



International Waters: Learning Exchange and
Resource Network (IW:LEARN)



Large Marine Ecosystem: Learning Exchange and
Resource Network (LME:LEARN)

INTER-PROJECT STAKEHOLDER EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

1.0 Participant Name, GEF Project or Organizational Affiliation and Contact Information

Aylem Hernández Avila, National Centre of Protected Areas, GEF/UNDP ECOVALOR Project Manager, aylem@snap.cu /
Raúl Alberto Rangel Cura, Institute of Tropical Geography, GEF/UNDP ECOVALOR Thematical Adviser raulr@geotech.cu, raul.rangel@snap.cu /
Abdiel Caraballos Johnson, National Centre of Protected Areas, GEF/UNDP ECOVALOR Project Technical Coordinator, abdiel@snap.cu /
Carlos Javier Pentón García, International Affairs at CITMA, Specialist carlosj@citma.gob.cu /
Ileana Saborit Izaguirre, Direction of Environment at CITMA, Specialist saborit@citma.cu /
Dalia María Salabarría Fernández, National Centre of Protected Areas, GEF/UNDP Invasive Alien Species Project Manager, dalia@snap.cu

2.0 Host Institution(s)/Projects

Please mention the key people met

Date	Location	Activity	Institution	Persons Met
November 30 th , 2017.	Workshop 17, The Warehouse, Waterfront, Cape Town.	Meeting between Cuba and Mexico, with observers from US and IW Gef Area.	NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology Director Research Fishery Biologist United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Project: mandy.karnauskas@noaa.gov Fishery Biologist, Marine Ecosystems Division United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Rebecca.Shuford@noaa.gov Director, National Marine Protected Areas Center United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov GEF International Waters Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Unit/Branch Ecosystems Division UN Environment Jill.raval@un.org	Ned Cyr Ph.D Mandy Karnauskas.- Ph. D Rebecca Shufford.- PhD. Lauren Wenzel.- Jill Raval .-

<i>December 1st, 2017</i>	<i>Workshop 17, The Warehouse, Waterfront, Cape Town</i>	<i>Manager.</i>	<i>Focal point for the GoM LME SAP implementation project for Mexico</i>	<i>Marisol Rivera Planter</i>
		<i>Training in economic valuation of natural resources for TDA/SAP process</i>	<i>Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO SAP GoM LME Project Manager c.susan@unido.org</i>	<i>Christian Susan</i>
			<i>InterSus Sustainability Services (environmental economics consultant) interwies@intersus.eu</i>	<i>Eduard Interwies</i>
			<i>Environmental Economics Consultant lukebrander@gmail.com</i>	<i>Luke Brander</i>

3.0 Purpose of the Exchange

During the Latin American and Caribbean LME Coordination Meeting (Montevideo, Oct 12-13 2017) the Project Manager for the UNIDO executed sub-component 4.1 subcomponent 4.1 “Systematic consideration of the economic valuation of natural resources into the TDA/SAP process and targeted learning” of the UNDP/UNEP implemented GEF project IW:LEARN IV (GEF Project ID 5729) presented on results achieved so far and announced that the first full-fledged training will be offered in the fringe of the LME Consultative Group Meeting in Cape town (Nov 29- Dec 01 2017).

Participants from Cuba who were invited to explore possibilities to extend bilateral cooperation between Mexico and the US on Marine Protected Areas (Output 3.4 - Support effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas by linking them into networks of the GEF project “Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the GoM LME” GEF Project ID 6952) into a trilateral cooperation between Cuba, Mexico and the US were extremely interested in this topic. In the ensuing discussions between the Cuban participants, the NPC and the project manager of the GoM SAP implementation project it was agreed that the possibility for an MSP bringing Cuba into the GoM LME will be explored. Outputs of the MSP would be:

- TDA for the GoM up-dated jointly by Cuban, Mexican and US scientists including the economic valuation of ecosystem services,
- Legal instrument for Cuba to endorse the bilateral (Mexico-US) SAP developed (e.g. an association agreement),
- Support effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in Cuba, Mexico and the US by linking them into networks,
- Pollution hot spots in Cuban coastal waters identified,

As the first step towards this, it was agreed that it will be endeavored to facilitate the participation of 5 Cuban decision makers in the training on economic valuation of ecosystem services in the fringe of the LME CG to be offered by UNIDO in Cape Town.

