



Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11

11 March 2021

Original: ENGLISH

Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

Virtual

15 to 17 March 2021

**Draft Final Report GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+)
Project – Final Report**

For reasons of public health and safety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.

NARRATIVE REPORTING TEMPLATE for the UNDP/GEF CLME+ PROJECT CO-EXECUTION AGREEMENTS (CEA¹)

Version 1.0 – 31 July 2020

CEA Status, at a glance:

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TITLE: | UNOPS-UNEP collaborative execution of the CLME+ Project UN Agency to UN Agency Contribution Agreement UNEP /LOA/DEPI/2016/MCEB-CEP/002 | | | | |
| Main CLME+ Co-Executing PARTNER²: | Cartagena Convention Secretariat – United Nations Environment Programme-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) | | | | |
| Reporting Period: | Report : | 8 | Start | 29/02/2020 | End: 30/09/2020 |
| Report prepared by³: | Christopher Corbin/Ileana Lopez (Programme Officers), Sancha Foreman/Jodi Johnson (Programme Management Assistants) | | | Submitted on: | 10/05/2020 |
| Original Contract Start Date: | June 14, 2016 | | Original Contract End Date⁴: | August 31, 2019 <i>Amendment to Dec 11, 2020 2nd Amend to Mar 2021.;</i> | |
| Start Date of Technical Activities: | 01/06/17 | Date by which all activities will be⁵ completed: | 31/03/21 | Is timely finalization anticipated? | Y for Activities. 3 mths to finalize reporting. |
| Total CLME+ GEF Contribution (USD) | 1,365,000 | | | | |
| Please provide your Organization's interpretation of overall Implementation Status to date (check applicable option with "X") | Technical Implementation Status | | | | |
| | On Track⁶ | Moderate Delays⁷ | | Major Delays⁸ | |
| | | X | | | |
| | Financial Implementation Status | | | | |
| Financially Solid⁹ | Moderate Concerns¹⁰ | | Major Concerns¹⁰ | | |
| | X | | | | |

¹This can be either a UN2UN Agreement, an MOA, a Contract or a Grant

² Agency/Organisation with whom UNOPS has signed the CEA

³In case of different contributors, indicate the Lead/Responsible author's name in **bold**

⁴ At moment of contract signature

⁵Date by which all activities have been completed, in the case of the final report

⁶ Fully on track; or minor delays only which do not jeopardize successful delivery of products within the original (or previously revised and approved – when applicable) budget and timeframe

⁷ Delays of a magnitude that require remediation and adaptive planning, but which at this stage do not pose a substantial risk for the successful delivery of products, within the original (or previously revised and approved, as applicable) budget and timeframe

⁸ Delays of a magnitude that pose a substantial risk for the successful delivery of products within the original (or previously revised and approved, as applicable) budget and timeframe; remedial action and revised planning is urgently required

⁹Financial implementation is on track, possibly with some under- or over-expenditures which do not constitute a real concern for the timely and satisfactory delivery of the Outputs under the Agreement

¹⁰ Concerns may be of the following kinds: (a) available funding may be either deemed to be insufficient for/in excess of what is needed for timely and satisfactory delivery of the Outputs under the Agreement; (b) expenditures (either cumulative since contract start, or during the current reporting period) are too low/too high as compared to what was planned, and therefore remedial measures in planning/execution are required

Technical Implementation Narrative:

Please provide a brief narrative (min. 0.5 – max. 2 pages) on Status of Project Activities, Milestones, Outputs and Results, to date. Please also briefly comment on what this means for the coming reporting period(s).

- ***Outcome 1 – Integrative governance arrangements for sustainable fisheries and for the protection of the marine environment – Ongoing until project closure.***

Through the MoU to “enhance regional coordination and collaboration, support oversight and integration of action for sustainable fisheries and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf region” involving eight organizations (CARICOM, CRFM, OSPESCA, CCAD, OECS, UNEP, FAO and UNESCO (IOCARIBE of IOC-UNESCO), the Cartagena Convention Secretariat through its two technical sub-programmes on marine biodiversity (SPAW) and pollution (AMEP/LBS) followed up with ICM Members for input into the development of the Secretariat’s work plan for 2019/2020. Via the technical input solicited for development of the “State of Environment” Reports (Pollution and Habitat), and Regional Strategies (Habitat Restoration and Nutrient Reduction), the Secretariat incorporated, as appropriate, relevant coordination activities within their 2019-2020 Work Plan and Budget, Decisions of the Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Convention, SPAW and LBS Protocols, as well as in the updated CEP Strategy. This strategy makes specific reference to supporting the implementation of the CLME+ SAP and Contracting Parties were requested to provide feedback to the Secretariat by Feb 2020. Seven countries (Aruba, Barbados, St. Lucia, Colombia, France, USA and Venezuela) provided comments along with Regional Activity Centres (LBS RAC Cimab and Oil Spills RAC, REMPEITC Caribe). A consultant will be hired by the Secretariat in the last quarter of 2020 to finalize the strategy with targets, indicators and additional Annexes linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretariat continued to facilitate participation of relevant regional agencies and members of the ICM at meetings it organized and participated to the extent possible, in meetings of those same agencies to ensure synergies, cooperation and reduction of overlap and duplication relating to governance of the Caribbean Sea.

The Secretariat contributed to a case study for the UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies (No. 209) on Regional Seas Follow up, and Review of the Ocean Related Sustainable Goals, along with contribution to the Secretary-General’s report on the progress made in the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution 73/229 where the work of the CLME+ Project, Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and proposed coordinating mechanisms were highlighted.

Decision IX of the 15th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Cartagena Convention (5-6 June 2019) and Decision XI of the 10th COP to the SPAW Protocol (3 June 2019), held in Roatan, Honduras, called for the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to continue “to contribute to the process developed by the CLME+ Project to identify a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) and a Sustainable Financing Plan (SFP) for consolidation of an integrated ocean governance framework in the WCR as appropriate”, and requested that the Secretariat continue to 1) participate in the process towards the establishment of the mechanism and the development of a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance, and 2) undertake further investigations with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and members of the SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism, regarding the possibility of the Secretariat hosting this mechanism including an analysis of all financial and legal implications.

Contacting Parties were asked to provide comments on the proposed mandate, functions and structure of the mechanism by February 2020 to enable the Secretariat to submit an Expression of Interest. Three countries (USA, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago through the LBS RAC, Institute of Marine Affairs provided comments which were communicated to the PCU and presented to the PEG.

The Secretariat participated actively in the June 2020 virtual Project Steering Committee Meeting of the CLME+ and provided several comments regarding the development of the Policy Coordinating Mechanism.

The Secretariat will continue to participate in discussions on the coordinating mechanism and present final findings to meetings of Conference of Parties for endorsement, as appropriate in the first half of 2021.

Activity O1.1 T.PI1: Formal agreement between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the coordination of actions relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols – Not achieved

Status on this activity remains the same since the last report i.e. while discussions continued between the Secretariat and the Government of Brazil towards finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was identified as the preferred mechanism to establish this formal agreement (endorsed through Decision VII of the 13th COP of the Cartagena Convention/16th Intergovernmental Meeting), no further progress has been made. Such an agreement was expected to facilitate a more formal inclusion of Brazil as a member of the CEP and be used as the basis for possible expansion of the geographical scope of the Cartagena Convention to include the North Brazil Shelf.

