



# Feedback from the Sustainable Ocean Summit of the World Ocean Council, Rotterdam 30th November to 2nd December 2016

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# Theme and Objectives of the Summit

To review ocean economic projects for the coming years

To develop and evolve industry-driven solutions to ocean sustainable development challenges

Particular emphasis on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- SDG 14 'to Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development'
- SDG 8 'To Promote Sustainable Economic Growth and Full and Productive Employment'

# Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): Engaging the Ocean Business Community in Regional Ocean Governance

## Aim:

To bring together the maritime business community and the coastal and ocean management and governance community to discuss options for a more fully interactive and collaborative management approach to regional ocean governance

To identify a 'way forward' for these two communities (Ocean Industry and Ocean Governance) to adopt a closer partnership and mechanism for dialogue and collaboration

Such a partnership could focus on management issues and practices both within jurisdictional waters and in areas beyond national jurisdiction (such as the High Seas and UNCLOS 'Area' seabed), which also fall within or adjacent to many of the world's Large Marine Ecosystems.

# Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): Engaging the Ocean Business Community in Regional Ocean Governance

## Presentations

- ❖ Overview of value of ocean goods and services, the EBM approach, the GEF TDA-SAP process and potential role of maritime industry (including the Smart Ocean – Smart Industries programme)
- ❖ Overviews of the TDA-SAP process in the BOBLME, PEMSEA region and CLME +
- ❖ Some background from WOC on developments and plans to work with the LME projects, particularly the SAPPHIRE (WIO) and BCLME III projects

# Discussion Highlights

There are different opportunities to engage the private sector at different stages of an LME programme. If this is done at an early stage, there is more opportunity to build private sector engagement into the programme design. If it happens later, then there is still opportunity to build on the networks and programs already established

It was noted that there was a need for coordinating between similar programmes in the same region and not causing "engagement fatigue" for the private sector.

The importance of the role of academia was noted in this dialogue and partnership, also noting the need for any outputs to be actionable.

It is critical to convey to the private sector specifics about "what's in it for them", not just make general statements about the need for the LME programmes to involve them

Overall, this was a good step in having the LMEs come to the private sector (not expecting them to "come to us"), but more work is needed to help the private sector understand the value of the LME programmes.

# Outcomes from the Session

- That WOC continue to develop its relationship with the LMEs both at the level of Smart Ocean – Smart Industry (data capture and support) and at the level of negotiated management and governance mechanisms such as codes of conduct, self-regulatory agreements, etc.
- That WOC will not only do this through selected ‘pilot’ LME projects (such as SAPPHIRE and BCLME) that have these activities written into their deliverables, but also directly with LME:LEARN through the IOC-UNESCO offices.
- Recalling that WOC and IOC-UNESCO have now signed a broad agreement for cooperation, this could now be further defined in detail in relation to actual ‘on-the-ground’ activities that should be supported in the LMEs if/when funding can be identified and allocated.
- WOC and the LME community should collaborate to try and identify such funding, possibly through international foundations and other possible sources.

# Engaging Industry in High Seas Governance and Sustainable Development

## Aim:

How can industry and conservation objectives find common ground towards improving stewardship of the ocean

How can participatory planning for sustainable development of the high seas (including established MPAs) benefit both conservation and corporate interests

How can industry and other stakeholders share information and work together towards collaborative recommendations to governments and decision-makers on high seas issues and concerns

# Engaging Industry in High Seas Governance and Sustainable Development

## Presentations:

- ❖ Background on ocean governance beyond national jurisdiction, the tragedy of the commons, the difficulties of enforcing compliance with UNCLOS, the new challenges arising from Extended Continental Shelves, and a review of some of the important biodiversity and sensitive areas in ABNJ (e.g. seamounts, hydrothermal vents).
- ❖ The Sargasso Sea Alliance and Commission – progress and plans
- ❖ The Costa Rica Thermal Dome Project - focusing on this upwelling feature and its importance as a high productivity area outside of national jurisdiction but immediately adjacent to the Central American countries
- ❖ The potential role of industry in the management of these areas through data provision and processing



# Discussion Highlights

Management approaches and associated projects are too often developed without any input being requested from industry at the development stage

The private sector is then expected to sign up to what has been agreed by others, but 'after the event'

This appears to have been the case with the Sargasso Sea Alliance/Commission and this lesson should be learned for the Costa Rica Dome, with industry being engaged early to have input in any design process.

It was suggested that, even though industry was not involved in the original development of the Sargasso Sea Commission or in the Hamilton Declaration, WOC could still have a role to play in representing the broad interest of industry

# Outcomes from the Session

- That both the Sargasso Sea Commission and MarViva/Costa Rica Dome Project should engage with industry through WOC to set up a High Seas Sensitive Areas Management Advisory Committee (MarViva has some initial funding to help kick-start this process)
- That the stakeholders/interested parties in the room should spread the word about this important development and urge potential funding sources, foundations, funding agencies, etc. to support this with hard resources in order that WOC, as a 'not-for-profit' facilitating body, can move this process ahead with some long-term sustainability.
- The Sargasso Sea Commission should now open discussions with WOC regarding the possibility for them to become an **Observer** on the Commission.

# General Overview of the Sustainable Ocean Summit

Industry needs to understand the ecosystem approach and the blue economy better but is very willing to consider embracing this approach through corporate responsibility and codes of conduct

Equally, the LME governance community needs to be more aware of and sensitive to the commercial needs and objectives of industry

Wealth of data available from many different sources. What the LME community needs to do is to clearly define the questions it needs answering

Industry is not opposed to investing in the 'blue economy' and investing in more efficient sustainable management of oceans and of its own activities – but it needs to see the cost-benefits and needs to show returns on such investments

If other stakeholders want to see industry more closely involved then they need to bring industry in at the design and development stage and not just at the implementation stage

# General Overview of the Sustainable Ocean Summit

Engaging industry into the data capture and management process (i.e. for marine spatial planning and for the TDA-SAP process) is more likely to ensure their on-going support and assistance in the management process

Easier to ensure compliance by industry (both within and beyond national jurisdiction) if they are involved in developing codes of conduct, practices and regulation of activities – and, where, possible allowing them the option to develop and adopt self-regulatory agreements and voluntary codes of conduct

One very strong point that was made by industry throughout the Summits was...

**‘Please stop treating us like the enemy!’.**

We all share the same planet and they want to see a sustainable approach as well, but they also have to work within their commercial environment and are answerable to shareholders. If they can work with and alongside other stakeholders they will.



# WITH THANKS



**An Alliance with Industry?**

**A 'Smart' Move for Ocean Governance!**

