



IOCARIBE - Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project

GEF/UNDP/IOC (UNESCO) - IOCARIBE
Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the
Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions
1st Regional Steering Committee Meeting
2-3 August 2006 – Panama City

Annotated Agenda

Welcome

The purpose of the meeting is to bring together the participating country representatives and leading implementing, executing and coordinating agencies in the region to:

- approve the activities related to the GEF-funded PDF-B project workplan,
- approve the budget for the PDF-B activities
- make and approve Steering Committee recommendations pertaining to the implementation of the PDF-B activities.

Introductions

- A round-table introduction of participants at the meeting.

The GEF and its International Waters Portfolio, and the Project Development Process

- An overview of the GEF and its International Waters portfolio, as well as of the project development and design process in order to better understand the expected outcomes of the current preparatory phase (PDF-B) of the CLME project.

Large Marine Ecosystems

- An overview of the Large Marine Ecosystem Approach which has been adopted as an operational framework by several agencies, including the GEF

Overview of the CLME Project

- Development of the CLME project and how its emphasis on transboundary living marine resource governance has come about.

The countries of the Caribbean and adjacent regions have repeatedly indicated the need for attention to shared living marine resource management at the regional and international levels through participation in regional arrangements, and through signing various international treaties and agreements. In response to this need, the overall objective of the project is the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean LME and adjacent areas.

The GEF TDA/SAP Process

- A brief overview of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) methodology developed by the GEF International Waters Focal Area

Using the experience gained from a number of GEF projects to date, GEF has determined that undertaking a science-based TDA prior to the design of a SAP is appropriate for projects such as the CLME Project. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), working with national experts, identifies the relative importance of the sources and causes of transboundary waters problems. Identified threats are prioritized and an analysis is carried out to understand cross-sectoral, biophysical, and socio-economic linkages. The TDA serves as an objective basis for a negotiated Strategic Action Programme, developed through a judiciously structured stakeholder consultation and involvement plan. This results in a shared vision of the Large Marine Ecosystem, and national and regional inter-sectoral agreement on reforms, actions and investments required to deliver it over several timeframes. The process is a unique tool that enables policy- and decision-makers to understand and prioritize components within a complex transboundary situation

Draft Project Implementation Plan and Budget

- A detailed presentation of the proposed PDF Block B activities and methodology for the CLME project, as outlined in the draft Project Implementation Plan. Mechanisms include the establishment of task teams, national inter-sectoral committees and the Regional Steering Committee and their related roles, composition and outputs. Information-sharing mechanisms, such as website, newsletter and IWLEARN, will also be discussed
- The budget and schedule of the project as per the approved PDF-B proposal/ProDoc will be presented.

Expected Outcome

- Steering Committee agreement and approval of the Project Implementation Plan and Budget, following a discussion of the mechanics of the implementation process and the budget.

National Inter-sectoral Participation and Coordination

- Plenary discussion on approaches to achieve and strengthen multi-sectoral input and broad-based stakeholder involvement that will ensure consensus-based, country-driven guidance and engagement to the activities and outputs of the CLME project.

To address the requirement for inputs from a broad cross-section of key stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project, each participating country has agreed that it will form an Inter-Ministerial/Inter-Sectoral review committee, or use a suitable existing national mechanism, that will provide cross-sectoral inputs to CLME project deliverables and to the deliberations on sub-regional transboundary living marine resources and associated technical/governance issues. The committee will also serve as a valuable mechanism to identify and include potential regional donors/partners in the Full Project proposal preparation process and to assist in the development of a full stakeholder involvement plan as required by GEF.

Expected Outcome

- Recommendations on approaches to be used to provide national inter-sectoral input into the development of the full project document that reflects the full support of the participating countries.
- Agreement on the specific role and responsibilities of the national CLME Focal Points in facilitating and championing the achievement of the CLME Project objectives at the country-wide level.

Building CLME Partnerships at the National, Regional and International levels

- Plenary discussion to identify and encourage partnerships that would enhance the success of the CLME project goals and objectives at multiple scales. Where possible, members are encouraged to share examples of existing national, regional and international partnerships as well as recommend new liaisons that might be pursued, based on the fulfilling the expectations of the project from both a country and donor agency perspective.

In addition to public sector and inter-agency partnerships, examples of potential partnerships include those with the NGO community and the private sector at multiple scales. Several NGOs have already expressed an interest in contributing to project activities. Potential activities that would benefit from partnerships include those addressing the requirement from GEF to implement demonstration activities that are potentially replicable within the project region or outside the region. The feasibility of potential demonstration activities within the CLME area that could be discussed and supported by GEF as initiating activities of the SAP include: MPAs for fisheries, management of trans-boundary stocks, fishers' information systems, ecosystem forecasting system etc.

Expected Outcome

- Recommendation on defined role and strong support of the CLME project from Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.
- Recommendations on expanding partnership involvement for specific activities with other donor organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

Terms of Reference for the Regional Steering Committee

- Review and discussion of the proposed Term of Reference for the Regional Steering Committee as described in the draft Project Implementation Plan.

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) is responsible for reaching consensus on the strategic, integrated approach needed to pursue the CLME project goal of sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean LME and adjacent areas. The RSC will guide the development of more detailed objectives and actions for inclusion in the full Project Document, based on identification and agreement of major issues, root causes and actions that are required to achieve the project goal. The full Project Document is the principal deliverable of PDF-B phase of the CLME project and is to be submitted to the November 2007 GEF Work Program.

Expected Outcome

- Agreement and approval of the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee, including membership, composition, roles and responsibilities.

Review and Approval of Recommendations by the Steering Committee

- Summation of actions arising from the recommendations of the Committee.

Expected Outcome

- Agreement and approval of the recommendations made at the First Regional Steering Committee of the CLME project.
- Agreement that a draft report of the meeting will be circulated to Committee members for their approval as soon as possible after the meeting and that a finalized report will be provided to a broad range of stakeholders.

Next Steps

- Agreement on next steps.

Adjournment