The draft MOU (which was scheduled to be signed in June 2018) received no formal feedback and/or approval by the Government of Brazil due to a combination of personnel changes within the government, including a shift in priorities following a change in administration. Following bilateral discussions between the Coordinator of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Regional Director of the UNEP Regional Office in Panama, a letter was sent to the UNEP national office in Brazil office to assist in the finalization and signature of the MOU – to date there has been no response to facilitate further progress.

The Secretariat also invited a representative of the Government of Brazil to attend the 15th COP of the Cartagena Convention in June 2019, but there was no response.

Linked to the formalization of this MOU was the proposed national EBM intervention in Brazil under Activity (O3.4) relating to the EBM Sub-Project. The funds were reallocated to another activity that supports achievement of this outcome and strengthens efforts to engage Brazil in other Secretariat lead activities. Federa University da Para (Fundação de Amparo e Desenvolvimento da Pesquisa (FADESP)) was engaged under Activity (O2.1 T P12) to facilitate the development of the Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on marine ecosystems and working with other South American Countries (Brazil, Venezuela, Suriname and French Guiana).

The Secretariat will continue to explore opportunities with the UNEP Regional Office in Panama and the national office in Brazil to develop collaborative agreements following the conclusion of the CLME+ project and no further action under this Activity is expected at this stage.

Activity O1.1 T.PI2: A decision on a modality for the coordination of actions under the SPAW and LBS Protocols under the Cartagena Convention – completed in 2017/ongoing mainstreaming and implementation continued during 2018 / integration during the first six months of 2019. No further action under the project.

Preliminary activities in 2017 were completed through the convening of the first joint LBS and SPAW STAC meetings in November 2016 (Miami), resulting in the LBS/SPAW RoadMap endorsed at the joint STAC, adopted by the respective LBS and SPAW COPs in early 2017, and further endorsed by the 14th COP of the Cartagena Convention in French Guiana (also in early 2017).

Decision II of the 14th COP/17th IGM relating to this RoadMap requested the Secretariat to update the CEP Caribbean Action Plan to incorporate a Sustainable Development Strategy and a Resource Mobilization Strategy and to reflect the LBS/SPAW RoadMap as an Annex. This new CEP Strategy would improve coordination of SPAW and LBS Protocols and enable a more integrated approach to the delivery of the CEP Work Plan.

SPAW and AMEP sub-programmes provided input into the design of this updated strategy including the preparation of a survey questionnaire sent to all national/technical and protocol focal points in September 2018 – it therefore reflects input from countries, specific objectives for the two technical sub-programmes, and an integrated Theory of Change showcasing joint implementation as originally presented in the SPAW/LBS Road Map.

The CEP Strategy also provides a basis for responding to an interest by UNEP to develop a “*Regional Strategy for Ocean-Based Economies in the Wider Caribbean Region*”. Decision IV (6) of the 15th COP of the Cartagena Convention encouraged the Secretariat to continue internal dialogue with other regional agencies and Contracting Parties to better define an approach to the development and implementation of such an “ocean-based strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region”.

The integration of SPAW and LBS at the programme, project and activity levels, continued to be reflected in the approach taken in the development and implementation of the EBM Sub-Project, the State of Pollution and Habitats Reports, and the Research Agendas (former Strategies) developed under the CLME+ project by GCFI. Other activities implemented under both sub-programmes demonstrate sustained efforts for greater coordination and integration in activities such as sargassum monitoring, ocean acidification and marine litter management. The *Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEAs III (2020-2024)* project funded by the European Union builds on this more integrated approach catalysed by the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project.

Efforts also continued to integrate meetings of the Contracting Parties for both Protocols (SPAW/ LBS) during the convening of the 15th COP of the Cartagena Convention in Honduras (2019). This enabled Contracting Parties of the Convention to attend the COPs of the two Protocols concurrently.

Another joint and possibly virtual STAC is planned for March 2021 with support from the new ACP MEA Phase III project. An integrated approach has also been taken in the development of the feasibility plans under Activity O4.1/4.2 through a shared Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with The Ocean Foundation (TOF), along with the preparation of Secretariat reports for submission to UN HQ to reflect the work/achievements of both sub-programmes.

- ***Outcome 2 – Enhance institutional and stakeholder capacity within the CLME+ Region – in progress***

Activities O2.1 T.PI2: A “Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the valuation, protection and/or restoration of key marine habitats in the CLME+” and O2.1 T.PI3: A “Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on marine ecosystems” - ongoing

O2.1 T.PI2 – Following the substantial progress made in this activity after delays experienced in 2018 due to the absence of a dedicated programme officer for the SPAW sub-programme (post filled in April 2018), new partnerships and contracts (SSFAs) were developed to facilitate stakeholder engagement and finalize a workplan based on the key habitats identified (coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds) yielding timely results. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), which had previous experience with UNEP and having submitted a favourable expression of interest against the requisite ToR, was selected as the executing partner to spearhead this activity under CEP guidance and leadership. Additionally, CANARI is an executing partner on the CLME+ Project, responsible for development of the Civil Society Strategic Action Programme (C-SAP) and a Small Grants Coordinating Mechanism to enhance civil society’s contribution to implementation of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP). This has created a harmonized and strategic, yet unintended partnership which is beneficial to overall CLME+ project implementation.

Preparation of the State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH) and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean

2021 -2030 (RSAP) began in September 2018. This emphasized participatory approaches and an iterative review process to ensure widespread and in-depth stakeholder input into content of the report and strategy, and to build ownership for implementation.

Two consultation workshops were convened - the first workshop was held 3-4 December 2018 in Panama and involved 39 participants from 23 countries within the CLME + SPAW Region and was a precursor to the 8th Meeting of the SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 8). A follow-up workshop was held 13-14 March 2019 (also in Panama) to produce drafts which were presented as meeting documents at the 10th SPAW COP in Honduras. The second workshop was attended by 24 participants from 16 countries. Participants at both workshops included STAC members and observers, SPAW Focal Points, and representatives of regional and international agencies, national and international civil society organisations.

The Secretariat and CANARI then agreed on a road map for finalizing the SoMH and RSAP via inputs from Contracting Parties and experts during the intersessional period.

Following final comments received from Contracting Parties in June 2020, and through a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with CANARI, the draft SoMH and RSAP are now being finalized for layout and translation in Spanish and French in consultation with the PCU by March 2021. It is still projected that both documents will be submitted for endorsement by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention before the end of the project. In addition, they will be presented at the STAC 9 scheduled to take place in March 2021 and the subsequent 11th SPAW COP in June 2021.

02.1 T.PI3 - Discussions were held with the UNEPs Global Programme of Action (GPA) and the outline for an approach and methodology defined in 2018. This was based on earlier work to establish a Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management which is coordinated by the Secretariat. Additional discussions were held with representatives from Brazil on how the *Regional Nutrients Strategy* could support ongoing work in the Amazon area concerning nutrient reduction. Several issues associated with the management of sediments and nutrients within the Caribbean Sea and North Brazil Shelf were identified during a joint workshop with GEF IW Learn, CReW and IWEco Projects held in Belem, Brazil in May 2017. The results of this workshop have been used to inform the design of the strategy including the Table of Contents.

Teleconferences and meetings with various regional partners and the GEF CLME+ PCU were held to discuss the scope and content of the Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan. Stemming from the one-day Technical Workshop on Pollution related matters held July 2018 in Panama City, *A Regional Nutrients Strategy concept paper* centred on the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on priority marine ecosystems in the region was developed and endorsed by the 4th LBS STAC. The *Regional Nutrients Strategy concept paper* was endorsed at the 4th LBS COP and 15th COP to the Cartagena Convention held 4-5 June 2019.

