LME20

20th Annual Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Partners (LME20)

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SUMMARY REPORT

Museum of Water (Aman Musee)
Marrakech, Morocco
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List of Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Currents large Marine Ecosystem
BBNJ	Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
BCC	Benguela Curent Commission
BCLME	Benguela Curent Large Marine System
BoBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
CBD	Convention for Biological Diversity
CI	Conservation International
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP	Community of Practice
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EU	European Union
GCLME	Guinean Current large Marine Ecosystem
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GOOS	Global Ocean Observation System
ICES	International Commission for the Exploration of the Sea
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICO	Inter-project Cooperation Opportunity
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDA	International Development Association of the World Bank
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IOI	International Ocean Institute
IOTC	Indian Tuna Ocean Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
IW:LEARN	International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network
LBS	Land Based Source
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LME:LEARN	Large Marine Ecosystems Learning Exchange and Resource Network
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAP	National Action Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of United States
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PROG	Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SAP	Strategic Actions Programme
SAPPHIRE	Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOI	Sustainable Ocean Initiative
SWIOFP	South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Project
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
TWAP	Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme
UNAM	Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNWOA	United Nations World Ocean Assessment
WIO-Lab	Addressing Land Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WB	World Bank
YSLME	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

Executive Summary

1. The primary objective of the annual Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) meetings is to provide global forum for sharing experiences and lessons learned with respect to ecosystem-based ocean governance and management. The meeting gathers Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project managers; marine and coastal practitioners involved in implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) projects; and representatives of Regional Seas organisations and Fisheries Bodies.

2. The objectives of the LME20 Meeting were to:
    *   Reflect on 20 years of experiences in LME consultations and setting the directions for the future;
    *   Consolidate actions in support of Regional Ocean Governance building on the Partnership Building Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa (November 2017);
    *   Focus on the contribution of MSP to LMEs, as well as other tools, and their integration into the implementation of LME Strategic Action Programmes; and
    *   Reflect on the GEF LME: LEARN's achievements and discussing the sustainability of post-project activities.

3. The two-day meeting was held on 3-4 November 2019, prior to the 9th International Waters Conference in Marrakech (Morocco). The meeting took place in the Water Museum (Aman Musee). More than 80 participants attended the meeting, coming from GEF implementing and executing agencies, participating countries, NGOs and other partners.

4. The expected outcomes of the LME20 were:
    *   Programme of activities for advancing Regional Ocean Governance;
    *   Validated Terms of Reference for the platform to support Regional Ocean Governance;
    *   Increased number of LME and marine project managers familiar with LME:LEARN tools, their benefits, and results that could be expected from their use;
    *   Increased familiarity with the Marine Spatial Planning as a tool for transboundary marine management;
    *   Agenda topics and timing of the 21st LME Consultation meeting (LME21) in 2019.

5. The following summarizes the key points and suggestions that emerged from discussions that took place during the meeting:
    *   The annual LME consultative meetings will have to be sustained after the LME: LEARN project will be terminated. It was stressed that this is an important technical meeting, which has significantly contributed to raising the overall knowledge level on the LME technical subjects. However, there is a need to take these messages to the policy makers by extending the LME community beyond the projects and in particular towards the private sector.
    *   The participants stressed the need to improve communication among stakeholders. It is important to look at how to get on the policy makers' agenda, and how we can get through to them. Messages sent to policy makers need to make them see clearly the benefits of appropriate policy implementation. To do that, it would be necessary to learn the "vocabulary" of the private sector.
    *   One of the major LME:LEARN products presented at the meeting was the Marine Toolkits Platform. The aim of the platform is to generate harmonized knowledge. Toolkits are a collection of existing experience and best practices from existing LME GEF and non-GEF projects from around the world. The set of seven toolkits was planned (strategic approach, project cycle, environmental economics, stakeholder engagement, LME scorecard, MSP and governance), and five have already been placed online. The demonstration exercise was

carried out with the aim of designing a framework to address the conflicts in a hypothetical situation focusing on the governance, stakeholders' approach, environmental economics and MSP concerns.

- The participants discussed experiences and potential uses of MSP in SAP implementation how to cope with the challenges of communication. There are ways to ensure effective communication, including graphic recording and media, partnership brokering is also a way to help break down communication barriers and build strong partnerships and communicating across groups to ensure continuity and the attainment of MSP objectives.
- The discussion on Regional Ocean Governance focused on the proposal for a platform by furthering the relevant recommendation from the Cape Town meeting in 2018. The participants concluded that:
  - It might not be feasible to develop a platform within the lifetime of LME:LEARN, but IW:LEARN should host the platform in the long term;
  - ToR could be developed now, and the full platform could be developed in the next phase of IW:LEARN;
  - The platform must respond to regional needs and must go well beyond the life of LME:LEARN;
  - A needs assessment survey should be conducted (via RFMOs, Regional Seas, LMEs) to better define the scope and needs of the platform; and
  - Once an inventory of quantitative and qualitative needs has been established, the operational approach to develop the platform can be defined.
- The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will have as one of its foci the benefits for LMEs. With that in mind, it is important what will be the contribution LME partners could provide. We have 2 years to shape the content of this decade and that it will be carried out through a consultative process. LME: LEARN community could lead on its design.
- A presentation was made on tools and capacity development needs for data harmonisation and information across LMEs. Several proposals to improve data and information management in LMEs were made. Project websites need to be sustainable after the projects are terminated. Data and information management needs to be coordinated to support national and regional organizations. Open sharing of data at the national level should be encouraged. Countries should be supported in monitoring and reporting of SAP targets, and streamlining them with the SDGs. There is a need to integrate SDG14 and LME indicators into the SAP indicators.

6. The meeting concluded with a panel discussion focused on forward-looking conclusions and suggestions for the subjects to be discussed at the next meeting (LME21):
- Impact assessment of TDAs and SAPs implemented, which would include not only the SAPs supported by GEF but also the activities that countries have undertaken by themselves while implementing SAPs.
- Encourage people to start using the toolkits. For example, the scorecard analysis can be made of several LMEs, and a comparison presented at the next meeting.
- IOC/UNESCO should work with countries to develop ideas on the Ocean Science Decade and come to the next meeting to discuss the outcome, rather than discussing again how to move about it.
- Participation that is more diverse should be secured. New actors could be brought, i.e. not only those involved in direct implementation of LME projects, but also in complementary infrastructure projects, for example.
- Focus on other topics (like a focus on MSP in this year's agenda) next year, such as private sector engagement. A project that has been particularly successful in that sense could be identified and results presented.

- Scenarios exercise using the toolkits was very helpful. Breakout groups helped to understand how they could be used. Participants were able to learn best practices and lessons learned and this type of approach should be continued.
- Next year, as well as in subsequent years, the meeting should allow more time for participants to interact.
- In addition to promoting use of natural science in LME management, it would greatly help if more discussion will be held on the role of marine social science in LME management.

7. Finally, the participants concluded that the annual LME meetings are needed, but that their format should be made less rigid. For the next year's meeting, we need to think of other global processes. In the meantime, the entire community should do more to make people outside our silo aware of our work.

1   Objectives of the meeting

The primary objective of the annual Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) meetings is to provide global forum for sharing experiences and lessons learned with respect to ecosystem-based ocean governance and management. The meeting gathers Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project managers; marine and coastal practitioners involved in implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) projects; and representatives of Regional Seas organisations and Fisheries Bodies. Generally, the aim of the LME annual meetings is as follows:

- Fostering a mutually supportive global network of leaders and institutions engaged in marine and coastal ecosystem-based management by providing a forum for project (LME, ICM, MPA, MSP, others) leaders to discuss experiences and lessons learned;
- Mobilizing knowledge resources, new scientific applications and tools to support the implementation of LME and marine projects and organizational action related to priority knowledge topics;
- Reviewing marine and coastal project progress in regions, disseminating best practices, and discussing emerging issues requiring common responses;
- Sharing lessons learned from existing efforts with regard to the GEF LME: LEARN project (i.e. regional networks, capacity building training and twinning) and to identify future priorities; and
- Strengthen regional ocean governance mechanisms through enhanced collaboration between LME programmes, Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies (including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations).

In addition, the specific objectives of the LME20 Meeting were to:

- Reflect on 20 years of experiences in LME consultations and setting the directions for the future;
- Consolidate actions in support of Regional Ocean Governance building on the Partnership Building Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa (November 2017);
- Focus on the contribution of MSP to LMEs, as well as other tools, and their integration into the implementation of LME Strategic Action Programmes; and
- Reflect on the GEF LME: LEARN's achievements and discussing the sustainability of post-project activities.

