme Coordination.

Programme benefits include the opportunity to strengthen PICs capacity to successfully demonstrate and transfer technology to support targeted vulnerable areas, improve livelihoods and public health, and upscale their effective mainstreaming efforts in achieving their sustainable development goals. Importantly, the outcomes of this programme will also provide valuable insights and lessons learned that can be shared for replication between countries in the Pacific, and with similar initiatives covering other small island developing states for replication and upscaling.

The Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU), based within SPC's Geoscience Division possesses multidisciplinary expertise to support programme implementation in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and communications and knowledge sharing to support national and local level implementation. Participating countries include: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



Figure 1: Map of national demonstration sites supporting R2R ICM/IWRM approaches for island sustainability.

Top 5 lessons learned for the Pacific R2R Programme

1. Linking livelihoods and environment issues to high-priority policy areas such as economic growth, job creation or poverty reduction may improve the case for the sustainability of R2R mainstreaming. These higher-level policy objectives are mostly anchored in national development plans and the sectoral policy sphere. It is typically in sectors such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture and energy where the strongest links between poverty-environment mainstreaming and economic growth exist. A stronger private sector engagement strategy and plan needs to be developed;
2. Sufficient attention to issues of political economy – the identification of winners and losers in the current state or attitudes to reform is imperative. Understanding these can help improve programme focus, activities, and the likelihood of behavioural change.
3. To identify and understand the target populations for mainstreaming efforts gender-disaggregated assessment and social impact analysis require concerted effort. Efforts should be made to ensure the empowerment and inclusion of marginalized communities – including women, minorities and indigenous peoples—in the development process. Mainstreaming gender will improve the efficiency, efficacy and long-term sustainability of development objectives.
4. Formal academic accreditation has proved highly effective in enhancing institutional capacities, political will and in building individual careers;
5. There is a need to establish a systematic and cumulative approach to knowledge management - knowledge profiling, packaging and sharing through learning exchanges.

Why Pacific R2R is considered “best practice”

- Building on already effective cross-sectoral coordination and planning mechanisms (Inter Ministry Committees) established through the GEF Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management Project, the R2R programme embraces innovation and opportunity to the region through an R2R or ‘whole-of-island’ natural resource management approach through the development of cross-sectoral planning frameworks – community to cabinet approach to mainstreaming R2R at national level.
- Enhanced institutional capacities for national partners through participatory processes and implementing diagnostic analysis and practical demonstration work with communities. This is reinforced by a successful partnership with James Cook University through the post-graduate program.
- The development of the Harmonized Results Reporting framework supports results-based management of the programme and coordination of national and regional investments and considers national, regional to

global environmental reporting obligations (SDGs, Aichi Targets, SAMOA Pathway and other global conventions) significantly improving engagement and cooperation from countries;

- Application of learning from testing and intra-regional SIDS knowledge exchange – potential institutionalization of the TDA-SAP process and methodology) as a framework and tool for improved programming, prioritization and coordination of investments and cooperation for sustainable management of resources at national and regional levels.

Is the private sector involved and how? If not, state why and implications.

There is a strong focus on the public sector, however the Pacific R2R Regional Project Document makes allocation for private sector engagement through the action and investments plans.

Clinic moderator contact

Pacific R2R – Communications and Knowledge Management Adviser
Fononga Vainga Mangisi-Mafileo: fonongam@spc.int

Clinic 4. CLME+ Partnership

Toward integrative/interactive ocean governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) are shared by 26 Independent States and 18 Overseas Territories. The CLME+ region falls within the area of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), as well as most of the area of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Figure 1). The marine area (4.4 million km²) of the CLME+ region is: a major contributor to regional socio-economic development; key to many globally relevant ecological processes; and supports exceptional -often endemic- biodiversity.