Subsequent discussions took place with the lead agencies involved in the development of the strategy (LBS Regional Activity Centres in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago respectively), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and INVEMAR (a member of the Regional Activity Network for the LBS Protocol), on how best to approach its development. Roles and responsibilities were discussed for each partner along with steps to ensure synergies with other ongoing activities, including the development of new GEF projects on wastewater.

While there have been delays in the finalization of contracts for partners to facilitate full development of the strategy, this will unintentionally enable greater link and integration with the Regional Habitats Restoration Strategy. The activity will also benefit from co-financing support associated with a new GEF Amazon Project for the implementation of their Strategic Action Programme.

The concept paper was updated to build on existing material, including the findings from the first Regional State of the Convention Area Report, along with input received from the LBS Regional Activity Centres (Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), and CIMAB) in the latter part of 2019.

A number of stakeholders are collaborating with the Secretariat in the development of the Regional Nutrient Strategy and the Associated Action Plan. Within the framework of this collaboration, the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) in Trinidad and Tobago, in its capacity as Regional Activity Center for the Land Pollution Sources and Activities Protocol and the Centre for Environmental Transportation Research and Management in Cuba (RAC-CIMAB), in its capacity as Regional Activity Center for the Land Pollution Sources and Activities Protocol, are conducting the sub-regional study that will contribute to the development of this strategy.

SSFAs were developed with the IMA (English-speaking Countries), CIMAB (Spanish Speaking Countries) and FADESP (South American countries) for further development of Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the strategy, with IMA expected to coordinate the development of Chapter 5 relating to the Action Plan .

Delayed authorization of the CLME+ Project Amendment (finalized in February 2020), resulted in processing bottlenecks for some of these agreements which were signed in March 2020 and disbursements made in May 2020. Despite the delays, pre-liminary work was initiated by the Secretariat with CIMAB and IMA with the preparation and distribution of a survey questionnaire to collect country data regarding sources, impacts and responses to nutrient loading in the Caribbean Sea including additional data on nutrients levels. All national data has been received and is currently being analysed. Two virtual meetings were held in September 2020 with the three executing partners to assess progress and provide technical guidance for remaining activities to be completed taking into account the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. These have been reported in in more detail directly to the CLME+ PCU and in the smartsheet report.

Given the impacts of the pandemic on missions and data gathering from countries, specific information on nutrients from the Focal Points in these territories or departments has been challenging. Partners (CIMAB, IMA and Fundação de Amparo e Desenvolvimento da Pesquisa (FADESP)) have been progressing with desktop research and questionnaires were provided to the countries since February and later extended to June 2020. In particular, challenges were faced by RAC-CIMAB with obtaining information from the Central American and Spanish speaking countries noting that these countries had also submitted very little information for the SOCAR.

A risk assessment was also done to determine the impact on activities from the pandemic which has resulted in general delays in the completion of the individual sub-regional reports. In light of this, no cost extensions (until November 2020) were processed for partners to facilitate final payments – all technical activities are slated for completion by December 2020. The strategy remains on track for finalization by the end of November 2020 with informal dialogue to continue with Contracting Parties prior to submission to the STACs in March 2021 and the COPs in June 2021.

FADESP has completed and submitted the reports on Amazon Shipping, Domestic Wastewater & Sewage and Shipping and Marine Activities to IMA which was consolidated in September 2020. The expenditure report is underway, and a disbursement anticipated in October 2020. RAC-CIMAB is now analysing data obtained from research and questionnaires received from countries (to be translated with a report prepared and submitted to IMA for compilation into the final report). The services of a consultant has been engaged by IMA to assist in this process and preliminary meetings are being held to ensure necessary linkages. The information from the sub-regional studies will be critical in the development of the Regional Nutrient Strategy and Action Plan.

In order to further the implementation of the Strategy, two new project concepts were developed for (1) regional application of the Global Nutrients Toolbox (produced by the Global Partnership on Nutrients Management) and (2) development of ecosystem score cards for nutrient hot spots in the region.

The Secretariat further promoted the importance of nutrients management through participation in three webinars concerning Sargassum in collaboration with the UNEP Global Programme of Action, Global Nutrients Partnership and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat.

- ***Outcome 3 – Progressive reduction of environmental stresses demonstrated, across the thematic and geographic scope of the CLME+ SAP - Ongoing***

Activity O3.4. T.PI1: Demonstrating the transition to an Ecosystem-Based management (EBM) approach at the sub-regional/site level in the CLME+ (with special attention to the integration with Output 3.2 in the case of the NBSLME sub-region) – delayed start/ongoing

The NBSLME EBM Subproject Document was approved in mid-2017 with the aim of having national execution arrangements and formal contracts finalized during the first half of 2018. However, delays persisted due to elections or ministerial changes for some countries/partners (e.g. the SSFA which had been initially developed for Barbados did not materialize resulting in many wasted months).

The absence of a SPAW sub-programme officer in the first half of 2018 also significantly impacted this component and resulted in the AMEP sub-programme spearheading discussions with potential country stakeholders to advance this activity to ensure that the Secretariat remained on schedule with activities. It is important to emphasize as well that the EBM Sub Project in the North Brazil Shelf involves work on both habitat and pollution, with a significant focus on habitat.

Activities in 2018 focused on the finalization of national work plans and contracts with the Governments of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Brazil respectively, with these countries benefitting from pilot on-the-ground initiatives, and the use of cross-sectoral approaches for more integrated management of coastal/marine habitats and pollution reduction within the NBSLME.

Following extensive discussions and exchanges with focal points, SSFAs were reviewed, approved and signed by the Secretariat and representatives of the Governments of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in October 2018. However, first disbursements to these countries were delayed, taking place at the end of December 2018 as a result of internal administrative and financial challenges within UNEP due to its internal accounting system and new partnership portal.

The content for the agreement with Suriname developed in mid-2019, was delayed for signature and finalization due to challenges in receiving bank details from the Ministry of Finance in Suriname which would enable disbursement of funds by the Secretariat. This was compounded by further changes in UNEP's internal accounting system and release of its Umoja Extension2 (UE2) and the first disbursement for Suriname was eventually processed in November 2019.

Given the late start-up of all three projects, the activities in Suriname were further delayed. In response, the Secretariat prepared a support letter to facilitate a smooth transfer of funds from the Office of the President in Suriname to other local partner agencies given concerns linked to scheduled elections in May 2020. Plans were underway for the inception workshop at the end of March 2020 – this has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. A contract was signed by the Coordination Environment Branch in Suriname and Green Heritage Fund to undertake the collection of baseline data and establish a repository for such data, train stakeholders and conduct the biochemical tests in an effort to offset delays in the execution of activities.

Both Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana have encountered challenges to complete field work including sampling activities and farmer training/ workshop as a result of quarantine limitations since March of this year. More frequent meetings are now held with each pilot country to provide updates on the implementation

of national activities. Following consultation in September 2020, partners requested a final no-cost extension to November 2020.

Another no-cost extension to 31 January 2021 was finalized for Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad (Regional Nutrients Strategy) following the approval of Amendment 3 of the CLME+ Inter-Agency agreement. Partners requested a further no-cost extension to complete activities and allow for the delivery of outputs and receipt of final payments. A fourth Amendment of the Inter-Agency was later approved and allowed for the completion of technical activities by 15th March 2021. Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad (Regional Nutrients Strategy) received no-cost extensions up to 28th February 2021. The SSFA for the Trinidad EBM Project concluded on 31 December 2020.