The expected outcomes of the LME20 were:

- Programme of activities for advancing Regional Ocean Governance;
- Validated Terms of Reference for the platform to support Regional Ocean Governance;
- Increased number of LME and marine project managers familiar with LME:LEARN tools, their benefits, and results that could be expected from their use;
- Increased familiarity with the Marine Spatial Planning as a tool for transboundary marine management;
- Agenda topics and timing of the 21st LME Consultation meeting (LME21) in 2019.

2   Agenda-at-a-glance

										AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE		
SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018	09 00	*1* Opening session	☕	11 15	*2* GEF LME: LEARN Project update	🍴	14 30	*3* GEF LME: LEARN Toolkit Platform	☕	16 15	*4a* "State-of-the-art" of Marine Spatial Planning in LMEs
SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2018	09 00	*4b* Integration of Marine Spatial Planning into Strategic Action Programmes	☕	11 15	*5* Collaboration in Regional Ocean Governance	🍴	14 30	*6* From Science to Management in support of LME implementation	☕	16 15	*7* Closing session

3 Summary of sessions (1-7)

Saturday, 3 November 2018

SESSION 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

Session Chair	Viviane Kinyaga, Benguela Curent Convention	
Time	**Title**	**Name**
09:00 09:15	Welcome	• Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO • Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP • Christian Severin, GEF
09:15 09:20	Objectives and structure of the LME20 Annual Consultative Meeting	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN
09:20 09:30	Introduction: The origins and evolution of the LME Consultative Meeting over the past twenty years	Ned Cyr, NOAA
09:30 10:10	The future of the LME Consultative Meetings - Moderated panel discussion:	Moderator: Ned Cyr, NOAA Panelists: • Adrian Ross, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) • Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan, • Michael Akester, WorldFish • Yao Bernard Brou, UNDP (Cote d'Ivoire Coastal Environmental Information System) • Mariano Valverde, UNDP (Coastal Fisheries Initiative – Latin America)
10:10 11:00	Brief introduction of new LME, MSP, MPA, ICM, climate change, and fisheries projects, assisted by a visual aid (1 slide). Focus on new developments, issues, pressing "highlights" and products (2-3' each)	Moderated by the session chair. Interventions from the floor • Marina Markovic, Adriatic MSP • Nena Rosario Gonzalez Meza, Humboldt LME • Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma, SAPPHIRE • Rudolf Hermes, Bay of Bengal LME (BoBLME) • Jorge Alvarez, Coastal Fisheries Initiative-Latin America (CFI-LAC) • Lorenzo Galbiati, MedProgramme • David Brown, Indonesian Sea LME

		• Itahisa Deniz Gonzalez, Canary Current LME

Viviane Kinyaga, opened the meeting, while **Ivica Trumbic** presented the main objectives and agenda of the meeting.

Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of United nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC of UNESCO), thanked Morocco for hosting this jubilee meeting (20 years), which takes place at a time when Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ecological diversity are becoming increasingly important. He stressed the need to ensure our work is science-driven, both nationally and internationally. Although we have achieved a certain level of awareness on the state of our oceans, it is still degrading. Therefore, we need to focus on the science, and modelling of ecosystems (specifically nutrients) are amongst some of the key things we need to do. For that purpose, there is an excellent source of information: the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), which is still in rudimentary phase of development. Closing his intervention, Mr. Ryabinin said that despite the imminent formal closure of the LME: LEARN project, it is our task to make the LME: LEARN process sustainable and find the way to extend its activities in spite of the shortage of financing.

Vladimir Mamaev said that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is supporting 13 out of the 23 LMEs through GEF. He has mentioned a number of specific results achieved in these projects, such as raising the ocean governance capacity for Benguela Current Commission; SAP implementation in Yellow sea LME (2nd phase); and implementation of the Ecosystem Based Management approach in Caribbean LME (CLME+). He reiterated that UNDP is committed to support the LME community during implementation of the GEF-7 Strategy. Finally, Mr. Mamaev thanked Mr. Ken Sherman for starting this community of practice that has endured 20 years of continuous work.

Christian Severin said that LMEs are a strong and healthy portfolio, although it is sometimes hard to explain to the outside world what it is really about. Therefore, we are facing communication problem and we need to find a new way to engage the rest of the ocean community to better understand the LMEs. The LME projects are data driven and scientific, while the Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDAs) generate a lot of information. However, if it cannot be explained to, for example, the private sector what is the advantage of the LME approach, then we have a big challenge. A lot of work has been done and we need to figure out how to "sell" this to the outside community, so that it can use the results without the need to start from scratch. We have to come up with new ways to communicate our work.

Ned Cyr gave an introductory presentation on the origin and evolution of the LME consultative meeting over the past twenty years. He divided that period into three distinctive stages, namely:

- **1997 – 2003**: meetings started in 1997 after an ad hoc consultative meeting. IOC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of U.S. Government (NOAA) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) were the original sponsors. The focus was on methods for monitoring and assessments at the LME scale. GEF funded projects had just started (Guinea Current LME - GCLME, Yellow Sea LME - YSLME, Benguela Current - BCLME). Earlier meetings were more focused on science outreach and dissemination.
- **2004 – 2013**: LME community evolved and expanded, and many more partners showed up, making this an important forum for exchange of information between projects. Linkage to other international projects and programmes (Global Earth Observation System - GOOS, Global Earth Observation System of Systems - GEOSS, Assessment of assessments of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine

Environmental Protection - GESAMP, GloBallast, Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme - TWAP, etc.) was established. The regional caucus concept began.

- **2014-2018**: Period characterised by the move towards a sustainable LME community. In 2014 there was a concept note that was published to make it an LME community of practice and make it more permanent as opposed to being an ad hoc community. IOC has been recognized as the lead executing agency for this community. LME: LEARN has become the operational focal point and the question is where are we headed now: towards ecosystem science, management, governance? It is important to mention that LME community has high relevance to other platforms (SDGs) and the question is how do we want to sustain this mechanism.

Ned Cyr moderated a panel discussion on the future of the LME consultative meetings. He asked the panellists the following questions:

- Is the Annual LME Consultative Meeting, as currently defined, still relevant?
- Are any changes needed to the current structure and focus?
- Does it provide the right forum for LME projects to document and share progress with each other, and other related projects (e.g., Integrated Coastal Management - ICM, Marine Protected Areas – MPA, Marine Spatial Planning – MSP), including strengthening regional ocean governance?
- Should there be more effort to ensure participation of project country focal points?

Adrian Ross emphasised the need for knowledge management and capacity development since they are especially relevant when we are talking about governance at different levels. Alignment of LMEs with the global ocean agenda needs to be strengthened and become part of the global and international world. He raised concerns that not all the relevant partners for effective LME management are always present at gatherings like this. Sometimes, the real stakeholders are missing and our meetings are characterised by an aura of exclusivity. Very often, only the environment agencies are in the meeting room, while the financial institutions, transport and other stakeholders, which are part of the solution, are also missing. He ended with a question how can we implement LME strategies and plans if not all relevant stakeholders do not gather in one room.

Lorenzo Galbiati stated that LMEs, as management concepts, are still relevant, but that there are still many things to do. Many technical issues, such as MPAs, are not yet fully integrated and implemented in all of the LMEs. There is no real coordination amongst projects and actions. Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) are good guidelines but they need to be translated into national actions. There is a need for mainstreaming climate change and to contribute towards achieving the SDGs. The annual LME meetings are a unique opportunity to meet professionals and friends and brainstorm for new ideas. Finally, countries need to be present in these meetings as they are the ones who really benefit and it is crucial to get their perspective.

Michael Akester stressed that these meetings are still very important. Defining the LME boundaries and splitting up the world in these sections has led to some complications. For example, it is not always clear who do we invite from countries because, for instance, Ministry of Environment could be in the lead but they may have no idea about fisheries and LMEs. It is necessary to identify the right regional and/or national focal points. We should be focused on partnerships because outside of this group people really do not understand what we are doing. In this respect, the Ocean Health Index is a useful example, which shows countries that they are doing well, and it has led to a feeling of competition, which in this case has proven useful, because countries do not want to look bad in comparison to their neighbours. Speaking of ICM, it is hard to find a good example of what works.

