

LAC

YOUR REGIONAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER



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A NEW YEAR WITH BIG AMBITION



A. Aleksandravičius, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This is a big year for the Ocean and advancing action for achieving our blue ambitions. The term "20/20" is used to express the clarity or sharpness of vision. Coincidentally, four of the ten SDG 14 targets mature in the year 2020 and we will soon review if we are on track for success, and if not, how do we sharpen our focus to do something about it.

Big events such as the World Ocean Summit, the second UN Ocean Conference, Our Ocean, & COP26 will take place, and the start of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will be just around the corner. Indeed, a super year for nature is upon us!

We look forward to continuing our support to our community by sharing your successes and lessons learned, but also by engaging you at targeted events of our own, such as the 22nd Annual LME Consultation Meeting (see page 11 for more details).

Wishing you a brilliant year ahead

Your Coordinator

Natalie

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

"LAC" is an annual newsletter, featuring previous and upcoming activities taking place within the Latin America-Caribbean Regional Network.

Our aim is to increase the communication flow and visibility of the different Network activities for exchange of knowledge and news.

Information about Network Meetings, regional activities, calls for participation, trainings, conferences, webinars and calls for assistance can be found in the Newsletter.

ABOUT THE NETWORK

Established in 2017 by the [GEF LME:LEARN project](#), we are a network of professionals and practitioners involved in marine and coastal initiatives across Latin-America and the Caribbean.

In our network you will find representatives of GEF-funded marine and coastal projects, projects funded by other donors, academia, national ministries, NGOs, Regional Bodies or Conventions, businesses and more.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN OPEN BLUE AND PANAMA



Open Blue is committed to providing equal opportunity for all workers - Credit Mary Ellen Walling

Our company, Open Blue is committed to providing equal opportunity for all workers. Our company produces cobia, a healthy white fish for worldwide markets. With an overall workforce of 279 workers, (Dec 2018) with 262 of them based in Panama, we are growing – both in size and learning – as we continue our commitment to enhance day-to-day workplace culture, increase productivity and improve operations.

Our workers have a wide range of education and expertise from veterinary science to marine biology to engineering. We support diversity and inclusion and hiring locally is a key factor for our operations in Panama. Our workforce is young, and we provide internship and partnership opportunities with local universities. We are focused on increasing the number of women in our workforce.

In the fishing and aquaculture sector worldwide, women workers account for more than 15 percent of those engaged in the fisheries primary sector but they dominate in the labour-intensive fish processing business representing 85% to 90% of the total worldwide workforce. At the managerial end of the seafood value chain men dominate with 90% CEO's, 90% Board members and leaders of professional organizations.

At Open Blue our workforce follows this trend with predominantly male workers in our farm and hatchery operations and an even split in our processing plant. Encouraging women to accept positions that are non-traditional is a challenge but we have had some successes.

In Costa Arriba, Colon Province where our farm and hatchery operations are based the challenges experienced by the residents in this remote area of Panama were well articulated in a paper written for Open Blue in May 2012. The authors of this paper from the International Community Foundation described the situation in the region this way in 2012: "Costa Arriba, Colon is located in a remote rural part of Panama with small villages and towns that hug the northern exposure. The communities send workers to Colon for long days in the port, while the remaining residents fish, tend cattle, or grow subsistence crops."

The main change in the economy of the region has been the large investment of Open Blue Sea Farms, both in the major construction of the hatchery facility in Viento Frio completed in 2014 and the Miramar base to serve the offshore farms. As the farm operations grow, it is critical to attract skilled workers. The company's emphasis has been to hire locally when possible but recruiting qualified, trained and experienced workers has been an ongoing challenge.

As part of the fish health management plan, injecting all fish going into the sea pens with a preventative vaccine was a critical element to prevent disease. Specially designed vaccines were developed but because of the lack of expertise available the company was required to bring in workers from Chile in order to perform this work. The head of the Office of Sustainability for Open Blue, Mary Ellen Walling, a Canadian now resident in Panama encouraged and challenged the local Human Resources specialist, to recruit more women into traditional men's roles.

"I saw that we could use this opportunity to fill the vaccination team need with a local team of women as a solution." Said Ms Walling. Using local connections and with the full support of the Hatchery Director, 4 women were identified, trained and started work. They have been very successful in this role. Their ability to manage and care for the fish during this critically important early stage of their life cycle has resulted in major benefits for them, their families and the company. Recently they were upgraded to hatchery technicians and enjoy increased pay and a full benefit package.