The Institute of Marine Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago has been working on several activities which include an assessment of the pollution levels in the study area, testing of the tilapia fish for pesticides, identification of farmers' awareness of good agricultural practices, alternatives to these chemicals, pollution concerns associated with their use as well as interventions to reduce chemical pollution in farming.

Despite constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IMA was able to complete the majority of the project components, however there are components that are ongoing and yet to be completed which are as follows:

- For the UWI demonstration project, two Integrated management field experiments are ongoing for the wet season 2020 at Cunupia for sweet pepper and cowpea crops but will be finished at the end of February 2021
- With regard to IMA, the activity involving testing of the tilapia fish for pesticides had been delayed because of the pandemic and availability of testing laboratories, however a report and results are expected to be done by March 2021.

IMA was not able to meaningfully engage with all stakeholders (farmers, fishers, and communities) as intended due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions but hopes to share results of this study and its policy recommendations as soon as possible in 2021 through face-to-face meetings and using social media.

Among the achievements and completed activities during the project:

- various stakeholder meeting reports were produced including 3 farmer workshops held by UWI. In addition, farming activity at the study sites of the Cunupia and New Guayamare watersheds were identified and mapped. Species harvested for human consumption in the coastal and mangrove areas were assessed to determine suitability for consumption and potential risk to human health. Data on sources and fate of nutrient using stable isotopic analysis water samples were collected (March 2019) for nutrient parameters (ammonia, nitrogen and phosphates), and physical parameters (pH, temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen) at 17 sites sampled on.
- Researchers analysed levels of pesticides in fish, heavy metals in crabs, as well as conducting bacterial analyses in oyster tissues and shellfish growing waters in the Caroni Swamp. Baseline water and sediment quality were also assessed at intervals, prior to the commencement of the project and after, to determine whether pollution has been reduced on based on the interventions.
- Some pesticides and heavy metals testing in fish and crabs harvested for human consumption in the coastal and mangrove areas were conducted by IMA while bacterial analyses in oyster tissues and water in the Caroni Swamp was carried out to determine suitability of consumption and potential risk to human health. Baseline water and sediment quality is being assessed at intervals, prior to the demonstration project and after, to determine whether there is pollution reduction based on the interventions.

- Utilising the “EpiCollect” software application, farmers were surveyed to determine their knowledge of major crops, soil health, pests and diseases and existing farming practices, including their use of chemicals such as pesticides and fertilisers. Demonstration sites were established for farmers at Cunupia and Felicity to show them alternative strategies in place of applying high levels of pesticides and fertilisers to achieve high yields for selected crops. The overall aim is a reduction of fertiliser usage and subsequent decrease in nutrient pollution runoff, while maintaining agricultural output. The field demonstration and training workshops were facilitated by the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus. The first training workshop was held at the Shri Krishen Mandir, Katwaroo Street (off Cacandee Road), and Felicity (27 July 2020). Two additional workshops were held at Warrenville Community Centre (222 Southern Main Road) (3-4 August 2020).

Some of the lessons learnt from this EBM Project in Trinidad include the need to incentivise farmers to attend training workshops such as providing planting material (seeds, seedlings) and a certificate of participation; the need to advertise these farmers meetings with sufficient time in advance and have follow up communication with farmers in order to encourage them to attend; some farmers will not come, no matter what; when agency stakeholders attend they would espouse their entities position, and if all agencies are equal, the priority for the agencies should be equal; however, research findings should dictate priority areas for action, inform policy intervention, and identify the agency that should take the lead based on its mandate.

In Guyana, mangrove sampling, transport and biochemical samples were conducted within the Wellington Park Mangrove Reserve Restoration Area between January and February **this year** 2020?. Over the reporting period, the University of Guyana conducted training for several residents of Wellington Park in East Berbice-Corentyne to accurately assess and manage the Wellington Park Mangrove Reserve Restoration Area in Guyana. The residents, along with representatives from the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute, Neighbourhood Democratic Council, and a Range Officer were trained in the appropriate procedures for data sampling, collection, packaging and transporting. Sampling protocol was developed by the University of Guyana in accordance with international standards.

As part of the exercise, the residents also received literature and were involved in interactive sessions on how to properly conduct sampling and testing if necessary, on sediment (soil), surface water, vegetation and invertebrate sampling, and in-situ testing.

During consultation in September 2020, representatives from EPA advised that due to the current country-wide lockdowns on travel and meetings, there have been challenges with engaging the identified communities and application of the EBM approach. Therefore, the agreement was extended to November 2020 to identify opportunities for re-allocation of funds within the framework of the original expected project outcome.

The EPA is also in the process of implementing stress reduction solutions to target pollution levels and enable the rehabilitation of degraded mangroves. Challenges remain with key stakeholders identified during the process given their reduced participation during the pandemic. Digital mechanisms are currently being utilized to interact with some of these stakeholders but may not be the best method of engagement due to technological deficiencies that exist within rural communities. The Agency continues to work with the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) and the Sea and River Defence Division at the Ministry of Public Infrastructure to complete project within the timeline of November 2020.

Ongoing activities include the collection of baseline data and establish a repository for such data; the identification and mapping of pollution hotspots (the EPA received the final report from WWF Guianas “Stakeholder Analysis and Capacity Needs Assessment- Marine Spatial Planning for Guyana Report” and was able to submit relevant edits to the report); defining stress reduction actions to reduce pollution levels and enable rehabilitation of degraded mangroves (November 2020-January 2021). In relation to the latter, engagement consultation was conducted by the EPA with the community members to share the findings from

the samples completed by the University of Guyana. Saw dust was shown to be the main pollutant and the most probable cause for the degradation of the mangroves. During this meeting, the EPA met with representatives of Skeldon Energy Inc. (SEI) an organisation that uses saw dust and other wood-based products to fuel their operation. SEI is a significant stakeholder in the project since they are a possible solution to managing the sawdust waste from sawmill operators.

The EPA also continues to work on the application of EBM strategies within agreed governance framework to address ecosystem threats to coastal regions (January 2021), At the second community consultation, the EPA distributed the stipends to the ten members present and the two other representatives who were present on day two of the consultation. All representatives with the exception of one received \$14,000 Guyana dollars. One participant who was only present on the day of received \$9,000 Guyana dollars. The community representatives and EPA discussed their role moving forward including the responsibility to conduct meetings to discuss various community driven initiatives to raise awareness of the project and overall goal to restore mangroves in the area. Additionally, significant work was done in developing a draft of the Management Plan with the community members.

The EPA began work in addressing sawdust waste with sawmill operators as well as SEI through the consultation. The EPA is working towards a possible establishment of an MOU between sawmill operators and SEI moving forward . Three additional consultations are planned until March 2021, during these meetings, the EPA hopes to finalise the management plan, work with saw mill operators to follow all EPA permit conditions, create a formal arrangement with SEI and sawmill operators to ensure that sawdust waste is accounted. Additionally, the EPA plans to engage sawmill operators and representatives from the Sea and River Defence organisation to discuss the plans for erosion in the area and river defence.

Throughout the community consultations, the media was invited to take videos and photos of the event. Additionally, the EPA hopes to develop videos highlighting the importance of the project with the various stakeholders involved in the project.

The implementation of stress reduction actions to reduce pollution levels and enable rehabilitation of degraded mangroves has also been limited (February- March 2021).