Yao Bernard Brou said that these meetings are very useful and they have helped augment the momentum for achieving SDG 14. Toolkits and all the other tools that have been developed are useful for the practitioners but now the challenge is how we disseminate these tools to a wider group of practitioners. This is an important step because we have to make sure that the relevant people outside this room are aware of what we are doing and make use of the products we generate. He stressed that the LME forum is suitable for sharing and information exchange and it has helped develop partnerships between projects in Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal. Closing the intervention, he mentioned that we do need to involve more practitioners and project focal points.

Mariano Valverde said that the LME community offers the opportunity to review the state of affairs of marine management, but that more monitoring towards progress and goals in necessary. At local level, it is important to seek synergies. He agrees that there should be more coordination between fisheries and other initiatives, which requires participation from all sectors.

The ensuing discussion revolved around the question how to sustain these meetings after the LME: LEARN project will be terminated. It could be linked to the Regional Seas meeting, or other Community of Practice (COP) meetings or regional events, which will allow linking several processes, as well as lead to better cost efficiency. It was stressed that this is an important technical meeting, which has significantly contributed to raising the overall knowledge level on the LME technical subjects. However, there is a need to take these messages to the policy makers. We should also extend our family and tap into the private sector realm. This could also be sustained through IW: LEARN.

The Session Chair invited representatives of the projects that have started implementation in the year between the two annual meetings, or will soon start, to introduce themselves and brief the meeting on their projects' basic outcomes.

Marina Markovic (Implementation of ecosystem approach in the Adriatic through Marine Spatial Planning) said that it will be implemented in Albania and Montenegro. Overall project value is $13m and the GEF contribution is around $2m. Project kick off just took place and the inception report is ready. Key products will be ready within 24 months: marine survey on important topics such as biodiversity, fisheries, eutrophication, etc.; databases and marine monitoring programs; and the Marine Spatial Plan in Montenegro that will serve as a demonstration example to be followed by other Adriatic countries.

Nena Rosario Gonzalez Meza (Humboldt LME) informed that this project, which has not yet started, will be the SAP implementation, which was adopted during the first phase of the project. It aims at sustainable management of the living marine resources within the LME targeting the anchovy's fisheries and giant squid. Two national implementing partners will execute project.

Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma (The West Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms - SAPPHIRE**)** said that the project is UNDP implemented and executed through the Nairobi Convention. Its duration will be 5.5 years. The project has components such as stress reduction; private sector strategies to reduce stresses through improved management (industry); capacity building to improve ocean governance etc.

Rudolf Hermes (Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem**)** informed that the project is co-implemented by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Projects is dealing with the following issues: illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; overexploitation of fisheries; restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats; management of pollution; improved livelihoods; enhanced resilience; and regional mechanism for planning coordination. SAP was signed in 2017 and project approved in 2018. The

Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase has started in July 2018 and the project document will be completed by mid-2019.

Jorge Alvarez (CFI-LAC) said that this is a 5-years programme, which includes six country projects. General goal is to improve the fisheries using the value chain and ecosystem approach. The national environmental and fisheries authorities in Peru and Ecuador, with the support form Conservation International (CI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), will implement it. Project's components are: improving fisheries governance and management; coastal marine spatial planning with a focus on natural protected areas; strategic communication, monitoring and evaluation; and scaling up of best practices.

Lorenzo Galbiati (MedProgramme) said that the $750m project will be implemented by UN Environment and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and executed by UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), with a GEF contribution of $40m. Major goal is the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) that were identified through the TDA/SAP/NAP process. Project components cover: reduction of Land Based Sources (LBS) of pollution in priority coastal hot spots; innovation; gender mainstreaming; knowledge management; surface and groundwater in coastal areas; integration of climate change adaptation activities into coastal plans; TDA update; wastewater treatment; and development of new ICZM plans.

David Brown (Indonesian Sea LME) presented the project which will be implemented in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. It is a FAO led, 4-year project, with a $4m GEF contribution. Its major goal is the implementation of the TDA/SAP approach. Major components are TDA/SAP development; capacity development; natural resources management through ICM; and strengthening regional cooperation.

Itahisa Deniz Gonzalez (Enhancing Oceanography Capacities in Canary Current LME Western Africa countries - Phase III) presented the project to be implemented between April 2018 and March 2020. Its overall goal is to improve the existing knowledge on the effects of climate change on the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) and to continue building regional science capacity.

SESSION 2: GEF LME: LEARN PROJECT UPDATE AND LME PORTFOLIO SUSTAINABILITY

Session Chair	Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP	
Time	**Title**	**Name**
11:15 12:00	LME: LEARN Achievements and Reflections (training, regional networks, toolkits, MOOC, etc.)	Mish Hamid, GEF LME/IW:LEARN
12:00 12:10	LME portfolio and financing possibilities for LMEs in GEF-7 Strategy	Chris Severin, GEF
12:10 12:20	Transdisciplinary Transnational Funding Opportunities	Erica Key, Belmont Forum
12:15 12:30	Resource mobilization: Assessment and strategy	Lucy Scott, GEF LME:LEARN Consultant
12:30 13:00	Moderated discussion on the sustainability of LME portfolio:	Moderator: Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP

Mish Hamid presented the current status of implementation of GEF LME: LEARN. He reminded participants that while most of the planned activities were or soon will be implemented, the project still needs to complete the activities related to LME policy briefs, LME project communication and Data and Information Management.

Chris Severin reminded participants that there are 23 ongoing LMEs supported by GEF, while five LMEs are still eligible for GEF funding. His main concern is that there is a lack of private sector engagement at TDA level. In addition, innovation and tech solutions are lacking. PEMSEA is a good example where interesting tech solutions were generated. He also emphasized the Bay of Bengal LME SAP's level of detail where all the sectors that we need to work with are analysed, which makes it easier for potential funders outside the GEF community to be involved.

Erica Kay informed the participants on the funding opportunities existing within the Belmont Forum, i.e. the organisation she is representing at the meeting. She presented what the Belmont Forum does, based on their theory of change. Belmont Forum has awarded funding, among other, to water-food nexus, science driven innovative solutions, Disaster Risk Reduction etc. Their website (www. bfgo.org) is focused on two specific topics: pathways for sustainable ocean use and accounting for minimizing the impacts of global change.

Lucy Scott presented a report on resource mobilisation that she has prepared for GEF LME:LEARN. She stressed that there are 85 unique funders, each one offering funds in excess of US$5 Million. A significant increase in ocean funding was recorded between 2012 and 2015. The World Bank (WB) and International Development Association (IDA) are the largest funders. She has evaluated funding of LME projects and concluded that they have to be sustained, expanded and diversified. However, a better understanding of flow of funds is needed. Strategy options for LMEs' funding are donor funds, contributions from participating countries, charges and payments, investments, loans, and insurance funds.

Vladimir Mamaev moderated the ensuing discussion and asked the audience to focus on the following:

- Need for coordination and support for LME portfolio;
- Involvement of players beyond projects; and

- Financing.

The participants stressed the need to improve communication among stakeholders. It is important to look at how we get on the policy makers' agenda, and how we can get through to them. We are still not good at communicating our work to policy makers, and we need to be better at engaging with them. While scientists talk about conservation, private sector talks about money and job security, politicians want votes and generate salaries for education and health sectors, we should communicate our findings to show that we are supporting them in their areas of interest. To state one example, we have to be able to communicate that reducing fishing pressure means reducing trawling, but that this also means less revenue generation from licenses, etc. Messages sent to policy makers need to make them see clearly the benefits of appropriate policy implementation. We need to learn the vocabulary of the private sector, and it is critical that we can show how our work benefits them. Furthermore, we need to translate our work, wherever possible, into monetary value. The LME process generates many good solutions, but we need to package these more carefully to show impact at appropriate scale.

Speaking of financing, Belmont Forum representative mentioned that 16 million euros of cash financing is available, but that they leverage in kind too. Their resource providers care more about translation of project results into policies and what is happening in their countries. There are US$7 trillion in deep impact investments that could be accessed, and the investors, i.e. non-scientists, want to see now the transformation these investments can make, and not only the monetary value. It is necessary to identify other sources of financing that we have not considered yet. Once the resource mobilisation report will be finalised it can be used as a tool for the marine community to access those resources.