Mrs. Walling puts it this way, **"By identifying the company need and finding a creative solution we benefited not only our company by strengthening the team, but we also showed tangible results for this group of women to achieve through their effort and hard work a benefit for them, their families and the community. Together we are stronger."**

Panama was included in the list of the 25 countries in the world with the highest incidence of lethal violence against women and girls according to the Global Burden of Armed Violence 2015 prepared by the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration. Panama approved in 2013 a law which prevented acts of violence towards women, and the same was regulated by the executive decree Nr. 100 on 2017. This is a forward-looking action and enhancing economic opportunities strengthens women's options to avoid domestic violent situations.

In Open Blue's opinion, providing opportunities for women and men to advance their economic interests through a connection to skilled, well paid, year-round employment is a key part of the solution for communities facing sexist cultural patterns and subordination of females.



Website Link: www.openblue.com

Contact Information: Mary Ellen Walling, 507 6379 5760, mwalling@openblue.com

SARGADAPT IS ON!

ADAPTED FROM THE CERMES CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



Sargassum accumulates along the coast of Sainte-Anne in Guadeloupe. Photo Credit: MOREL/SIMAX/SIPA/Newscom

Original article written by Hazel Oxenford for CERMES Connections:

We are very pleased to announce that CERMES is one of 11 organizations within the Caribbean that have received funding under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility's 1st Call for proposals.

Valued at just over US\$ 980,000, this three-year (Dec 2019 – 2022) project, Adapting to a new reality: managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean as ecosystem hazards and opportunities (SargAdapt) will accomplish its project goal through the following objectives:

1. Developing appropriate management responses to sargassum influxes to lessen damage to coastal and marine ecosystems and human livelihoods.
2. Enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to cope with, sustainably manage, and adapt to sargassum influxes.
3. Reinforcing the ability of marine and coastal stakeholders for adaptive planning, management and livelihood resilience.

CERMES as project implementer will partner with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and St. George's University, Grenada to work closely with NGO communities and government agencies in Grenada, St Vincent, St Lucia, Dominica and Barbados. EBA Facility's first Call for Proposals was a very competitive process in which over 100 applications from around the region were received. "The 11 projects to be funded in the insular Caribbean will provide a range of actions including protected areas' management, restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, reduction of land-based stressors, measures to reduce physical damage and pressures on ecosystems, installation of artificial reefs and hybrid solutions relevant to the EbA approach".

The successful projects are being implemented in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago. "The EbA Facility aims to issue a second call for proposals in February 2020. The Facility's resources are a contribution of the German Federal Ministry of Environment's International Climate Initiative through KfW, the German Development Bank.

For more information contact Maria Pena (maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu) and Patrick McConney (patrick.mcconney@gmail.com)

QUARRY REHAB INITIATIVE VENTURES INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

ADAPTED FROM THE IWECO LINK NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

Carib Glassworks Limited, the only manufacturer of glass packaging in the Caribbean, is the first privately managed quarry operator to partner with the IWeco:TT.

The overall objective of the IWeco National sub-Project in Trinidad & Tobago is to reduce and reverse land degradation associated with quarry operations at selected quarry sites in North East Trinidad. The Project, which is being executed by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), has been working since May 2018 with two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - the Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods and IAMove-ment, and the United Nations Development Programme - Small Grants Programme, to train "Quarry Rehabilitation Champions" from the nearby communities of Valencia and Sangre Grande in the application of practical quarry rehabilitation techniques.

The first three pilot sites were all located within the compound of the state-owned National Quarries Company Limited (NQCL). On 19th November 2019, IWeco:TT and Carib Glassworks Limited launched a project to rehabilitate one hectare of their Matura Sand Plant through a mix of interventions which are already being successfully used at NQCL. These include site preparation, the planting of different types of trees for species enrichment, the planting of vetiver grass for soil and slope re-habilitation, and, the installation of live check dams to reduce soil erosion.

The opening ceremony was held at the Matura sand plant and featured remarks by both David Hadeed, Managing Director of Carib Glassworks Limited, and Hayden Romano, Managing Director of the EMA.