The convening of regional MSP meetings to plan the management of selected mangrove areas is also delayed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and changes in staff members working on the project.

For Suriname, project coordinating meetings were held with the project partners including the Nature Conservation Division of the Ministry regarding Forest Management (NCD), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Guianas and Green Heritage Funds Suriname (GHFS) between August 2018 – May 2020. Meetings were also held with the Project team of the European Union (EU) funded Global Climate Change Alliance+ project which concluded at the end of 2019. Recently convened meetings are held to discuss project activities and readjustments to the changing situation.

There are also a number of national projects underway which complement Suriname's CLME+ EBM activities through the Green Heritage Funds Suriname (GHFS) executing the EU-financed project "*Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean Governance in Guyana and Suriname: The Eastern Gate to the Caribbean*", alongside WWF Guianas to support the project's awareness component. GHFS also designed the project "*See Marine Interactions (SMI)*" financed under the Shared Resources Joint Solutions Program and funded by the Netherlands Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN/EU) and WWF Netherlands. It is implemented in partnership with WWF Guianas and NCD and is expected to significantly enhance protection of marine and coastal resources of Guyana and Suriname through designation of MPAs and informed Marine Spatial Management. To build on this, a partnership between the Coordination Environment Division of Suriname (*previously under the Cabinet of the President, now a part of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment since the recent election*) and GHFS, was finalized and signed on 28 May

2020 via contract to aid in the implementation of this project. Project activities that will be conducted with GHFS include stakeholder analysis, sampling, training, governance collaboration, knowledge sharing and community participation. As part of in-kind support, hydrology and mangrove trainings were conducted by GHFS to teach community members how to independently collect hydrology data in District Nickerie and Coronie.

Following consultation in September 2020, internal discussions are underway with regards to activity reallocation concerning the application of EBM strategies to address ecosystem threats to coastal regions. The proposal is to formulate a national ocean governance analysis report which will reflect EBM principles and lessons learned from implementation of the pilot project.

In relation to community-based participation, brochures for mangrove awareness were printed in District Coronie and District Nickerie in July 2020. Prints of the posters in collaboration with partners and WWF Guianas are currently being finalized. T-shirts have also been produced with the translated text: "*Protect the Mangrove Forest, so the Mangrove Forest will protect you*" in order to promote participation in the mapping process and data gathering (tissue sampling and plankton trawls), and support for MMAs and EBM processes.

Another proposal in community engagement has also been put forward to develop an awareness video (short film to be produced in Suriname) on oceans concerning habitat degradation and pollution linked to the impacts of COVID19 within the community context.

For Brazil, a draft SSFA was sent to the Federal Rural University for signature (as a third party selected by the Government of Brazil to assist with project execution) in October 2018 – the Secretariat is yet to receive formal feedback on this. Given this lack of interest, timely implementation of project activities will not be feasible, and funds have been reallocated to other activities linked to the PCA with The Ocean Foundation under Activity O4.1/4.2.

The SPAW sub-programme decided to reallocate efforts under this output in keeping with existing EBM projects which were underway in the region and within the wider UNEP Framework, particularly through the sub-programme's Regional EBM Project which was completed in November 2019.

Under the project *Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean* (funded by the Government of Italy), which is now linked to the CLME+ Hub, the Secretariat was able to complete re-structuring of the CaMPAM database and expand its interactivity with users. The database now contains information for over 1,069 Caribbean MPAs with 48 fields, and displays an online interactive map generated with QGIS Cloud platform which facilitates specific searches for any of the fields and allows the download of information in multiple formats (e.g. SHP package, KML, XLS or as a Web Mapping Service (WMS)). Users also have the option to share photos, videos and audio through interactive buttons, and generate statistics and reports. An online strategy to continue updates has been prepared and is ready for use through a KoBo Toolbox application (providing easy access via smart phones). This database also now easily compares information with the World Database on Protected Areas managed by the UN World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) with support from IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). The data base was presented at the III Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas in Lima Peru (October 2019), and the 72nd Annual GCFI Meeting in the Dominican Republic (November 2019).

Two EBM-DSS testing pilots (Montecristi and Puerto Plata) were also developed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) in the Dominican Republic through its Coastal and Marine Vice-Ministry, with technical support by the Italian consulting firm, PROGES. The two applications were created utilizing PROGES methodology and its Integrated Spatial Planning software. Overall, the project promoted the scale-up of results and the exchange of the lessons learned through training, communication and development of outreach products, as well as through the establishment of regional nodes (English

Speaking Caribbean via SSFA with UWI's Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), and Dutch Caribbean via SSFA with the Netherlands Foundation of Scientific Research Institutes (NWO-I)), to further guide and assist in the future application of EBM-DSS principles and methodology.

Through two regional workshops (both in Panama) in late 2017 supported by the project, including representation at the 70th (2017) and 71st (2018) Annual GCFI Meetings respectively, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)/Decision Support Systems (DSS) was actively incorporated (alongside the SOME/CLME+ and SOCAR processes on the status of the WCR marine environment). The now completed SSFA (April 2019) with CERMES was linked with a small grants initiative which also addressed this area. These elements have been identified as important tools for implementing Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) which is needed for the promotion and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods in the Wider Caribbean Region in the context of the CLME+. The SSFA developed with NWO-I in the Dutch Caribbean further promoted EBM approaches in the region.

Discussions are currently underway with the Marine and Fresh Water Branch of UNEP for *Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean (Phase 2)* which the Secretariat hopes can commence in December 2020.

Consequently, support to EBM in the Eastern Caribbean has been effectively channelled through specific SPAW mechanisms within the 2019-2020 workplan and other funded EBM initiatives which have been adequate to address this output. By extension CaMPAM activities continue to serve as the primary mechanism for supplementing activities in support of Marine Protected Areas.

Decision 10 of the 10th SPAW COP also expands on these elements by requesting that the "*Secretariat prepare a proposal for consideration by the COP and IGM on a formal network of data platforms for internalization of Geospatial information relevant to the SPAW Protocol (including the outputs of the State of Habitats report) and consider the trial use of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2 Geonode as one of such platforms. ...*"

Phase 1 of the Blue Finance Project (originally executed through the SPAW-RAC) was completed. With 2018 dubbed Year of the Coral Reef, opportunities were explored to incorporate this habitat and enhance marine protected area management/pilot sites of relevance under CLME+ (primarily via GCRMN-Caribbean). This was supported by the assessment of the key habitat areas identified under the Regional Action Plan (coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds) which play critical roles in buffering/regulation of nutrient pollution.

Funds from the EBM output have also reallocated to accommodate further overhead costs including travel and key coordinating/logistical elements to facilitate further stakeholder involvement and buy-in.

- ***Outcome 4 – Financing catalysed for the up-scaling of priority for the protection of the marine environment - Ongoing with major project activities underway***

Activity O4.1 T.PI1: Feasibility Assessments for the two priority problems of habitat degradation and pollution and O4.2: Investment plans that addresses the two transboundary issues of pollution and habitat degradation – underway

The Secretariat finalized the PCA with The Ocean Foundation (TOF) (February 2020) to simultaneously execute activities for both sub-programmes to develop 1) the baseline/(pre-)feasibility assessment reports, and 2) investment plans. TOF has since prepared the draft *Tables of Contents* and concluded the first stakeholder meeting via virtual workshop in March 2020 (originally planned as face to face in Merida, Yucatan, but reorganized due to Covid-19).