The engagement of private sector in LME projects is necessary already in the SAP stage. We should develop business plans and cases that can attract investments. An example came from the Mediterranean where a private partner was attracted by the MedProgramme, but when they saw the process they needed to follow, they started losing interest. Perhaps IW: LEARN can advise on the more streamlined and efficient procedure to engage private sector. This would entail the change of the LME/IW philosophy. PEMSEA is working on a project document where the private sector has been engaged during project preparation so that the investment project is built into SAP process. This template is then replicated in the entire PEMSEA basin.

SESSION 3: GEF LME: LEARN TOOLKITS' PLATFORM

Session Chair	Laverne Walker, UNOPS	
Time	Title	Name
14:30 14:45	Presentation of the LME:LEARN Toolkits	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME: LEARN
14:45 16:00	Demonstration exercise using the toolkits platform. Participants will break into several groups.	Natalie Degger, GEF LME/IW:LEARN

Ivica Trumbic presented the marine toolkits platform. The aim of the platform is to generate harmonised knowledge. Toolkits are a collection of existing experience and best practices from existing LME GEF and non-GEF projects from around the world. The set of seven toolkits was planned (strategic approach, project cycle, environmental economics, stakeholder engagement, LME scorecard, MSP and governance), and five have already been placed online. The remaining two will be published online soon. It is important that the toolkits be interlinked via a platform. Toolkits are targeted at LME and other marine practitioners and decision makers to provide guidance on selected topics. References in the toolkits, available online, should contribute to effective LME management and act as a quick reference point on methodologies and tools. The toolkits are not intended to be a printable tool although they can be printed. They are interactive and downloadable as a PDF from www.iwlearn.net/manuals. Mr. Trumbic also presented the Marine Toolkits Brochure, which succinctly shows the contents and potential use of the toolkits.

Natalie Degger presented the specifics of the demonstration exercise whose aim is to design a framework to address the conflicts in a hypothetical situation focusing on the governance, stakeholders' approach, environmental economics and MSP concerns.

The participants were divided in several groups. Each group has discussed the following issues:

1. Questions that need to be answered taking in considerations the specifics of the hypothetical transboundary situation;
2. Steps in the management framework;
3. Toolkit(s) that can help at each step of the proposed management framework; and
4. Information gaps.

Each group has presented their deliberations. Regarding issues they have discussed, the following was mentioned:

- Issue 1: Identification of stakeholders; identification and reconciliation of multiple uses; existence, or not, of governance framework; common interest and areas of collaboration; development needs of the countries involved; data and information available; overarching goal specific to the countries involved; need to ensure the precautionary principle is applied.

- Issues 2 and 3: establishment of a joint working group or committee to identify the issues; fact-finding of environmental issues; funding possibilities for closing those information and data gaps; identification of experts that need to be brought in for each issue; environmental economics review (using toolkit) to address the difficulty in assigning a value to a particular ecosystem.

- Issue 4: rapid rural exercise to determine vulnerabilities; logical framework approach to put the pieces together; involvement of the private sector; matrix of stakeholders; communication strategy – how to draft it and ensure sustainability; ensure the media is a key stakeholder.

SESSION 4a: "STATE-OF-THE-ART" OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING IN LMEs

Session Chair	Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO	
Time	**Title**	**Name**
16:15 16:30	Elements of MSP and modalities of its implementation in LME transboundary context	Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO
16:30 16:40	Brief introductory presentation on how could MSP fit into LME SAPs: challenges and synergies; elements for integration; expected outputs and possible methodological approaches	Andrew Hudson, UNDP
16:40 18:00	Panel discussion on the experiences and potential use of MSP in SAP	Moderator: Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO Panellists: • Patrick Debels, CLME+ • Marina Markovic, MAP/PAP-RAC • Thandiwe Gxaba, Benguela Current Commission • Yinfeng Guo, YSLME • Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention

Julian Barbière opened the session with an overview of the "state of play" or "state of the art" for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). The use of MSP has increased, from 0.3% of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) covered by government-approved marine spatial plans in 2005, to approximately 10% coverage of EEZs in 2017. Few counties have legislation that explicitly authorizes MSP and very few MSPs are transboundary. While national-level MSP is clearly gaining ground, the transboundary MSP is still in its infancy. There are examples of nested marine spatial plans. MSP can result in a coherent set of national plans within an LME. It can also result in a joint assessment of current conditions across the whole LME and a vision for moving forward. There are clearly parallels between MSP and the TDA/SAP process and opportunities exist to leverage these similarities.

Andrew Hudson spoke about how MSP can fit into the LME TDA/SAP process. He mapped the attributes of MSP with the TDA and the SAP, showing that there is an overlap than can, and should be leveraged. He also described the "additionalities" of integrating MSP with the TDA/SAP process, including increased emphasis on use of compliance and enforcement measures.

A panel of project representatives discussed experiences and potential uses of MSP in SAP implementation. Each panellist provided an example of how MSP is being integrated into their LME, as well as their thoughts on the perspectives of this process.

Patrick Debels described the objectives of the CLME+ project. Although there is no specific protocol for ICM/MSP in the Cartagena Convention, integration is critical for success of the SAP and ICM/MSP can achieve this. He stressed that it is important to show development opportunities already in the TDA to help timely engage the private sector and other partners. The coordination mechanism established through the CLME+ project will help achieve a better understanding of where MSP stands across the CLME+ region.

Marina Markovic spoke about the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic MSP Project. The SAP is developed at the regional level, while MSP can be used for implementation at the national level. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have agreed to implement an integrated monitoring and assessment program at the regional level. IMAP and the Adriatic MSP Project will establish this monitoring and assessment program in the Adriatic. The first step is identifying areas that are the most vulnerable from an environmental perspective. The hope is to transform this information into something marine spatial planners can use.

Thandiwe Gxaba showed a video depicting Marine Spatial Planning. MSP in the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) follows a two-pronged approach – a national process in parallel with a regional process where all of the national parties come together to agree on the key priorities. There is a need to demystify and better communicate MSP, as it takes considerable time to create an understanding of MSP for stakeholders and in the BCLME, since different areas area at different stages of the process. Lastly, MSP helps identify knowledge gaps in the region.

Yinfeng Guo described the identification of 23 ecologically important areas, which have been integrated in the SAP. He also described zoning in the region and efforts to develop MPAs to protect key endangered species, such as the sandpiper. One challenge is that the zoning laws for one country are not always appropriate at the regional level, but they have been able to focus on protected species as an area of interest to both countries. The adoption of MSP can help harmonize these issues at the national and regional levels.

Dixon Waruinge spoke on the West Indian Ocean Region where there are two SAPs, one for the Agulhas and Somali Coastal Currents LME and another for the project "Addressing Land Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO)". One specific challenge in the region is population growth and, thus, increased pressure on coastal resources. MSP is a way to address this challenge and is just happening now in the WIO region. One central pillar of this effort is to ensure that MSP is institutionalized and to make sure that the governments are taking up the marine spatial plans. It is also important that MSP be linked to the blue economy.

The session concluded with questions asked from the audience. **Vladimir Ryabinin** asked how the new Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) legislation might affect their work. Dixon Waruinge responded that discussion has been opened up at the national level about what happens in areas beyond the EEZs. This has enabled them to discuss the area-based tools, such as MSP. **Chris Severin** asked how much development of a marine spatial plan costs. There was agreement that it is difficult to put a price estimate on a marine spatial plan, as it differ from region to region.

Sunday, 4 November 2018

SESSION 4b: CROSS-SECTOR AND LME TRANSBOUNDARY INTEGRATION IN MSP

Session Chair	Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, IOC/UNESCO	
Time	**Title**	**Name**
09:00 09:05	Introduction to the discussion tables	Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, IOC/UNESCO
09:05 09.35	1st Round of Discussion tables	Moderators: • Leah Karrer, GEF
09:35 10:00	2nd Round of Discussion tables	• Lucy Scott, GEF LME:LEARN • Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES • James Oliver, IUCN • Rebecca Shuford, NOAA • Lorenzo Galbiati, UNEP-MAP • Adnan Awad, IOI
10:00 10:30	Reporting of 3 key messages from each table	Moderators report for each round table
10:30 11:00	General discussion on the integration of MSP into SAPs.	Moderator: Andrew Hudson, UNDP

Alejandro Iglesias Campos while introducing the session said that it was designed to be interactive, requiring full involvement of participants. To that end, participants were asked to group around seven tables. Each table had between 8 and 10 participants from different regions. The session pursued seven topics, each topic being discussed, in a rotating manner, in two sets of round table discussions of 30 minutes each. Rapporteurs and moderators stayed at the table, providing short conclusions from the two rounds of discussion.