Figure 1: Map depicting boundaries of CLME+, WECAFC, and Cartagena Convention Area

The region's marine resources, as well as key problems affecting these resources (overfishing, pollution, habitat degradation and climate change), are shared to a very large extent among its many governments. Capacities for the management of living marine resources vary considerably at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

In 2013, CLME+ countries collaboratively developed a 10-year [Strategic Action Programme](#) (SAP), providing Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO's) with a roadmap to reverse degradation of the marine environment in the CLME+ region, and to secure its important resource base. By March 2019, this SAP had received high-level political endorsement by well over 30 Ministers, representing 26 different Countries and 8 Overseas Territories from the region. The CLME+ SAP consists of 6 Strategies and 76 Actions.

The 6-year, USD 12.5 million, UNDP/GEF [“CLME+” Project](#): *“Catalysing the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”* (GEF ID 5542), approved in 2015, aims at facilitating the implementation of the CLME+ SAP.

The CLME+ Project further supports and promotes interactive/integrative and cooperative ocean governance within the CLME+ region by supporting the region in its advancement towards the management and sustainable use of its ocean resources and the achievement of the 2030 agenda. The concept of interactive/integrative governance considers that the whole of interactions among civil, public and private actors have a part to play to solve societal problems and create societal opportunity. Taking this concept into consideration, a number of advancements have been successfully realized towards integrating of a wide range of actors into the CLME+ initiative; including the establishment of a CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) by eight inter-governmental organisations that have agreed to work together to enhance regional coordination and collaboration, for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. The CLME+ initiative is also working towards the establishment of an interactive, dynamic and evolving voluntary non-legally binding partnership arrangement for engaging the wide range of actors dependent on the marine environment of the CLME+ region.

Top 5 lessons learned of the CLME+ Initiative

6. Acknowledge from very early that the responsibility for the governance of marine resources falls with civil, public and private actors.
7. Seek to engage with economically important sectors such as tourism and shipping from very early.
8. Start testing the effectiveness of a mechanism such as the CLME+ SAP ICM by identifying common areas of priority to advance among the members.
9. Start small when testing how effective a new approach is before defining a more permanent framework
10. Important to institutionalize the TDA/SAP Approach (have an institutional structure, such as a Secretariat, in place to support the work of a coordination).

Why the CLME+ Initiative is considered “best practice”

The following are considered best practices of the CLME+ Initiative:

1. The establishment of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism consisting of eight IGOs, and formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017, is a good example of how regional fishery bodies and marine environmental organisations have agreed to work together towards the improved management and sustainable use of marine resources.
2. Facilitated the development, with the support of co-executing partner, the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI), of *“The Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resource of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ C-SAP)”* which supports the implementation of the CLME+ SAP.
3. Encourages the institutionalization of National Inter-Sectoral Coordination Mechanisms (NICs) at the national level to support the concept of interactive ocean governance.

Is the private sector involved and how? If not, state why and implications.

Modestly at this point. The region has been slow integrating the private sector into the CLME+ Initiative as the focus of the SAP has been primarily on the public sector. Notwithstanding, there are plans to engage with the private sector once the CLME+ Partnership has been officially launched. The CLME+ Project Document also makes allocation for private sector engagement through the incorporation of private sector actions into Action and Investment Plans.

Clinic moderator contact

Laverne Walker: LaverneW@unops.org

Clinic 5. Science to policy (WIO-SAPPHIRE)

Partnerships for a common regional objective supported by the the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (WIO LME SAPPHIRE), and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP) Projects, as well as several other regional initiatives and partners - Represented at LME21 by Dr. Tim Andrew, Policy and Governance Officer for the Nairobi Convention Secretariat

Summary of the LME partnership

The GEF-funded SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects, implemented by UNDP and UNEP respectively, and jointly executed by the Nairobi Convention, build on the previous work completed under the ASCLME and WIO-LAB projects. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDAs) undertaken by the countries of the WIO region under these projects provided scientific and technical synthesis reports on the status of the WIO LMEs that were used to develop Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) to address the problems of greatest concern that are facing the marine and coastal ecosystems of the western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. In line with this, the SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP projects are designed to implement the priorities set in the WIO LMEs SAPs. A process of aligning and combining the two SAPs is currently underway at the request of the countries in the WIO.