The proposed IW:LEARN/LME:LEARN-supported exchange will be catalytic to bring Cuba on board as required for a truly ecosystem wider cooperation in the GoM LME and will result in an MSP as described above.

28 Nov 2017 Arrival Cape Town from Havana

29 Nov-01 Dec 2017 participation in LME CG and training on economic valuation

02 Dec 2017 Departure Cape Town for Havana

Participation on the two LME meetings:

1. Attend on the 27th and 28th of December 2017, the meeting: “Building international partnership to enhance science based ecosystem approaches in support of the regional ocean governance in the context of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”, whose objective was to enhance cross-sectoral, science based ecosystem approaches to regional ocean governance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.
2. Attend the “19th Annual Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Partners”, the goal of the meeting was to: share experiences and lessons with respect to ecosystem-based governance of the oceans by engaging GEF-funded marine, coastal, biodiversity and coastal climate change adaptation project leaders in support of meeting the objectives of the GEF LME: LEARN project.
3. Hold a meeting with the LME International Waters representatives who will be attending and held a meeting with the Cuban Government representatives and the Mexican Government official to present a PIF for the revision of the TDA/SAP for the Gulf of Mexico LME and incorporate Cuba

4.0 Lessons Learned

4.1 Briefly, how did this mission benefit you, your GEF IW project and/or home institution? Considering the purposes of the mission (Section 3.0), what are the 3-5 most valuable lessons you learned through this exchange?

This mission is crucial to have all the key partners on the Gulf of Mexico LME. This would be a great opportunity to help the three countries engage in the objectives envisioned for the Large Marine Ecosystems, the environmental quality objectives, such as: improve water quality, avoid depletion and recover living marine resources and conserve and restore the quality of coastal and marine ecosystem through community involvement and enhanced cooperation.

The most valuable lessons is that Cuba is willing to engage in this process with Mexico for a TDA/SAP project. Cuba has a lot of specialized institutions on scientific and academic areas, with information on biodiversity and geographic data.

4.2 What new issues or questions emerged that remains unanswered from your exchange?

Cuba requested a fast track process for the MSP and which agency would be implementing the project.

5.0 Results (Follow-up Activities and Schedule)

5.1 What actions will you take or what will you do differently as a result of this exchange? And when?

1. *Cuba will work on a proposal, considering its strength in specialized scientific and academic institutions with a lot of information and groups of experts, systems of information and biodiversity and geographic data bases. On that basis the concept note as a bilateral project by the two of them would be done by the institutions.*
2. *Have the concept note by the end of February.*
3. *Choose the agency (implementing and executing) between the two countries and request a fast track proposal of the MSP, and would consult on this and on not having a PPG phase.*
4. *Could be presented before May.*

5.2 How will you disseminate lessons learned from this exchange to your stakeholders (and the rest of the GEF IW portfolio)?

The exchange in the use of approaches and techniques of economic valuation of ecosystem services was very useful for the Cuban delegation, as this is a new topic recently developed at the national level. In order to disseminate the lessons learned, once the new GEF project about economic valuation of ecosystem services starts, the project manager will get in touch with the three specialists in this matter that attend this meeting (Christian Susan, Eduard Interwies, Luke Brander) to promote their participation as consultants in this project's activities, considering their expertise in different approaches and studies of environmental economics. In the case of Christian Susan, as he represents UNIDO, it's intended to promote synergy actions at national level between UN agencies offices involved in Havana: UNDP representing the new GEF/UNDP project.