Outcomes from the SoMH, RSAP, and State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) reports, as well the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (linked to Outcome 5), have been used by TOF in the development of the baseline and pre-feasibility assessment reports.

Via recent grant launched (August 2020) in conjunction with the Reef Resilience Network and the broader UNEP (Global Fund for Coral Reefs), submission will be made to procure funding for identified sites especially within the MesoAmerican region.

An opportunity has also been identified to link this activity with ongoing work by UNEP's Green Climate Fund as well as the preparation of a new GEF Project for the Amazon focusing on the implementation of their Strategic Action Programme (see Activity 3.4).

Despite significant internal administrative delays in processing the first disbursement to TOF, drafts for the assessments and investment plans including country scorecards were submitted at the end of August 2020. A no cost extension has been processed to facilitate delivery of final report and virtual workshop in October 2020.

Overall, challenges triggered by COVID-19 in facilitating face to face meetings has resulted in substitution with virtual meetings. The savings of the travel component will be used to support the development of one regional Manual on Mangrove Restauration in collaboration with CINVESTAV Unidad Merida and financial support from MAR Fund and the Integrated Ridge to Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion (MAR2R) Project.

There is also co-financing from other partners such as the Summit Foundation and the Government of Sweden to help integrate and advance areas of mutual interest specific to transboundary marine conservation and strengthening regional capacity.

- ***Outcome 5 – Regional socio-economic benefits and Global Environmental Benefits from SAP implementation are maximized through enhanced collaboration, planning and adaptive management -Ongoing through State of Pollution (SOCAR) and State of Habitat Reports***

The reports on the State of the Cartagena Convention Area (SOCAR) and the State of Nearshore Marine Habitats (SoMH) in the Wider Caribbean were launched during the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held from 1-2 February 2021. A video prepared by the Secretariat was presented by Dr. Lorna Inniss, Principal Coordination Officer of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

Activity O5.2 T.PI2: Inputs for the Table of Contents for the “State of ...CLME+” report and structure for the (network of) web portal(s), provided in alignment with UNEP CEP’s formal mandate and/or comparative advantage – completed

The meetings with CLME+ PCU held in August 2018 in Miami and September 2018 in Cartagena to discuss the scope and content of the report aimed to streamline the expected outputs under O5.3 T.PI2 content. Several bilateral discussions and exchanges took place to ensure synergies between the State of Pollution and Habitat Reports coordinated by the Secretariat and the SOMEE Report coordinated by the CLME+ PCU.

Maps prepared by the CLME+ PCU have been used in both the State of Reports on pollution and marine biodiversity.

Activity O5.3 T.PI2: Content developed and online for CLME+ Status and SAP M&E web portal(s), and first “State of the Marine Ecosystems and associated Living Resources” report (in alignment with UNEP CEP’s formal mandate and/or comparative advantage – in progress

Contractual obligations were finalized for the LBS State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) on pollution for the WCR (complementing the State of Habitat Report coordinated through the SPAW Sub-Programme). Feedback received from countries and agencies relating to the SOCAR was integrated into revised reports. These technical discussions took place between 17-20 July 2018 in Panama at a Pre-Technical Workshop on Pollution and during the 4th LBS STAC Meeting. The final draft of SOCAR was completed, circulated to all Contracting Parties and comments incorporated. The updated draft was presented to the 4th LBS COP and 15th Cartagena Convention COP in June 2019 where it was formally adopted. Formal editing of the report was completed by December 2019 and the report is currently undergoing final layout and formatting. A final draft formatted report was received in July 2020 and is currently being reviewed for final launch in the last quarter of 2020

A Summary for Policy Makers, infographics and power point presentation as well as a dissemination strategy have been completed and will be used to facilitate broad dissemination and update. Discussions are ongoing with the PCU to prepare additional knowledge management products in Spanish and French that integrate the findings of State of Pollution and State of Habitat.

Some challenges were experienced in obtaining national data from some countries. In cases where such data was absent, the State of Pollution report reflects information obtained from other regional and/or global reports. Elements specific to the implementation of sub-component 2 of the GEF IWeco Project on the *Strengthening of the Sustainable Land Management, Integrated Water Resources Management (and Water-Use Efficiency) and Ecosystems Monitoring, and Indicators framework now underway will further complement the work of SOCAR and SOME.*

Following a recommendation of the 4th LBS STAC and linked to Activity O3.4. T.PI1, an integrated data set on pollution and habitat will be developed in coordination with the CLME+ Project and the work for the Caribbean Marine Atlas (Phase 2). This will include input from the EBM Sub-Project including identification of pollution and habitat hot spots, water quality testing and habitat assessment. The redesigned CEP website which was launched in early 2019 is being used along with a Communications Strategy to showcase the results of SOCAR, State of Habitat and SOME.

In collaboration with CERMES (with support from IUCN-Biopama Programme, GCFI and CaMPAM), the XII edition of the Training the Trainers (ToT) regional MPA course in Barbados was used as a vehicle for stakeholder collaboration, training and capacity building by interconnecting linkages with countries within the CLME able to *facilitate targeted stakeholder trainings in data management, ecosystem services and valuation methods*, and specific outputs which overlap with the CLME+ Projects. An extension of the ToT via the small grants initiative to interested islands which was facilitated through the SSFA with CERMES, enabled additional data collection and processing which may be of value to the State of the Habitat report.

In connection with the CANARI partnership and outputs outlined under the SSFA, the desk review towards development of the SoMH report facilitated a first draft which was presented at the 8th SPAW STAC (see Activities O2.1 T.PI2). This supported further feedback and discussions during the SPAW STAC in December 2018 which enabled an advanced draft document via the overview report which was presented at the 10th SPAW COP held in Honduras. This was subsequently reflected via Decisions 10 and 15 towards the preparation of a proposal concerning data platforms and Geospatial information/the SoMH's relevance in supporting sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

Further linkages have been developed through institutional collaborations with affiliates such as the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) which although not directly within the CLME region, serves as a source for existing baseline/correlational regional information and stakeholder connectivity for LME data. This is through a renewed MoU with MAR Fund and now concluded (October 2019) SSFA under the ICRI/UNEP Grants

Project "*Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region*". Additional data collection, monitoring and support is being achieved through the reactivated SPAW GCRMN-Caribbean Network and its established *Guidelines for Coral Reef Biophysical Monitoring*.

Other relevant initiatives and reports where there has been close collaboration include the development of a World Bank Publication on Pollution entitled "*Not a Minute to Waste*", the research strategies relating to pollution and biodiversity being developed by GCFI under the CLME+ Project, the design of the survey form on GEAF Indicators for pollution and habitat and other regional environmental reports including on Coral Reefs, Solid Waste, Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Pollution.

Since May 2020, the Secretariat in consultation with the PCU's Senior Technical Officer, has provided substantial focal point /regional project details to enable population of data fields and updates to the CLME+ Hub.

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|------------|
| Has the <i>technical implementation status</i> information in the online "Technical Reporting Planning & Tracking" <i>Smartsheet Forms</i> been updated? | YES | Date of last update | 28/07/2020 |
| Are any adjustments/changes to the timeline/delivery dates/deadlines under the CEA's Results Framework/Gantt Chart being submitted for review & approval by the CLME+ PCU at this stage? | YES | Upon approval: have the approved changes been incorporated in <i>Smartsheet</i> ? | YES |

Briefly identify any Best Practices & Lessons Learnt.