This WIO LME Partnership is primarily a regional partnership enabled through the Nairobi Convention and its protocols, which are focused primarily on the marine and coastal environment of the WIO. The Convention provides a political platform to address priority regional issues in the marine and coastal environmental domain in the WIO. The Convention is currently mandated to focus on the national EEZs in the region, but there is increasing pressure to get involved in ABNJ processes in the WIO. Other stakeholders including regional NGO's and the private sector are included in the WIO LME SAPs implementation. It should be stressed that every effort has been made to ensure that the SAPPHIRE and WIOSAP Projects, as well as other existing and emerging regional initiatives, work together in a collaborative and synergistic manner in order to maximise the impact of regional interventions. This is the basis of the partnership approach in the WIO.

As one of the global LME Projects, SAPPHIRE is required to promote partnerships within the WIO and globally, and to share experiences with the other LMEs. Although the PM has only been in place since November 2019, several partnerships have been built on or established in the WIO through SAPPHIRE. These include, among others:

- A partnership on oceanographic data and research for improved ocean governance with IMS, KMFRI, SOLSTICE and national data centres;
- Strengthened partnership with WIOMSA, especially in joint activities around, ocean governance, leadership training, and ecosystem monitoring;
- Partnership with the IOI for ocean governance training;
- Revamped partnership with the WOC with discussions on how to collaborate to promote Private Sector engagement in EBM;
- Development of a private sector engagement strategy is planned to guide future private sector partner engagement at multiple levels.

Top 5 “lessons learned” from the LME partnership

- Process needs to be rooted in a mechanism that is going to be in place long after project terms. Projects provide essential tools to achieve regional and global objectives, but sustainability is key;
- Synergies between partners and initiatives need to be actively sought and planned for, preferably during project design, but even after this, if possible;
- Private sector engagement can be difficult, especially when there are gaps between processes, and special attention needs to be put towards ensuring long-term relationships;
- Early engagement with national focal points/institutions and establishing strong partnership and ownership at a national level is key to enhancing national leadership in the implementation of projects;
- Country priorities need to be acknowledged and addressed as far as possible to ensure strong regional frameworks for collaboration;
- Recognition that some of the participating countries require additional support when dealing with issues of regional concern. Cross-fertilization and sharing of lessons are particularly important in this regard.

Why the LME partnership is considered “best practice”?

The partnership approach is the only practical manner to implement large, regional multi-sectoral projects. This allows for common regional objectives to be addressed in an inclusive manner, bringing multiple skills and interests together, which is more likely to lead to long term sustainability.

Is the private sector involved and how? If not, state why and the implications

The SAPPHIRE Project has a well-resourced component (Component 3. Stress Reduction through Private Sector/Industry Commitment to transformations in their operations and management practices) focusing on involving the private sector in the implementation of the WIO SAPs. Private sector engagement has been slow and had to be re-initiated due to the delay of several years between ASCLME ending and SAPPHIRE starting. Progress made with the WIO-SEA faltered during this time. Discussions have been held with the WOC, however private sector engagement will entail a much broader range of stakeholders than the WOC would have access to. They mainly focus on the large ocean industries, while it would also be essential to include small-scale private sector activities, such as inshore fisheries, tourism etc., and several other non-state actors. A stakeholder mapping process has been completed and the key private sector players have been identified in the WIO, especially those that have the potential of mainstreaming EBM approaches in their practices. The next step is to develop a private sector engagement strategy that would then guide the approach to this complex aspect. Once key areas where engagement is essential and possible have been identified, these will be focused on as a second step.

Clinic Moderator: Manuel Clar Massanet (mclar@planeting.es).