The topics discussed at the tables were the following:

1. **Data**: How to collect and integrate data at cross-border/international level? Is it effective? If not, what should be changed and how it should be done?

    Diverse regional and thematic experiences were shared, including (but not limited to) Mediterranean, Gulf of Aden, Bay of Bengal, Canary Current, the Tuna Commission, Black Sea, and Caribbean. The discussion resulted in three main concluding points, based on the inputs and experiences from across both groups:
    - Establish trust with data owners. In doing so, it is important to work with the high-level government officials to get their approval and to show what are the benefits and opportunities of sharing their data, but ensuring their comfort with confidentiality/ sensitivity of data. This can be more or less challenging depending on a "sector" that collects the data. Also, some data is considered of national security concern and/or sovereign (e.g. groundwater) or proprietary (e.g. oil and gas) nature.
    - Develop and follow a systematic approach, which includes data protocols and policies.
    - It helps to establish working groups, with members from each participating country and partner with established bodies with record of data stewardship (e.g. Regional Fisheries Management Bodies, Regional Global Ocean Observing Systems).

2. **Capacity building**: How to build capacity for cross-border/transboundary MSP?

Participants had experience with MSP at the national level, but less at the trans-boundary scale. Discussion resulted in the following:
- There are different pathways to MSP, and different ways to build capacity. Several LMEs are applying MSP process and principles through pilot programmes at the local scale, or through MPA planning processes (e.g. West Africa and Yellow Sea LME).
- Conducting a needs assessment is an important first step to identify the current capacities, needs and challenges within the LME.
- MSP tools need to be applied within the context of governance frameworks and stakeholder engagement.
- Capacity building provides an opportunity to share knowledge among participants and pool resources. For example, between two governments, where one may have more experience with MSP, while another may have stronger institutions.
- There is potential to scale efforts up to a regional/LME scale and down to a local scale, depending on the needs.
- It is important to have a common legal or policy framework to help reconcile differences in national approaches (e.g. conventions, agreements).
- It is important to have institutions that can facilitate cross-boundary capacity building (e.g. centres of excellence at universities, professional networks, etc.).

4. **Synergies and conflicts between sectors**: Are there synergies and/or conflicts between sectors in the countries concerned? Is seasonal character of some activities taken in consideration? How the synergies are used and how conflicts are tackled?

5. **Selection of stakeholders:** Who needs to be involved in cross-border initiatives and who does not? Is balance in terms of power and representation (big companies/SMEs) ensured? Which stakeholders (field of interest, status) are more involved in MSP?

6. **Challenges facing stakeholders:** What are the challenges faced in stakeholder engagement? Are these challenges different from a cross-border MSP or are similar to national experience?

7. **Government level**: How do you practically initiate and develop a dialogue between different government levels? Differentiate among national and transnational scale. Is it working? If not, why?

The groups discussed examples of how different levels of government can be engaged in a dialogue on marine planning and management. Discussion resulted in the following:
- An enabling overarching policy was seen as a critical factor to help guide marine planning.
- Clear institutional mandates are needed, especially for the actor(s) responsible for convening and bringing the different government levels together.
- Often, frameworks for engagement and dialogue across levels of government are already in place. Where MSP process has not yet been initiated, these existing structures could be used.
- Challenges:
    - At local level, the relatively short political cycle (3-4 years) can be a limiting factor to the continuity of processes. An overarching policy can help mitigate sensitivity to shifting political agendas and help guide the process.
    - Power discrepancies between sectors and countries can be a complicating factor.

- Ensure that existing agreements are considered at all scales. This was illustrated by an example of an international agreement on marine shipping, which is at odds with the local scale.
- The transboundary scale is often complicated by differing mandates in participating entities.
- Several national examples were provided highlighting that different countries and regions have different approaches to MSP. Both bottom-up and top-down approaches are needed:
  - In South Africa, three MSP pilot processes are being implemented at local scale, and the National MSP process is planned in the longer term.
  - Planning around the physical LME unit was noted as a factor leading to success in the US, avoiding potential conflicts of scale.
  - In Croatia, MSP is enabled through three different approaches: land-use planning in the coastal zone, marine spatial planning within the EEZ, and a transboundary marine spatial planning facilitated by the EU MSP Directive.

8. **Communication and consultation**: What are effective methods for a cross-border communication and consultation? Is the language barrier hindering these processes? Are there differences in methods facilitating the communication or creating barriers and in which way?

Discussion embodied the challenges of communication. There are ways to ensure effective communication, including graphic recording and media (such as the MSP video shown on day one). Partnership brokering is also a way to help break down communication barriers and build strong partnerships. The groups also discussed how to communicate across groups to ensure continuity and the attainment of objectives. Social media is a tool to facilitate communication, for example LinkedIn professional groups. It is also helpful to assign one person, a facilitator, to keep the group on track. Advanced preparation can help overcome some communication challenges, as well as pushing participants to speak during meetings.

SESSION 5: COLLABORATION IN REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Session Chair	Yegor Volovik, UN Environment	
Time	**Title**	**Name**
11:15 12:00	Reporting on the future Cape Town Conference Partners' activities in regional ocean governance	• Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES, presenting Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) • Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO, presenting Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) • Isabelle Vanderbeck, UN Environment • Jeffrey Griffin, FAO • Rudolf Hermes, BoBLME • Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO • Andrew Hudson, UNDP
12:15 13:00	Presentation of and discussion on Terms of Reference for the platform for Regional Ocean Governance	Moderator: Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN

Yegor Volovik opened the session and welcomed the panel members. He provided background to the session by reminding the audience of the proceedings of the Cape Town meeting "Building International Partnership to Enhance Science-based Ecosystem Approaches in Support of Regional Ocean Governance" held on 27-28 November 2018 with 150 participants from over 50 countries, and reflected on the important role of LMEs, regional fisheries bodies and regional seas organisations. He concluded that the principle of coordination was well accepted but the key question still remains: how this should actually be done.

Ivica Trumbic briefly presented an update on the Cape Town meeting. He informed the meeting of the overall goal which was to enhance cross-sectoral science-based ecosystem approaches and the nine key outcomes. The comprehensive report is available online: https://iwlearn.net/marine/capetow2017/cape-town-2017/27-28-november-2017-building-international-partnerships

Wojciech Wawrzynski presented on the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), run by the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), which organizes global dialogues between oceans and fisheries bodies to track progress towards Aichi and SDG targets. He reported on the 2nd Meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue, held in April 2018 in Seoul, which addressed ecosystem approaches and institutional mandates, Aichi targets, SDG14 targets and how these targets could be met. It also addressed ABNJ and biological diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) issues and methods of collating scientific information. Neighbouring countries should have a common approach to reporting on global targets and coordination is still required. LME initiatives, and progress and training activities were reported at the meeting. It provided a forum for engagement between regional seas bodies and regional fisheries management organisations. The meeting developed the "Seoul Outcome Plus 2", identifying practical ways forward for cross-sectoral collaboration at the regional scale, including the development of regional dialogues/partnership initiatives. Proceedings are available online: http://enb.iisd.org/oceans/soi2/

Julian Barbière presented Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG), whose aim is to develop effective cross-sectoral regional governance concepts for the protection and sustainable

use of the oceans. The first meeting of the Marine Regions Forum had taken place on 30 September – 2 October 2018. There are potential synergies between LME processes and this initiative. The Marine Regions Forum will highlight examples of good practice in integrated marine governance at the regional level and support the development of new governance approaches to address critical for ocean sustainability challenges. The forum supports Agenda 2030 and SDGs. More about PROG may be found online: https://www.prog-ocean.org/our-work/prog-marine-regions-forum/

Isabelle Vanderbeck reported on the Regional Seas Programmes and links to the LME approach. She gave feedback on two events since LME19 in Cape Town: SOI in Korea in April 2018 and the annual Regional Seas Programme meeting in Split in September 2018. She reviewed key elements coming from discussions, including the strategy to 2030, including ABNJs, progress towards SDGs, land-ocean interaction and restoration of ocean ecosystems.