In 2020, another one hectare of the Matura sand mine will be reforested, bringing the total to two hectares. The new site is the first to be established at the private-ly owned and operated quarry which has been the source of silica used in the manufacture of glass bottles for Carib beer products since 1972. Carib Glassworks has been the leading glass recycler in the region for the past 40 years and considers this part of their ongoing commitment to the environment!

For more information contact:

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Quarry Rehabilitation Champions get to work at the new site at Carib Glassworks near Matura, East Trinidad. Credit: IWeco

GENDER IN THE GEF COASTAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE

In the 18th century, French political activist, Olympe de Gouges, highlighted a main paradox of feminism: the choice to defend women's rights and promote reforms through general norms, or through specific norms which would only be applied to women. On the one hand was the risk that women's concerns would be obscured by more universal issues, while on the other hand, women could be locked in a 'women's ghetto': having fewer resources and less power to address deeply engrained gender inequalities.

This debate resonates strongly in international institutions that work to enhance conditions for women through the practice of "gender mainstreaming". Although gender issues are frequently introduced into normative policies and activities, it is equally crucial to ensure that gender is integrated in a practical, effective and smart way into all implemented programmes.

The GEF-funded Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) strives to mainstream gender throughout the programme by developing a gender strategy for each of the three regional projects (Indonesia, Latin America and West Africa). Gender is a cross-cutting theme of the Coastal Fisheries Initiative, mainstreamed through various approaches across the regional projects, including the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management in Indonesia and a gender-sensitive value chain approach in West Africa. Of particular interest is how the gender-specific analysis is part of a holistic process. The implementation of practical measures derived from the gender strategies aims to be effective at each stage of the projects.

CFI Latin America (LAC) seeks to promote women's participation in decision-making in Ecuador and Peru, mindful of the gender stereotypes that persist in the fisheries sector. To carry this out effectively, awareness-raising workshops aim to reduce gender-based stereotypes. Moreover, the project will document women's experiences as well as their good practices in fishing activities. This will contribute to knowledge sharing and also allow for replication of best practices in other communities. Particular attention is focused on the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data, recognizing these data as key information to understand the different needs, roles, challenges and opportunities of both women and men, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the project's gender impacts.

For more information on the CFI LAC project, contact Miguel Maldonado (miguel.maldonado@undp.org)



Women from the ancestral commune "Las Huacas" Island in El Oro Province, Ecuador collecting shells. Credit: Sebastian Meneses/CFI Latin America

GEF LME:LEARN ONLINE TRAINING COURSES

The online course contents and materials developed by the GEF LME:LEARN project are now open to all interested participants, with no time limit to complete the modules. Each course is rich with compulsory readings, supplementary material, links to useful websites and quizzes.

Ocean Governance

In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and UNDP Cap-Net, the GEF LME:LEARN offers a course to familiarize marine and coastal practitioners with key components of good ocean governance. This course aims to provide project leads, partners, and others with practical approaches, lessons on governance and illustrative case studies. It also serves to promote an integrated, collaborative approach to ocean and coastal management.

Since opening the course, 176 participants from around the world have benefited from the material.

The course is available at:

www.campus.cap-net.org/en/course/ogiwl33-gef-lmelearn-ocean-governance-2019

The course is available in:

English:

www.campus.cap-net.org/en/course/msp29-gef-lmelearn-transboundary-marine-spatial-planning

French:

www.campus.cap-net.org/en/course/psm30-planification-spatiale-maritime-transfrontaliere

Spanish:

www.campus.cap-net.org/es/curso/msp31-planificacion-espacial-marina-pem-y-economia-azul

Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy

In collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and UNDP Cap-Net, the GEF LME:LEARN offers a course to familiarize participants with an understanding of what marine spatial planning is about, what benefits it can have, and what results you can expect. Furthermore, the course is designed to present the basic steps of MSP process, actors and responsibilities, legislation and finances needed, the MSP tools and techniques, and finally transboundary and cross-border contexts for MSP with a special emphasis on Large Marine Ecosystems. This course aims to provide project leads, partners, and others with practical approaches, lessons on MSP and illustrative case studies. It also serves to promote an integrated, collaborative approach to ocean and coastal management with a special emphasis on LMEs.

Since opening the courses, 253 participants from around the world have benefited from the materials.

LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH: GETTING READY FOR AN UPGRADE

Marine and coastal practitioners representing GEF and non-GEF funded projects, international and national organizations, and institutions met in Cartagena, Colombia on 18-20 September 2019 for the 21st Annual Large Marine Ecosystem Consultation (LME21).

A number of existing and potential future partners in LME partnerships were brought together and informed of the benefits of their cooperation and collaboration and exchanged good practices and lessons learnt for establishing and maintaining partnerships. Under the banner “The Large Marine Ecosystems are everyone’s business”, several interactive sessions were organised where participants had the opportunity to exchange views, experiences, lessons learned and ideas for future collaboration.

With generous sponsorship and support from SUEZ and its local subsidiary, Aguas de Cartagenas, a provider of water supply and sanitation, participants undertook technical site visits to the Cartagena wastewater treatment plant and La Boquilla mangrove restoration area.

The next LME Annual Consultation Meeting (LME22) will be held in Paris, France from 6-9 July 2020. The agenda and more information will be circulated soon.

Additional information on the GEF LME:LEARN project can be found on the [website](#), or please contact the GEF IW:LEARN project manager, Mish Hamid (mish@iwlearn.org).



Approximately 80 participants from around the world attended the 21th Annual LME Consultative Meeting. Credit: GEF LME:LEARN

GLOBAL OCEAN SUMMIT: LINKING LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS TO LOCAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The United Nation's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will commence in 2021. Its critical preparatory phase is well underway and the ocean community needs to be ready to shepherd the entire world into seeing the sea as an essential resource for food, revenue and recreation. Additionally, people from all regions must comprehend the vulnerability of the oceans along with the coastal communities around them, particularly with population and climate pressures.

The best chance for success is to build on existing international frameworks, in particular Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), which for 35 years have encouraged ecosystem and socioeconomic science, wise management and intergovernmental cooperation. Also, it is important to learn from successful local initiatives, such as those by the Coastal Resources Center and its partners. With the dawn of the Decade imminent, the time is now to catalyze a new conversation on the ocean, and move aggressively to enabling solutions. The University of Rhode Island, the flagship university in the Ocean State, helped grow the LME concept and continues to lead in coastal and ocean science and management locally and around the world. This will be a great opportunity to have a rich conversation on ocean issues and pursue opportunities for sustainability.

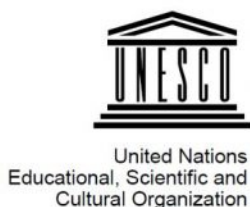
The Global Ocean (GO) Summit will be a multi-day event that brings together leaders and motivated individuals in science, management and business to discuss challenges and opportunities provided by the sea and its resources to link Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), science and management communities to scale science-based actions within the spatial domain of the world's 66 LMEs. As the climate changes, critical food and environmental resources are at risk while coastal populations, development and investments are on the rise. In addition to keynote presentations, panel discussions and break-out groups, a networking event and celebration banquet will encourage dialog and information exchange to stimulate new collaborations for the Decade. Media engagement opportunities and a post-Summit inspirational summary will share highlights and specific recommendations for action.

Date: 1-4 April 2020

Location: University of Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882, USA

Website: www.web.uri.edu/globaloceansummit/

Registration Deadline: 1 February 2020



2020 EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- RAMPAO General Assembly: 25-26 February 2020 - www.rampao.org
- World Ocean Summit: 9-10 March 2020 - www.woi.economist.com/world-ocean-summit
- PRCM Forum: 25-28 March 2020 - www.prcmarine.org
- Global Ocean Summit-University of Rhode Island: 1-4 April 2020 - www.web.uri.edu/globaloceansummit
- Abidjan Convention COP 13: 27 April – 1 May 2020 - www.abidjanconvention.org
- UN Ocean Conference: 2-6 June 2020 - www.oceanconference.un.org
- IUCN World Congress: 11-19 June 2020 - www.iucncongress2020.org
- 22nd Large Marine Ecosystem Annual Consultation Meeting: 6-9 July 2020
- Our Ocean: 17-18 August 2020 - www.ourocean2020.pw
- World Seagrass Congress: 9-14 August 2020 - www.isbw14.org
- CBD COP: October 2020 - www.cbd.int/meetings
- 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC: 9-19 November 2020

The GEF LME:LEARN project seeks to improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners and supporting south-to-south learning and north-to-south learning. This project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and executed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC).

For more information on the project, consult our website: iwlearn.net/marine