Many ongoing activities continue to benefit from linking with other regional projects, workshops and meetings (not specifically related to CLME+, but which involve several participating stakeholders involved with/linked to the CLME+ project) – this has helped to fast track outputs and enhance regional dialogue. The primary focus continues to be internal administrative adaptations to ensure consistency of UNEP's internal budget figures with the CLME+ project expenditure reports, along with increased efforts to get new contracts processed, and existing ones completed to meet project deadlines. Attempts to identify tangible links to specific SDGs via the updated CEP Strategy, as well as links to other GEF Projects (Sustainable Cities, Ocean Invest, Amazon, IWeco, GoMLME) is ongoing, along with similarly aligned projects with other global counterparts such as the European Union via the newly launched *ACP-MEAs III* project. Linkages to priority issues such as Sargassum and new concepts such as Blue Economy and ocean acidification have been strategically useful in achieving overall project objectives, as well as joint participation in events such as the GEF International Waters Conference where a joint IWeco/CLME+ poster won the prize as best poster. New partnerships have also been developed in alignment with these issues e.g. MoU with the Ocean Foundation which was finalized in September 2019., along with MoU's in process (e.g. with OSPAR Commission, INVEMAR, Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA), INVEMAR, CARPHA, GCFI), and a draft proposal for collaboration between the Secretariat and the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

Briefly describe how the GEAF¹¹ Framework has been mainstreamed in the execution of Activities (as applicable).

The EBM Project Document for the North Brazil Shelf has considered GEAF, including M&E framework and institutional analysis under Activity O3.4. T.PI1. Specific engagement and discussions with CERMES were held to ensure that the GEAF frameworks was considered in the development of the EBM Sub-Project. Involvement of CERMES in initial planning calls with the three countries for further engagement during national implementation. GEAF was also fully incorporated into the SOCAR and has been included in the State of

¹¹Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework

Habitat Report. The Secretariat provided specific input into the revision of the proposed GEAF habitat and pollution indicators and completed the survey relating its work on pollution from a Governance perspective.

Briefly describe any collaboration with other CLME+ partners/organizations on CLME+ Project Outputs. Please also comment if the Activities under the Agreement have (a) contributed to the establishment and optimization of NIC¹²s; (b) to the development of the CLME+ SOMEE¹³ and SAP M&E mechanisms; (c) to the consolidation and/or expansion of the Global CLME+ Partnership.

Comment if/how any of the formally established Coordination Mechanisms¹⁴ and/or Working Groups¹⁵ under the CLME+ Regional Governance Framework (RGF) have been engaged in the execution of Activities.

Coordination Mechanism with GEF and other projects, meetings and NICs:

- Active participation in all meetings of the CLME+: SAP ICM, PEG, Communications
- Active participation in partner meetings e.g. preparation for GCFI meetings to discuss regional priorities particularly relating to EBM at Annual GCFI Conference (Colombia, 2018; DR, 2019), and 2nd Meeting of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Spawning Aggregations Working Group (2018, Miami); IWLearn Meeting (2019, Colombia)
- Several virtual meetings and webinars in 2020 where several topics relevant to the work of CLME+ were shared.
- Invitations extended to all CLME+ partners to attend relevant meetings of Secretariat - STACs, COPs, IGM as well as relevant meetings of the GEF IWeco project etc.
- Linkages made among GEF Projects: CReW/CReW+, IWeco, CLME+, Amazon, IWLearn and GoMLME, including agencies involved in those projects such as CANARI
- Sharing of focal point lists and broader dissemination of programme outputs to multiple contact persons
- Cooperation with the OSPAR Commission to help guide activities and to ensure synergies with the CLME+ SAP and experiences from other LMEs
- Establishment of linkages with blue economy work in the Wider Caribbean region.

EBM Sub-Project Development:

- Involvement of CERMES and FAO in implementation of EBM project for North Brazil Shelf to ensure GEAF is built in and practical collaboration with FAO sub-project in same area
- Consultations with Governments and relevant partners (Blue Finance, Coral Reef Unit, UNEPHQ, EBM Italian-funded Project) on the strategy for development EBM Caribbean Project

SOMEE:

- Early engagement of CLME+ PCU in SOCAR and SoMH development process. CLME+ sits on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Group which coordinated the development of SOCAR.

Research Priorities – Pollution and Habitat:

- Launch of the SPAW adhoc Working Groups (protected areas, species, exemptions and Sargassum) according to the rules of the recently adopted Terms of Reference following STAC8 (January 2020)
- Review and update of the Marine Mammal Action Plan for the SPAW Protocol (underway) with linkages to pollution and habitat loss (scheduled for completion August 2020)
- Carib'Coast project (launched 2019) executed via the SPAW-RAC focused on interconnectivity between the 3 marine ecosystems (coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves) and their ecosystem services especially as it relates to coastal protection
- Coordination with ICRI and GCRMN concerning corals conservation, monitoring and restoration- the Secretariat (via its SPAW-RAC) continues to act as the regional coordinator for the redefined

¹²National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms

¹³ The CLME+ "State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies" reporting mechanism

¹⁴E.g. Project Executive Group, Project Steering Committee, Interim Fisheries Coordination Mechanism, CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism

¹⁵E.g. Joint WECAFC-OSPESCA-CRFM Spiny Lobster Working Group, Flyingfish Working Group, Shrimp & Groundfish Working Group, Data & Information Working Groups, etc.

GCRMN by providing guidance for the Steering Committee (SC); as regional coordinator the SPAW-RAC has helped in gathering coral reef monitoring data for the Caribbean. Following the rules of a “data sharing agreement” outlined in the updated GCRMN standardized data collection and monitoring, this data has been submitted to the Global-GCRMN towards producing the next “Global coral reef status and trends report” for 2020

- Close working relationship with GCFI via annual meetings (Colombia, 2018; DR, 2019) and through the OSPAR/CEP Cooperation Project
- New MoU with the Ocean Foundation (2019) in response to recommendations from the 8th SPAW STAC to implement ocean acidification monitoring and mitigation projects in key marine ecosystems in countries that have ratified the Protocol, and to seek collaboration for proposals to expand funding opportunities; enhanced partnership via Regional Strategic Framework for Cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)/CARICOM (2019)
- New ACP- MEA Project Phase III now underway
- Open-Ended Monitoring and Assessment Working Group established, and First meeting held in September 2019
- Collaboration and workshop facilitation via the LBS and SPAW RACs (e.g. GCRMN monitoring; Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease; general capacity building)
- Cooperation and exchanges with Mar Fund for Mangroves Strategy in Mesoamerica; including renewed MoU until 2026
- Ongoing SPAW-LBS regional assessment on the Outbreak of Sargassum in the region which was presented at 10th SPAW COP via a white paper “*Sargassum outbreak in the Caribbean: Challenges, opportunities and regional situation*” – this paper is under review in keeping with new findings/developments linked to the influx. This is also to be linked to ongoing work on nutrients
- Convening of a Special Session on the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CARIBWen) at the 8th SPAW STAC - organized by the UNODC and the Secretariat with the support of the Animal Welfare Institute to further develop and strengthen operational, prosecutorial and judicial capacities in the fight against wildlife crime in the Caribbean and provide Parties with a format with which to report (for consideration and endorsement by the Parties as a reporting mechanism to encourage transparency, accuracy of species status and complying with SPAW Protocol e.g. exemptions format);
- Establishment of linkages with the Research and Monitoring Partnership of the GEF IWECO Project and formal exchange of ideas facilitated between the CARPHA and GCFI. Priority areas identified included marine litter, pollution strategy, nutrients and sargassum.
- Multiple research institutions and universities NOAA, CINVESTAV, Smithsonian, INVEMAR, etc.