Jeffrey Griffin gave a perspective from the FAO, confirming the importance of the Cape Town meeting and the ongoing support of the FAO to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and the Nansen Programme. He reiterated the importance of inter-regional collaboration. He invited Rudolf Hermes to reflect on FAO in the BoBLME region. **Rudolf Hermes** informed that three fisheries bodies are present in the BoBLME region and the BoBLME Project has had a very good opportunity to link with them. They have also had a very good collaboration with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) on communication and better reporting of fisheries statistics, and on overall promoting of the ecosystem approach. GEF and the LMEs funding have provided means for the cooperation.

Andy Hudson reviewed the outcomes of the Cape Town meeting and reiterated the need for ecosystem-based approaches, no matter what the implementation mechanism. From the UNDP perspective, cooperation is the norm and is promoted between LMEs, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and regional seas bodies. He used the CLME and Pacific as examples, as well as the Benguela Current Convention cooperation with South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO). In the Western Indian Ocean, he used the example of Agulhas Somali LME (ASCLME) and Addressing Land Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB) TDA/SAP processes and the WB Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) cooperation with regional seas and RFMOs. He gave many examples of the three entities cooperating but mentioned that there are no simple solutions to the challenges faced. All approaches need high-level political commitment, cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement, sound science, and the use of economic valuations is useful. All entities have stated to think about ABNJ issues. UNDP will continue to work across entities, depending on what is appropriate in context. He asked how we should build on PROG/SOI initiatives and recommended a stronger involvement of LMEs.

Julian Barbière gave a perspective from the IOC/UNESCO. Science is part of governance and this is an area where IOC can contribute. The IOC/UNESCO provides a platform for science and governance to work together. In addition, three regional bodies in the three sub-commissions are also active players in supporting science to governance discussions. The IOC can contribute through global science activities e.g. through the ocean acidification observing network, deoxygenation issues, marine plastics, and can also contribute through supporting information and data exchange for marine assessments. The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) programme brings together 120 data centres. The IOC/UNESCO has a new initiative to develop meta databases and to facilitate regional capacity development, as well as in setting up a clearinghouse mechanism for marine technology, facilitating the role between countries and those who can provide technical services. It is important to define needs and the IOC can contribute through the global science report (next edition 2020). The OceanTeacher Global Academy is also a facility that can address regional needs.

Ivica Trumbic presented a draft proposal for a Regional Ocean Governance Platform based on the Cape Town recommendations. Tasks from Cape Town were to develop a platform for networking, data sharing, information, methods and tools; to provide services for owners, stakeholders, partners, producers, consumers; establish a specific website; and to utilize current tools and mechanisms. As the definite decision on the shape of the platform was not made, the meeting concluded that further discussion would have to take place. He gave examples of several platforms: EU MSP platform; Pegaso; and the PAP/RAC Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol in the Mediterranean platform. He concluded with the following questions to the audience: What is the best mechanism to develop and host the platform? What is the most appropriate content of the platform (given the global oceans governance environment)?

During the discussion on the platform, the following suggestions were given and issues raised:

- The community should focus on content first and then on the platform. The opportunity lies in the guidance for ecosystem-based management. Fisheries governance and biodiversity are already quite well covered but ABNJ is still just emerging. What is not yet sufficiently covered is the path to Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), and how to meet the ten targets of SDG14. The LME forum (based on best available science from regional seas and United Nations World Ocean Assessment (UN WOA) could guide member states and regional seas bodies on how to implement EBM in support of SDG 14.
- How do practitioners want to work? Do the agencies want to interact bilaterally or do they want a platform? Now, each agency is going its own way.
- We do need the platform for LMEs at global level, and the best approach would be to move from local or regional platforms (for example in the Mediterranean) and scale them up to global level.
- One approach would be to see what country platforms already exist and are available (e.g. Myanmar fisheries partnership to coordinate donors). One could ask them what is needed and how these coordination mechanisms worked at local/regional scale.
- Language must be a consideration. If the platform were set up in English, it would exclude whole regions (such as Latin America) unless there were a massive translation, which is very expensive. The CLME+ is setting up a platform for the region to bring stakeholders together as there was a demand from the countries. If these platforms are established regionally, we should ask what is missing at global level, and try to fill that.
- Information generated by LMEs or by Regional Fisheries bodies might not be available to Regional Seas bodies. Any attempt to increase access to information is good. There are likely to be more and more platforms around the world as more data are generated.
- Fisheries and environment do need better integration. Knowledge is currently much compartmentalised. We should think about a one-stop rather than multiple platforms.
- Each region is unique and there is a fundamental need for better coordination across regions. The GEF could commit certain amount to set up this platform for each LME region.
- We could apply the logic of project development to this, i.e. assess the current situation, and do needs assessment. In addition to the start-up, cost there is the question of long-term sustainability.
- A platform would be one way to bring these initiatives together – and there is certainly value in that. It could also be used to raise awareness of the big conferences that are happening, and improve coordination in that respect. It does sound like more projects want regional initiatives, and to build up regional platforms.
- The participants concluded the following:
    - It might not be feasible to develop a platform within the lifetime of LME:LEARN, but IW:LEARN should host the platform in the long term;
    - ToR could be developed now, and the full platform could be developed in the next phase of IW:LEARN;

- The platform must respond to regional needs and must go well beyond the life of LME:LEARN;
- A needs assessment survey should be conducted (via RFMOs, Regional Seas, LMEs) to better define the scope and needs of the platform;
- Once an inventory of quantitative and qualitative needs has been established, the operational approach can be defined.

SESSION 6: FROM SCIENCE TO MANAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF LME IMPLEMENTATION

Session Chair	Andrew Hudson, UNDP	
Time	**Title**	**Name**
14:30 14:45	UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: What are the benefits for LMEs and how can they contribute?	Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO
14:45 15:00	Trends in coastal pollution: Global assessment	Joan Albert Sanchez Cabeza, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)
15:00 15:15	Harmonizing data and information across LMEs: Tools and capacity development needs	Virginie Hart, GEF LME: LEARN Consultant
15:15 16:00	Discussion	Moderated by the session chair

Vladimir Ryabinin talked about the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development with a focus on its benefits for LMEs and the contributions LME partners could provide. A road map, including a vision for the decade 2021-2030, has been prepared. Before the Decade starts, regional workshops and stakeholder forums will be carried out. Issues to be discussed will be coastal zone management, MSP, blue economy, fishery management, disaster risk, climate change adaptation/mitigation, governance policies, security, etc. Solutions will be based on science. Regarding research and development priority tasks, the following is envisaged: mapping digital atlas of the ocean, which will go well beyond topography and look into ocean depths; analysing the infrastructure in the ocean (only 5% of the ocean floor has been mapped and only 1% of this mapped area has been in high resolution); complete the comprehensive ocean observing system; develop quantitative understanding of ocean ecosystems as the basis for integrated coastal management, including multiple stressors; develop data & information system; complete the coastal protection system; reach out to the climate community; capacity development, etc. He further mentioned that the economic value generated by the ocean is somewhere between the GDP of UK and Brazil. The ocean is the seventh largest economy with a value of US$5 trillion. However, there is no internationally agreed methodology for estimating the economic value of services ocean provides to the humankind. Closing the presentation, he said that we have 2 years to shape the content of this decade and that it will be carried out through a consultative process. LME: LEARN community could lead on its design.

Joan Albert Sanchez Cabeza presented global assessment of trends in coastal pollution that he has carried out together with Carolina Ruiz Fernandez (UNAM, Mexico). The major goal of the assessment was to answer the question what has really happened in marine environment. They have used available environmental records, such as already published sedimentary records, corals and some biota studies, etc. Analysis was divided in different times. It defined a number of target pollutants as indicators. Out of 667 records analysed, 42% showed increasing trends. Data were collected also from 46 LMEs, such as South Brazil Shelf, Baltic Sea, and East China Sea. Data collection was followed by trend analysis. For each analysed LME they have a map containing trend analysis of contaminants. In addition, many pollution trends are decreasing. Overall message is that data is there, the tool has been developed, and help can be provided. They can help analyse and report on existing data. They can double the number of data points depending on increasing

investments. They could also incorporate non-published datasets and perform new analysis in their laboratory. He concluded the presentation by inviting scientists to use this methodology.

Virginie Hart presented report on tools and capacity development needs for data harmonisation and information across LMEs. She has reviewed data and information across almost all GEF LME projects and compiled a metadata catalogue of available GEF marine project data and information, and prepared a draft LME: LEARN data and info management plan including draft proposal for a set of indicators on LMEs, related to the SDG14 targets through identification of common indicators. In performing her task, the major limitation faced was the fact that only project websites have been reviewed, while there is information available through other websites and platforms. Also 25% of the projects do not have a website so the appropriate information could not be found. An overall summary was prepared for each LME. She has outlined several proposals to improve data and information management in LMEs. Project websites need to be post project sustainable. Data and information management needs to be coordinated to support national and regional organizations. Open sharing of data at the national level should be encouraged. Long-term reporting of the SAP implementation is very important. Countries should be supported in monitoring and reporting of SAP targets, and streamlining them with the SDGs. She also prepared a draft list of 89 indicators related to the process, stress reduction and environmental status. There is a need to integrate SDG14 and LME indicators into the SAP indicators. Regional Seas indicators should be integrated as well. Next steps in this process should be to understand what is the experience of LME projects in data and information management; what LMEs want as to be part of the data and info management working group and what they want from it; finalize the data and information management plan; upload GIS into IW: LEARN GEO NODE; and review and discuss the draft indicators.

In the discussion that followed, the question was raised on the availability of data on 89 indicators, as well as socio-economic and governance data. Many of the projects develop experience notes, which can be used as a source of data on indicators. Furthermore, indicators are structured on the five LMEs modules. Socio-economic and governance data can mainly be found through reports and not as actual data. Some participants felt completely overwhelmed with 89 indicators. They proposed to reduce the number of indicators to be monitored and reported on in an LME context. An example could be found in TWAP, where expert groups summarized data. The LMEs cover many issues hence two approaches are needed: one providing bare minimum framework, and another that links to national and global databases.

SESSION 7: CLOSING SESSION: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD

Session Chair	Chris Severin, GEF	
Time	Title	Name
16:15 17:45	Perspectives of the other actors on the next LME meeting	Moderator: Patrick Debels, CLME+ Panellists: • Yinfeng Guo, YSLME • Viviane Kinyaga, BCC • Yao Bernard Brou, Cote d'Ivoire Project • Ned Cyr, NOAA
17:45 18:00	Closing session: Conclusions and recommendations; closure	Moderator: Chris Severin, GEF

Chris Severin opened the session asking the panel members to reflect on what would they like to see on the agenda of the next year's LME meeting, focusing on two priority issues. He also asked them to present their views on longer-term priorities, as the themes to be discussed in the next 3 to 5 years.

Yinfeng Guo placed focus on information and data management as there is a large amount of data collected in every LME project, and they need assistance in managing it. Proceedings of the regional network meetings could also be on the agenda.

Viviane Kinyaga proposed that at the next meeting we discuss how the stakeholder engagement can be enhanced. In BCC, they have spent 20 years to build the stakeholder institutional structure. However, they are mainly dealing with the governments now, and they would like to reach out towards the scientific community. She also liked the brief projects introduced during the first day of the meeting, because that has allowed her to interact with the project representatives afterwards. Next year she would like to hear more what the projects are doing, what stress reduction they have achieved, and how they are measuring it.

Yao Bernard Brou, who is working at the national level, thought that the focus on the emerging tools like MSP, data and information management as well as a set of toolkits was very useful, because it has helped practitioners to reinforce their capacities. Another challenge is how to have feedback of experiences from the countries that are already going through the MSP process. In particular, how they have obtained financial resources for the process, which can be quite long and costly. Regarding the UN Oceans Decade, the next meeting should have participants updating on what is going on in terms of ideas and means to finalise the plan for the decade. Finally, these gatherings are beneficial for countries, because they initiate twinning and Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities (ICO), and we need to find room to share experiences of other projects, not necessarily in form of presentations, but through the informal meetings. In addition, there should be an online platform for direct interactions developed, possibly at the IW:LEARN site.

Ned Cyr liked the way LME is coming together in terms of common practices. It was good what Virginie Hart presented in terms of data standards, and that is the source of direction for the LME community to develop common indicators. In 5 years from now that may be very valuable for inter-LME comparison, and will show how effective they have been in implementing strategies within the region. In addition, he also liked the idea to prepare a quantitative assessment of TDA/SAP/NAP implementation effectiveness, in order to see how effectively they are changing things on the ground. Some participants have said that right now the practitioners are missing at the meeting, but we should be aware of the practical challenges to bring them. Finally, a bit more science should be reintroduced into these meetings, as was the case in the past. A few keynote talks in this respect might be useful for the LME community.

The discussion was focused on the agenda of the next year's LME meeting (LME21). The following potential items to be included in the agenda were proposed:

- Impact assessment of TDAs and SAPs implemented, which would include not only the SAPs supported by GEF but also the activities that countries have undertaken by themselves while implementing SAPs. For example, in Humboldt Current LME, there has been a long gap between the two phases of the project but countries have been implementing the action programme in the interim period. It would be interesting to see how effective that has been.

- Encourage people to start using the toolkits. For example, the scorecard analysis can be made of several LMEs, and a comparison presented at the next meeting.

- IOC/UNESCO should work with countries to develop ideas on the Ocean Science Decade and come to the next meeting to discuss the outcome, rather than discussing again how to move about it.

- There should be a reputed person with a keynote presentation on the state of LMEs. This should also be repeated in the meetings to come.

- More diverse participation at the next meeting should be secured. New actors could be brought, i.e. not only those involved in direct implementation of LME projects, but also in complementary infrastructure projects, for example.

- In terms of format, great progress was achieved in making these meetings more participatory and breakout group were especially useful. In the next meeting(s) there should be even more opportunities for projects to talk to each other.

- Emphasize one LME project that has had one or several "good" years and highlight its achievements as a good practice. However, the possibility to highlight good practices in all the projects should also be explored.

- Focus on other topics (like a focus on MSP in this year's agenda) next year, such as private sector engagement. A project that has been particularly successful in that sense could be identified and results presented.

- Some topics could be placed on the agenda repeatedly in the years to come, such as specific tools. We should also ask ourselves what is it that we would like to have achieved within the next 4-5 years. A roadmap, containing a middle-term plan, could be prepared to be followed in the series of meetings and the progress checked every year.

- Scenarios exercise using the toolkits was very helpful. Breakout groups helped to understand how they could be used. Participants were able to learn best practices and lessons learned and this type of approach should be continued.

- Next year, as well as in subsequent years, the meeting should allow more time for participants to interact. When the programme is tightly set, the participants are constrained in their freedom of "movement". We should, for example, think of extending the time for interaction through targeted and longer coffee breaks. Or we could use the tools such as clinics.

- In addition to promoting use of science in LME management, it would greatly help if more discussion will be held on the role of marine social science in LME management. This could include, among other, showing the benefits of goods and services that marine ecosystems provide in a certain region. That could also be the move to bring the private sector to the table.
- Introduce a session on the interaction with the media at the next meeting.
- In addition to presenting new projects, it would be good to know where the old projects stand. Summarize the state of the LME in the specific region.
- People want to know about the projects, but reporting on all the current and new projects would take the large chunk of the agenda. Two-page new project briefs could be written and flied at the meeting.

Chris Severin closed the meeting by saying that LME meetings are needed, but that we have to make their format less rigid. For the next year's meeting, we need to think of other global processes. We have the Our Oceans meeting next year in Norway, we could have the LME meeting back-to-back, to make them aware of our existence. Project profiles are very important. We had presentations, it is interesting but after a couple of hours, it is hard to remain focused. There are other ways to keep participants' attention, such as short video clips, petcha kutcha, and the project profiles as part of the package. Next time we could invite director of the Friends of the Oceans to talk to us, as it could be interesting for this community but also for them. We need to do more to make people outside our community aware of our work.

4   Agenda of the meeting

DAY ONE

SATURDAY, 3 November 2018			
Session (Plenary)	1 - Opening Session		
Session Chair	Viviane Kinyaga, Benguela Current Convention (GEF-UNDP Benguela Current Convention Implementation project)		
Rapporteur	Jill Raval, UN Environment		
Time	**Title**	**Name**	**Objectives of the session**
09:00 09:15	Welcome	• Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO • Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP • Christian Severin, GEF	To welcome the participants and to present the objectives of the meeting. To reflect on the past and look towards the future of LME consultations. The concept of LME consultations has been enhanced by expanding its scope to strengthen the global governance of LMEs by incorporating ICM, MPA, MSP, climate change adaptation, Regional Seas organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies and other projects.
09:15 09:20	Objectives and structure of the LME20 Annual Consultative Meeting	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN	
09:20 09:30	Introduction: The origins and evolution of the LME Consultative Meeting over the past twenty years	Ned Cyr, NOAA	
09:30 10:10	The future of the LME Consultative Meetings - Moderated panel discussion: • is the Annual LME Consultative Meeting as currently defined still relevant? • are any changes needed to the current structure and focus? • does it provide the right forum for LME projects to document and share progress with each other, and other related projects (e.g., ICM, MPA) including strengthening regional ocean governance? • should there be more effort to ensure participation of project country focal points?	Moderator: Ned Cyr, NOAA Panellists: • Adrian Ross, PEMSEA (East Asian Seas ICM) • Lorenzo Galbiati (UN Environment/MAP), • Michael Akester, WorldFish • Yao Bernard Brou, UNDP (Cote d'Ivoire Coastal Environmental Information System) • Mariano Valverde, UNDP (Coastal Fisheries Initiative – Latin America)	

	• how will these meetings be sustained at the end of the GEF LME:LEARN project?		
10:10 11:00	Brief introduction of new LME, MSP, MPA, ICM, climate change, and fisheries projects, assisted by a visual aid (1 slide). Focus on new developments, issues, pressing "highlights" and products (2-3' each)	Moderated by the session chair. Interventions from the floor • Marina Markovic, Adriatic MSP • Nena Rosario Gonzalez Meza, Humboldt LME • Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma, SAPPHIRE • Rudolf Hermes, BoBLME • Tiina Kurvits, Marine Plastic • Jose Alvarez, CFI-LAC • Lorenzo Galbiati, MedProgramme • David Brown, ISLME	

Coffee break 15 minutes (11:00 - 11:15)			
Session (plenary)	**2 – GEF LME:LEARN Project Update and LME Portfolio Sustainability**		
Session Chair	Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP		
Rapporteur	Natalie Degger, GEF LME/IW: LEARN		
Time	**Title**	**Name**	**Objectives of the session**
11:15 12:00	LME:LEARN Achievements and Reflections (training, regional networks, toolkits, MOOC, etc.)	Mish Hamid, GEF LME/IW:LEARN	To highlight results and outputs from the GEF LME:LEARN Project, discuss the sustainable financing of the LME portfolio in the future and, in particular, the knowledge management component of GEF-7 Strategy.
12:00 12:15	LME portfolio and financing possibilities for LMEs in GEF-7 Strategy	Chris Severin, GEF	
12:10 12:20	Transdisciplinary Transnational Funding Opportunities	Erica Key, Belmont Forum	
12:15 12:30	Resource mobilization: Assessment and strategy	Lucy Scott, GEF LME:LEARN Consultant	
12:30 13:00	Moderated discussion on the sustainability of LME portfolio: • need for coordination and support for LME portfolio	Moderator: Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP	

	• involvement of players beyond projects • financing, etc.		
Lunch break 90 minutes (13:00 – 14:30)			
Session (plenary and breakout groups)	**3 – GEF LME:LEARN Toolkits' Platform**		
Session Chair	Laverne Walker, UNOPS (GEF-UNDP Caribbean Sea LME + project)		
Rapporteur	James Oliver, IUCN		
Time	**Title**	**Name**	**Objectives of the session**
14:30 14:45	Presentation of the LME:LEARN Toolkits	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME: LEARN	To present LME Toolkits' Platform and to demonstrate how toolkits could be utilized in a simulated situation.
14:45 16:00	Demonstration exercise using the toolkits platform. Participants will break into several groups.	Natalie Degger, GEF LME/IW:LEARN	
Coffee break 15 minutes (16:00-16:15)			
Session (plenary)	**4a "State-of-the-art" of Marine Spatial Planning in LMEs**		
Session Chair	Julian Barbiere, IOC/UNESCO		
Rapporteur	Emma Kelley, NOAA		
Time	**Title**	**Name**	**Objectives of the session**
16:15 16:30	Elements of MSP and modalities of its implementation in LME transboundary context	Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO	MSP is emerging as a promising tool for integration of stakeholder needs in ocean management. This session is an opportunity to discuss actual moving to more integrated ecosystem-based approach and integration of the modules to achieve EBM, and how can MSP, as integrated into the SAPs, help move LME projects more effectively towards EBM. The session will also review the hitherto implementation of MSP in LME projects
16:30 16:40	Brief introductory presentation on how could MSP fit into LME SAPs: challenges and synergies; elements for integration; expected outputs and possible methodological approaches	Andrew Hudson, UNDP	
16:40 18:00	Panel discussion on the experiences and potential use of MSP in SAP implementation (5' presentation by each panel member with supporting visual – 1 slide). 5 LME projects' and government representatives with MSP experiences:	Moderator: Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO Panellists: • Thandiwe Gxaba, Benguela Current Commission • Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention • Patrick Debels, CLME+ • Yinfeng Guo, YSLME	

		• Marina Markovic, MAP/PAP-RAC	

DAY TWO

SUNDAY, 4 November 2018			
Session (plenary and breakout groups)	**4b – Cross-sector and LME transboundary integration in MSP**		
Session Chair	Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, IOC/UNESCO		
Rapporteur	Marina Markovic, UN Environment PAP/RAC		
Time	**Title**	**Name**	**Objectives of the session**
09:00 09:05	Introduction to the discussion tables	Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, IOC/UNESCO	Participants to LME20 will share their practical experience about cross-sector integration in MSP, considering the main challenges and lessons they can extract from these experiences, whether the experience could be replicable (or not) in other contexts, highlighting good practice and fit-for-purpose solutions. The objective of this workshop is to highlight cross-sector integration in MSP, and the ways in which meaningful cooperation can be initiated, maintained and encouraged
09:05 09.35	1st Round of Discussion tables		
09:35 10:00	2nd Round of Discussion tables		
10:00 10:30	Reporting of 3 key messages from each table (2 min max per facilitator)	Moderators will report for each round table.	
10:30 11:00	General discussion on the integration of MSP into SAPs.	Moderator: Andrew Hudson, UNDP	
Coffee break 15 minutes (11:00 – 11:15)			
Session (plenary)	**5- Collaboration in regional ocean governance**		
Session Chair	Yegor Volovik, UN Environment		
Rapporteur	Lucy Scott, GEF LME:LEARN Consultant		

Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the session
11:15 12:00	Reporting on the future Cape Town Conference Partners' activities in regional ocean governance	• Wojciech Wawrzynski, ICES, presenting SOI • Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO, presenting PROG • Isabelle Vanderbeck, UN Environment • Jeffrey Griffin, FAO • Julian Barbière, IOC/UNESCO • Andrew Hudson, UNDP	To discuss the possible cooperation areas and activities, and agree on the future activities.
12:15 13:00	Presentation of and discussion on Terms of Reference for the platform for Regional Ocean Governance	Moderator: Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN	

Lunch break 90 minutes (13:00 – 14:30)

Session (plenary)	**6 – From Science to Management in Support of LME Implementation**
Session Chair	Andrew Hudson, UNDP
Rapporteur	Jill Raval, UN Environment

Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the session
14:30 14:45	UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: What are the benefits for LMEs and how can they contribute?	Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC/UNESCO	The session will discuss the scientific aspects of LMEs and provide an opportunity for participants to engage in discussions regarding the UN Decade.
14:45 15:00	Trends in coastal pollution: Global assessment	Joan Albert Sanchez Cabeza, UNAM, Mexico	
15:00 15:15	Harmonizing data and information across LMEs: Tools and capacity development needs	Virginie Hart, GEF LME: LEARN Consultant	
15:15 16:00	Discussion	Moderated by the session chair	

Coffee break 15 minutes (16:00 – 16:15)

Session (plenary)	**7 – Closing session: Conclusions and recommendations for the way forward**
Session Chair	Chris Severin, GEF
Rapporteur	Ivica Trumbic, GEF LME:LEARN

Time	Title	Name	Objectives of the session
16:15 17:45	Perspectives of the other actors on the next LME meeting	Moderator: Patrick Debels, CLME+ Panellists: • Yinfeng Guo, YSLME • Viviane Kinyaga, BCC • Yao Bernard Brou, Cote d'Ivoire Project • Ned Cyr, NOAA	This session will contribute to the planning and design of LME21.
17:45 18:00	Closing session: Conclusions and recommendations; closure	Moderator: Chris Severin, GEF	

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