Communications and Outreach:

- Joint Calendars shared with all CLME+ partners
- Social Media Outreach (primarily Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and sharing of posts from several partners
- Development and dissemination of joint press releases and communication with partner agencies
- Input to project database and capitalization of data from GEF IWECO dashboard
- Improved and redesigned CEP website (launched in February 2019) with regular blogposts to highlight project achievements and short updates; Secretariat newsletters

Mainstreaming of gender/youth considerations

How have gender/youth considerations been mainstreamed in the activities under the CEA?
(please illustrate with concrete examples, where possible)

Consideration has been given in the hiring of female consultants under the project who possess extensive experience, technical background and intimate knowledge of the WCR/CLME region. Gender was considered in the design and implementation of the EBM project alongside UNDP/UNEP Guidelines in the identification of indicators and target groups. The Secretariat continues integration of youth through its intern programme which targets young professionals – for 2020 a record was set with over 5 interns heavily involved in

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>programmatic work including the CLME+. Work with youth has also been strengthened through engagement with the Caribbean Youth Environment Network on marine litter issues and participation in school activities for days of environmental significance e.g. World Wetlands Day. New communication products on EBM slated for launch.</p> |
| Mainstreaming of climate change considerations | |
| <p>How has climate variability and change been given consideration during the execution of activities under the CEA?</p> | <p>Climate Change was considered in the design of EBM project activities as well as the development of the State of Pollution (SOCAR) and State of Habitat Reports – specifically with LBS, SPAW and IGM/COP Decisions adopted to ensure that in developing the LBS SOCAR and State of Habitats reports and their subsequent integration into the CLME+ SOMEE, climate variability is reflected. Through the SPAW COP Decisions, there is also a view to enhance EBM activities in the region through the support of CLME+ project. Integration of LBS and SPAW in the roadmap is expected to highlight the importance of climate variability and how resilience could be developed in the region to respond through greater collaborative action. Specific efforts are ongoing to develop new project proposals targeting Green Climate Funding.</p> |
| <p>Please comment on the <u>robustness</u> of the identified/developed/implemented solutions, in the face of climate variability and change. (please illustrate with concrete examples, where possible)</p> | <p>In the context of SIDS, the information provided via State of Habitat reports will provide a roadmap to assess the specific needs within the region to facilitate a very specific and targeted approach to address climate variability and change. The anticipated strategies and conceptualized outcomes/frameworks under SOCAR, SOMEE, with a further focus on EBM activities, are expected to ensure that the required solutions are attainable, realistic, and by extension effective as it relates to the WCR - also further integration relating to the relevant SDG's including SDGs 6 on water and sanitation and 14 on oceans.</p> |
| <p>How have the activities under the CEA led to, or paved the path for <u>increased resilience</u> of the socio-ecological system to climate change? (please illustrate with concrete examples, where possible)</p> | <p>To be assessed at the end of project activities and evaluation of outcomes at the end of the project life cycle. In developing regional action plans and regional investment plans as well as during EBM project implementation, efforts will be made to ensure that climate change considerations are fully integrated, and reference made to existing climate change plans at national and regional levels.</p> |
| Risk Analysis | |
| <p>Please described if, and how risks already identified under the Agreement document and/or in prior reporting efforts, or newly identified during the current reporting period, have been addressed.</p> | <p>Risk: Covid-19 (March 2020) has greatly impacted previous scheduled meetings and project activities slated for final completion Response: new no-cost extensions; adjusted activity completion timelines; transition to virtual meetings Risk: Limited Staff at the Secretariat involved in project with high turnover/lateral movements in some areas resulting in the loss of key staff involved/knowledgeable on project since inception; launch on new UNEP portal dealing with agreements has hampered progress due to system glitches and formalization issues Response: More staff exposed to project, meetings and report preparation; retention of staff heavily involved in project; continued training on use of new portal Risk: Limited Resources/exposure (particularly human) for some of the deliverables e.g. those linked to support from the RACs</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>Response: Partnership established with other projects such as GEF IWEco which provided co-financing, GCFI/OSPAR; ACP-MEA via EU, the SPAW EBM Project, as well as LBS and SPAW RACs for technical support</p> <p>Risk: Perception that CLME+ is external to our core business</p> <p>Response: Recommendations and Decisions from STACs, COPs and IGM continue to enable integration of CLME+ activities into Secretariat Work Plans at the Programme and Project Levels</p> <p>Risk: Administrative Challenges about processing of contracts and making payments to partners as well as obtaining timely information on financial status of the project.</p> <p>Response: Greater exposure and training of Secretariat staff and escalating concerns to higher management in UNEP HQ</p> |
| <p>Please identify and describe any (major) anticipated future risks that may affect timely and satisfactory delivery of the outputs under the Agreement and describe how these will be addressed/mitigated in the next reporting period(s).</p> | <p>Staff/administrative changes within the Secretariat – specific to individuals who play a key role in the execution or processing of activities under the project continues to pose a challenge. Even with key replacements in 2018 for the Senior Fund Manager and SPAW Programme Officer, there remains functional gaps critical to the administrative and programme units of the office.</p> <p>Anticipated challenges regarding stakeholder collaboration and coordination – dependent on availability and schedule of key country persons/focal points directly or indirectly involved with the project (particularly within Government departments) – would result in delays in executing meetings, workshops and finalizing necessary project documents and reports.</p> <p>All of the above have been further magnified due to Covid-19.</p> |

Financial Implementation Narrative:

| | | | |
|--|------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <p>Please provide a brief narrative on Financial Implementation Status, to date. Please also briefly comment on what this means for the coming reporting period(s).</p> | | | |
| <p>Of the total funds reflected from the disbursed CLME+ Smartsheet amount (USD1,310,000*), a total of USD1,189,832 has been spent to date (91%, or 87% of full project amount USD1,365,000) inclusive of PSC Figures have increased in keeping with disbursements which were pending under agreements or consultancies from the last report. However, due to Covid-19, progressive expenditure via final disbursements (scheduled for/by July 2020) stagnated with amendments (no cost extensions) for most agreements which will give partners extra time to complete activities until November/December 2020. The amendments have therefore resulted in adjusted disbursement dates between October and December 2020 once final financial and progress reports are submitted. This has been updated in the excel sheet (attached).</p> | | | |
| <p>All projected costs relating to travel and any operational overheads continue to be internalized against project outputs.</p> | | | |
| <p>Cost savings from reduced air travel and O3.4. T.PI1 have been reshuffled and earmarked for a final consultancy/agreement with CANARI (October-December 2020) to finesse/generate content under O2.1 T.PI2, O4.1 T.PI1 and O5.3 T.PI2.</p> | | | |
| <p>Has the <i>financial implementation status</i> information in the online “Financial Reporting Planning & Tracking” Smartsheet Form been updated?</p> | <p>YES</p> | <p>Date of last update</p> | <p>30/09/2020</p> |

| | | | |
|--|----|--|------|
| Are any adjustments to the financial planning and/or payment schedule under this CEA being submitted for review & approval by the CLME+ PCU at this stage? | No | Upon approval: have the approved changes been incorporated in <i>Smartsheet</i> ? | N.A. |
|--|----|--|------|

Link to online Smartsheet Technical Report: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/home>

Link to online Smartsheet Financial Report: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/home>

List of attachments: