

# REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CARIBBEAN AND NORTH BRAZIL SHELF LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (CLME+) PROJECT

Meeting held online, hosted and chaired by the Government of Panama

16-18 June 2020

Catalyzing implementation of the  
Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and  
North Brazil Shelf LME's (2015-2025)



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## ACRONYMS

ARAP	<i>Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos</i>
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCAD	Central American Commission for the Environment & Development
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CMA2	Caribbean Marine Atlas (Project acronym)
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEAF	Governance and Effectiveness Assessment Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GlobalCAD	Centre of Partnership for Development
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCARIBE	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IW-LEARN	International Waters Learning Exchange and Resources Network
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSPESCA	Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation / <i>Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano</i>
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PEG	Project Executive Group
PIF	Project Identification Form
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RPC	Regional Project Coordinator
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCM	Steering Committee Meeting
SOMEE	State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USA	United States of America
USD	United States dollar
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

## INTRODUCTION

1. This Intersessional Meeting of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Development Programme's Global Environment Facility's (UNDP/GEF) Project "*Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*" (CLME+) was convened from 16 – 18 June 2020.
2. In light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impossibility of holding a face-to-face meeting, an alternative approach was adopted, and the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU) on 3 April 2020 informed the members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of changes to the original arrangements for the meeting. The revised approach involved the following elements and steps:
  - The meeting would be held virtually, using a teleconferencing platform with simultaneous interpretation services and all the features required for the effective conduct of the meeting.
  - The CLME+ PCU would provide a virtual platform ([www.loomio.org](http://www.loomio.org)) for Steering Committee members to engage in review, discussion, negotiation, consensus-building. and, where possible and deemed appropriate, decision-making, during the months ahead of the virtual meeting itself. On 18 May, the PCU shared with members of the PSC a detailed Work Programme that identified the actions required from PSC members between that date and the end of the virtual PSC meeting. This Work Programme was provided as a "living document" and was continuously updated during that period as more reference materials became available, with links to these reference materials.
  - The virtual meeting of the PSC would then provide an opportunity to further discuss and resolve, in particular, those contentious and more complex matters that could not be successfully addressed in advance through the aforementioned platform.
  - The Government of Panama, current Chair of the Steering Committee, would convene the virtual CLME+ PSC Meeting for 16-18 June 2020.
3. Following the launch of discussions and consultations of the Loomio platform, the Delegation of the United States of America (USA) indicated that it was comfortable with the use of the platform to (a) identify areas of (potential) convergence, and (b) facilitate discussions ahead of the PSC meeting on matters where no such clear convergence existed yet, but that it was not comfortable with its use to make formal, final decisions, ahead of the meeting. The Delegation of Colombia similarly indicated that it was not in favour of using the platform to make decisions. Accordingly, the period leading to the formal opening of the meeting was used to facilitate exchanges among PSC members, gather and record preliminary recommendations, and conduct indicative pools, with all decisions deferred to the virtual meeting of the PSC.
4. The CLME+ Project Coordinating Unit, acting on behalf of the participating countries and project partners convened the meeting to:
  - Take high-level decisions related to "CLME+ Project Output 1.1- Decisions on coordination and cooperation arrangements and institutional mandates in line with SAP Strategy 3 cross- sectoral policy coordination."
  - Agree on the core elements of a Coordination Mechanism and on the way forward in relation to the process for establishing it.

- Update members of the Project Steering Committee on CLME+ Project (technical and financial) implementation status, and review/revision and approval of the 2020-2021 Work Plan and Budget.
  - Review, revise and endorse the elements/components of a new project concept, to give sustainability and continuity to key CLME+ Project outputs and outcomes.
5. National Focal Points of CLME+ countries that have endorsed the CLME+ SAP or the CLME+ Project Concept Note, provided co-financing or endorsed the CLME+ Project Document, or their designated representatives, and representatives from the member organizations of the Project Executive Group (PEG), were invited to attend the meeting. Other countries and/or United Nations (UN) and non-UN regional and international organisations that expressed an interest in the CLME+ Project and its objectives were also invited to attend the meeting as observers. A total of one hundred and thirteen (113) participants attended part or all of the meeting. Annex 1 contains the list of participants.
6. In order to ensure the smooth running of the process, the CLME+ PCU invited PSC members to provide the following in advance of the virtual PSC meeting:
- any possible changes in the composition of the delegation (vis-à-vis the original nominations that were submitted in response to the PCU's request of 14 January 2020);
  - the names, function(s) and contact details of any additional nominees that the PSC member might wish to add to its delegation;
  - the name and designation of the member's "head of delegation", for the purpose of participating in the Work Programme activities conducted through the Loomio platform as well as during the PSC meeting, noting that only these designates would be allowed to take the floor during the meeting; and
  - the names and designation of delegates that the PSC member would wish to add only for specific items under the Work Programme.

## AGENDA ITEM 1 – OPENING OF THE MEETING AND WELCOME REMARKS

7. Mr. Patrick Debels, Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) of the CLME+ Project, welcomed participants on behalf of all staff members of the PCU, and thanked them for their commitment and their engagement in the preparatory processes leading to this meeting. He reminded the meeting of the role of the CLME+ Project and of its relevance to the needs of the region. He also stressed that, because of the importance of its agenda, and in spite of a challenging context, this meeting of the Steering Committee could well be remembered as a real milestone in the establishment of effective governance arrangements for the marine ecosystems of the region. He thanked the Government of Panama for its role as Chair of the Steering Committee and for convening this meeting, and reminded the meeting that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago continues to serve as Vice-Chair, while the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines serves as Rapporteur. He invited the representative of the Government of Panama to address the meeting and formally open its proceedings.
8. Mr. Raul Pinedo of the Directorate of Coasts and Seas at Panama's Ministry of the Environment expressed his Government's pleasure in chairing this meeting, because of the importance of the issues to be considered and of the need to conserve and manage effectively the coastal and marine resources of the region. He noted that these resources have been affected by unsustainable use and contamination, and emphasised the value of transboundary cooperation to respond to existing threats and to develop the blue economy. This meeting, he noted, is particularly important as it will give participants the

opportunity to examine in detail the proposed governance arrangements for the region. He concluded by indicating that Ms. Leyka Del Carmen Martínez, Head of Department at the *Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá* (ARAP), would chair the meeting's proceedings on his behalf, as he had previous commitments.

9. Mr. Christian Severin, Senior Environmental Specialist and lead for the International Waters focal area at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) expressed his pleasure to address the meeting on behalf of the Executive Director of the GEF. Noting the challenges posed by the current pandemic, he stressed the need to restore a balance between natural and human systems, as habitat degradation, biodiversity loss, unsustainable uses and ocean acidification are causing unprecedented impacts. He congratulated the region for its advances and leadership role in building common, transboundary governance arrangements for its coastal and marine ecosystems, and noted the need for projects such as CLME+ to demonstrate tangible results in stress reduction. He further challenged the region to share the valuable lessons learnt from its work, and congratulated the Steering Committee for convening a virtual meeting.
10. Mrs. Ana María Nuñez, Regional Technical Specialist for Waters, Oceans, Ecosystems and Biodiversity at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reiterated her agency's commitment to support the CLME+ Project and the countries of the region in their search for sustainable development. Noting the peculiar circumstances under which this meeting is being held, she remarked that collaborative actions are the most effective, and therefore stressed the need to sustain the processes initiated by this project. She noted that the results obtained to date are consistent with global agreements and commitments. She thanked the team responsible for the preparation of this meeting for having made it possible under challenging conditions, and for the quality of the documentation provided to facilitate discussions and decisions. She also thanked all participants for their inputs into the Loomio platform, and recalled the extreme importance of the topics to be considered by this meeting, notably the themes of integrated governance, status of implementation, and sustainability of processes.
11. Ms. Katrin Lichtenberg, Senior Portfolio Manager, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office's Water and Energy Cluster, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), thanked the Government of Panama for convening and chairing this meeting, and expressed her pleasure and honour to participate in an essential yet very different meeting. She noted how the current global crisis reminds us all of the imperative to respect nature and manage natural resources carefully, and of the need to find creative ways to maintain close dialogue among countries and institutions. She noted that this meeting has very important items to consider, and called on participants to sustain their commitment to the objectives of the CLME+ Project and the processes it supports.
12. His Excellency Jean-Bernard Nilam, Ambassador delegate for Regional Cooperation in the West Indies-Guyana Area, noted that transboundary issues are a primary factor of environmental degradation and that they compromise the region's potential to develop the blue economy. He highlighted three critical areas in which value can be added. One is the environmental and economic impacts of *Sargassum*, and this is why a regional conference was organised in Guadeloupe in October 2019 to take stock of current knowledge and develop a regional research and action plan. The second priority should be the fight against plastic pollution, with this region possibly becoming the first region free of single-use plastic. France promotes a circular economy, and this is why a pilot project has been established for plastic waste processing. The third priority theme is the development of marine protected areas, with a major increase in France's coverage, and it is in this context that the *Parc Naturel Marin* of Martinique has been established. In conclusion, he stressed the need to develop the blue economy in the region, and to recognise the link between biodiversity conservation and economic development.



13. Mr. Patrick Debels, Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) of the CLME+ Project, then recalled the rules and procedures of the meeting, as well as the arrangements for participation in its deliberations. The Chairperson concluded this opening session by thanking all presenters and by asking the meeting facilitator, Mr. Yves Renard, to proceed with the consideration of the next agenda item.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2 – REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PSC’s ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME**

14. The facilitator presented a progress report on achievements of the PSC under the current Work Programme, with a summary of the comments, questions, recommendations and responses shared through the Loomio platform until midnight Colombia time on the evening of Friday 12 June 2020. Also included in this report are the records of the polls taken on several agenda items. The report is provided in Annex 2.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 – REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**

15. The Chairperson invited the meeting to review the Provisional Agenda, noting that, in coordination with the PCU, it had been decided to propose an agenda that is shorter than what ordinarily prevails at PSC meetings, because of the conditions under which this meeting is being held and the need to arrive at decisions and recommendations on a number of critical items. In the discussion that followed, the USA congratulated the PCU for the way this meeting had been prepared, thanked Panama for convening and chairing the meeting, and recommended a change in the wording of agenda item 5, to read “Discussion on Coordination Mechanism”, instead of “Decision on Permanent Coordination Mechanism”. The latter recommendation was supported by the delegations from Colombia and Guatemala, while the delegations of the Dominican Republic and UNDP expressed a preference to retain the word “Decision” in the formulation of this agenda item. With further clarification from the delegation of the USA and inputs from the delegations from The Bahamas, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), it was agreed that the wording “Discussion and possible decisions” should be accepted. The adoption of the revised agenda was moved by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and seconded by Jamaica and Suriname. The approved agenda is included as Annex 3 to the report.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – PROGRESS TOWARDS INTEGRATED OCEAN GOVERNANCE**

16. This agenda item was introduced by Mr. Patrick Debels, who provided a brief overview of the progress made towards integrated ocean governance in the CLME+ region over the last 20 years, noting in particular the various milestones achieved by the region since the first PSC meeting held in Panama in 2006. He stressed that this meeting of the PSC aims at consolidating some of the processes and arrangements initiated then. One of the region’s main achievements is the establishment of the Interim Coordination Mechanism, an arrangement that many other regions of the globe recognise as necessary to ensure effective and efficient ocean governance. Other significant achievements include the mobilisation of resources from the GEF and other sources, as well as the creation of the CLME+ Hub. He highlighted the catalytic role of the GEF-funded CLME+ project, and reminded participants that the politically endorsed Strategic Action Programme (SAP) provides a long-term vision of a healthy environment that optimises the contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems to socio-economic development and livelihoods in the region.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DECISIONS ON THE COORDINATION MECHANISM****SUB-AGENDA ITEM 5.1 – CORE ASPECTS OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM**

17. Sub-agenda item 5.1 was introduced by Mr. Steffen Schwörer, supported by other members of the consulting team assembled by the Centre of Partnerships for Development (GlobalCAD). He stressed that the report entitled “Proposals for a permanent Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region” submitted by GlobalCAD in 2019 and presented at this meeting remains preliminary and that these proposals are offered for discussion and consideration by the PSC. The presentation and the ensuing discussions focused in particular on: the objectives of the Coordination Mechanism; the geographic and thematic scopes it should cover; its core and supplementary functions; and its form and structure. In his presentation, Mr. Schwörer also recalled the key messages and recommendations made by PSC members on the Loomio platform, and showed how these had been considered in a revision of the proposals put forward.
18. The proposals were thoroughly discussed by the Steering Committee, with delegations making important comments and recommendations, regarding in particular:
- the role of the Coordination Mechanism in relation to regional and national policy, with delegations emphasising the coordination function (as opposed to integration);
  - its geographic scope and in particular the possible mandate of the Coordination Mechanism with respect to the Gulf of Mexico, with consensus arising around a preference to retain the current scope of the CLME+ project;
  - the thematic scope, with several delegations noting the need to pay greater attention to climate and disaster resilience (as a cross-cutting theme relevant to all objectives and functions, with potential for resource mobilisation), and with a rich discussion on the possible merit of making specific reference to the development of the blue economy;
  - the core and complementary functions, with several comments and recommendations made by various delegations, including a confirmation that the function of the Coordination Mechanism is not to “dictate” policies or programmatic priorities to the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and the need for absolute clarity in the language used to avoid misunderstanding in this regard;
  - the potential role of the Coordination Mechanism in supporting national governance mechanisms, considering the great diversity of needs and capacities within the region, with some countries requiring, and reaffirming their need for, such support in diverse areas such as policy development, institutional arrangements, research and data management, while others already have effective governance arrangements in place and would not require such support;
  - the inclusion, within the recommended functions of the Coordination Mechanism, of engaging collaboration with the Gulf of Mexico LME, especially in light of the earlier recommendation regarding geographic scope;
  - the form and structure of the Coordination Mechanism, with several participants expressing agreement on the main features of institutional design (three principal organs and support provided by Working Groups) and with comments made on specific areas such as decision-making rules and procedures, and the possibility of country representation on the Executive Group.
19. The proposals presented by the consultants identify core and complementary functions, and there was extensive discussion and valuable exchanges, both on the nature and wording of the various functions and on the difference between the two



categories (core and complementary). It was noted that the functions identified as complementary are in many respects as important as the core functions, but that they are labelled as such because they are subject to the Coordination Mechanism having the capacity (including the financial resources) to perform them. Several participants also noted the importance of knowledge management and data sharing within the functions to be performed by the Coordination Mechanism as a requirement for the effective performance of the other functions. It was therefore proposed to merge the two categories, but it was eventually noted that there would be benefits to maintaining the two categories, as it would help the Coordination Mechanism in setting priorities. Furthermore, it was noted that the Steering Group of the Coordination Mechanism would be able to modify the functions and re-allocate the categories.

20. In response to the presentation made when this item was introduced, the delegation of Colombia thanked the consulting team for the quality of its contribution, recalled the concerns it had expressed in previous meetings and consultations over the past two years, and reiterated its position that the priority for the region should be to strengthen existing institutions, not to establish a new structure.
21. The outcome of this discussion and the possible decisions identified under Agenda Item 5.1 are presented in Annex 4.

### **SUB-AGENDA ITEM 5.2 – ESTABLISHING MODALITY OF THE PERMANENT COORDINATION MECHANISM**

22. This Sub-agenda Item was introduced by Dr. David Berry, a member of the GlobalCAD consultancy team, who focused on the rationale for recommending the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as the preferred modality, indicating that this is the most generally accepted instrument to serve a non-binding agreement. Dr. Berry noted that a number of useful comments were made on the Loomio platform during this meeting's preparatory phase, and that these had been integrated in a revised draft of the MoU and were reflected in his presentation. He further indicated that the MoU is an adequate format to establish a cooperative arrangement intended to function indefinitely and to govern the relationship between diverse partners (independent countries, non-independent countries and inter-governmental organisations - IGO), without imposing legal commitments on the signatories. He noted that other instruments could have been used (e.g. a treaty or a declaration), but that these would prove less appropriate than the MoU in this particular context. In order to ensure that the agreement is indeed a non-binding instrument, the appropriate language must be used, making it clear in particular that the function of the Coordination Mechanism is not to "dictate" policies or programmatic priorities to the signatories to the MoU.
23. In the discussion that followed the presentation, several members of the Steering Committee expressed support for the MoU as a non-binding instrument, noting that the instrument should not confer a legal personality to the Coordination Mechanism. Specific language that suggests a binding nature of the agreement should therefore be avoided. In subsequent discussions, the delegation from Colombia reiterated its disagreement with the use of the MoU as the preferred instrument. The delegation of the USA further recommended the establishment of a drafting group to pursue work on the MoU after this meeting.

### **SUB-AGENDA ITEM 5.3 – PROCESS AND TIMELINE TOWARDS THE CREATION AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF A COORDINATION MECHANISM, AND HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A COORDINATION MECHANISM SECRETARIAT**

24. Under this Sub-agenda Item, the Steering Committee considered the process and timeline towards the creation and operationalisation of a Coordination Mechanism, as well as the hosting arrangements for the Secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism. Mr. Patrick Debels briefly recalled the 20-year process that has led to the current initiative to establish a permanent Coordination Mechanism, and the expected transition period and arrangement, with a new GEF-funded project that would allow for the operationalisation of that Coordination Mechanism. Assuming that the decision to create this permanent arrangement will eventually be made, with the need for a Secretariat, and considering the need for new GEF-funded projects to include a substantial proportion of on-the-ground activities, an efficient arrangement would be for the PCU of a successor GEF-funded project to serve as the Secretariat whenever the Coordination Mechanism is established and until the end of that project. This would present the advantage of giving the Coordination Mechanism more time to develop a sustainable financing strategy and to refine its functions and operations. A key challenge, however, will be to keep the transition period between CLME+ and the next project as short as possible, to ensure the continuity of the governance arrangements put in place by the region, with the need to sustain secretariat and coordination functions. Against this background, Mr. Debels recalled the invitation to submit expressions of interest to host the Secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism, and noted that it may have been somewhat premature, but that it led to the submission of an excellent submission from the Government of Honduras.
25. Dr. David Berry then provided additional details on the requirements for the creation of a Secretariat, indicating three possible options, namely: hosting by a participating country, hosting by an IGO, and sharing office space with an existing IGO, and he provided details on the features of each option. He indicated that in order to operate effectively, the Coordination Mechanism would need to have a legal personality. This could be done under national or international law, but registering as a not-for-profit entity under national law may not be adequate because this would make the Coordination Mechanism subject to the legislation of that country, with some risks involved. In the process of establishing a Secretariat, and regardless of the option selected, Dr. Barry noted, it would be important to engage the Ministry of External Affairs of the host country, and to explore opportunities for privileges and immunities.
26. In the discussion that followed, the USA noted that the options proposed by the consultants would all require an international legal personality, and that this may contradict the Steering Committee's expressed preference for a non-binding body. The USA however introduced the additional option of creating the Coordination Mechanism as a joint project of two or more IGOs. Meanwhile, UNOPS indicated that it offers the service of hosting multi-stakeholder arrangements, and that this may represent yet another option, with UNOPS providing the legal identity. The delegate from Honduras confirmed that country's interest in hosting the Secretariat, and indicated that it would be able to meet all the conditions and requirements put forward by the consultant in his presentation. Meanwhile, the delegate from The Bahamas indicated a similar interest on her country's behalf, but noted that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic would have to be assessed before an offer could be made. The discussion on this Sub-agenda item confirmed the importance of the transition period, which should be used for further exploration and refinement of the various options and to put in place all the elements needed for a smooth and effective operation of the Coordination Mechanism.

## AGENDA ITEM 6 – CLME+ PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS, BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

27. Ms. Laverne Walker, Deputy Project Coordinator, CLME+ PCU, and Mr. Ivan Pavletich Meza, Operations and Finance Manager, CLME+ PCU, shared the task of presenting this agenda item. Ms. Walker recalled that background documentation on the status of project implementation had been provided on the Loomio platform, where seven countries acknowledged

the documents while four others asked for clarification. She provided a quantitative analysis of implementation of project activities and of targets and milestones realised under components 1, 2, 4 and 5, described the status of flagship projects and main outputs, and identified those activities that have been delayed or put on hold because of the impact of the current pandemic. Ms. Walker confirmed that, in spite of challenges and delays accentuated or caused by the pandemic, progress is being made, and 46.5% of the milestones and targets have been achieved. She further noted that implementation of a number of the processes and activities initiated by the CLME+ Project is actually meant to continue beyond the timeframe of the current project.

28. Mr. Ivan Pavletich Meza then presented the status of financial implementation, with USD 10 million, representing 81% of the total budget (83% of budget allocated to implementing partners, and 71% of PCU budget), having been spent as of April 2020. He noted that there had been a substantial improvement in the rate of disbursement since the extension was approved, with 35% of the budget disbursed over the past fifteen months. He then provided more details on the rate of implementation per partner, noting that most had disbursed over 80% of their budget, and that the PCU is monitoring closely the partnerships where the rate of disbursement is low. With respect to the disbursement of funds allocated to the PCU, the lower rate of disbursement (71%, with USD 400,000 of unspent funds from the 2019 budget) can be explained in part by staff turnover and in part by the cancellation of travel because of the pandemic. The unspent funds have been reallocated to pending activities for 2020 – 2021.
29. The Meeting thanked the Deputy Project Coordinator and the Operations and Finance Manager for their presentations and for all the hard work done by the PCU and the partner agencies. The delegate from UNDP stressed the complexity of project implementation with 23 countries and several partner agencies, congratulated the PCU on the rate of implementation, and expressed confidence in the adaptation capacity of the PCU and its ability to cope with the challenges. It was however noted that some of the activities were at risk, and the possibility of an extension was raised. In conclusion, the Steering Committee acknowledged the technical and financial implementation status of CLME+ Project as presented.
30. Looking ahead, colleagues from the PCU noted that, with technical implementation currently due for completion by December 2020, all activities of partners would have to be completed by 31 August, in order to allow for final evaluation and reporting. The PCU's greatest responsibility, they noted, is to implement all activities with remaining funds, and this is made more challenging because of the impact of the pandemic on some activities, with a resulting increase in risk. A further extension of three months was therefore recommended, as partners have indicated that they should be able to complete all work by the end of 2020. Such an extension would allow the project to achieve all expected outcomes, to finalise flagship outputs and projects under component 3, and to facilitate a more active engagement of PSC members and a more meaningful integration of the results into the formulation of the proposal for a new project. On the Loomio platform, the CLME+ PCU had shared a revised CLME+ Project Work Plan and Budget, including a proposal for a second and final three-month project extension, from 30 April to 31 July 2021. As part of this revised schedule, the PCU would endeavour to conduct and submit an analysis of the status of implementation by September 2020, for submission to and consideration by the Steering Committee in October 2020. It was stressed that, in order to succeed, there would be need for strong discipline in implementation and in meeting contractual obligations, and it would be important for participating countries to take ownership of actions and processes.
31. In response to a question from the delegate from Colombia regarding the use of the USD 2 million that remain allocated to the PCU and its operations, it was noted that it would be useful to have more details on the allocation of these funds, and how the extension will have an impact on their use. The PCU therefore agreed to share this additional information, as

requested by Colombia, and is available on the project website's intranet at [www.clmeproject.org](http://www.clmeproject.org), Agenda Item 6.2 Annex - PSC2006\_AI6.2 Annex - PCU Pending Activities and Budget 2020-21.

32. In conclusion, the Project Steering Committee: (a) approved the revised CLME+ Project Results Framework and work plan as presented; (b) approved the revised budget for the 2020-21 period as presented; (c) approved the decision to request an extension of project duration till 31 July 2021 to accommodate delays accentuated by COVID-19; and (d) urged the PCU to work diligently to complete of all technical activities at 31 March 2021.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 - NEW UNDP/GEF CONCEPT NOTE (PIF): PROCARIBE+ PROJECT**

33. Mr. Julian Roberts, the consultant assigned to the preparation of the Project Identification Form (PIF) for a new, successor project, presented initial thinking for a draft concept for this project. He recalled that the results framework had been shared with participants in advance of the meeting, emphasised that it is still a preliminary concept at this stage, and that the purpose of considering this at this meeting is to start the process of engaging the Steering Committee, with a view to reaching consensus over the coming weeks and months. He indicated that the intent is to present this PIF to the GEF Council in June 2021, and that in order to meet this deadline it would have to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat by March 2021. All partners should therefore be engaged during the course of this year, with the objective of having a full draft PIF by November, having consulted member countries in advance. Mr. Roberts then focused his presentation on the results framework, with four components proposed, reflecting four priorities previously identified, with one or two project outcomes under each component, and with specific outputs under each outcome. He indicated that, in line with the expectations from the GEF, there was an even balance between activities linked to institutional processes and those aimed at reducing stress on ecosystems.
34. Ms. Laverne Walker then presented a proposed timeline for the development of the new project concept, indicating that if it was approved in June 2021, one could expect approval of a Project Preparation Grant (PPG), with a timeframe of 12 months to prepare the new project proposal. This would allow for presentation of the full proposal to the GEF Council by June 2022 and project commencement hopefully by October 2022.
35. In the discussion that followed, the delegation from the USA noted that several of the points made during the meeting, particularly in relation to the Coordination Mechanism (component 1 of the proposed results framework), would be relevant to the design of the PIF and should be considered in further revisions of the draft results framework. The delegate of Colombia reiterated the intervention made in earlier meetings regarding the need to consult countries, through established national procedures and including GEF focal points, with a full draft of the PIF. This view was supported by Nicaragua and Suriname, while Guatemala noted that in most instances letters of endorsement should be obtained through the international cooperation offices at Ministries of Environment. The meeting therefore concurred on the need for clarity on the consultation and project preparation process. In response, Mr. Andrew Hudson, Head of the Water and Ocean Governance Programme, UNDP, underscored that the process to develop the PIF and the full proposal must indeed be a highly consultative process, but that the only formal requirement would be the transmission of the PIF through the GEF focal points with letters of endorsement. He stressed the importance of transparency and meaningful consultation in the project formulation process. Meanwhile, the delegate from the IOC advised the meeting that this must be seen as a step in the process of building a regional governance framework and in the implementation of the SAP, and that it is therefore critical for countries to be and remain engaged.

## AGENDA ITEM 8 – WAY FORWARD

### SUB-AGENDA ITEM 8.1 – OVERVIEW OF REMAINING PSC BUSINESS BETWEEN NOW AND END OF PROJECT

36. Under several agenda items during this Meeting, participants took note of the remaining business to be conducted between now and project end. These were taken into account when considering the following agenda item.

### SUB-AGENDA ITEM 8.2 - DEFINING AND ADOPTING A CLEAR PROCESS FOR TAKING PSC DECISIONS AFTER THE VIRTUAL PSC MEETING

37. In introducing this agenda item, Mr. Patrick Debels stressed the importance of more dynamic interaction between the PCU, the consultants and the partners with the PSC, and indicated that it is in this spirit that the PCU had taken the initiative to present the PSC with a work programme (covering many steps over a period of several weeks) rather than simply a meeting agenda. If this approach is kept, and in order to advance the work programme between meetings, there may be a need to consider the rules and procedures for PSC decision-making, as these allow for decision-making outside of actual meetings. The Steering Committee should therefore review the ways in which it would be able to make decisions between now and closure of project, with the final meeting of the PSC tentatively scheduled for January 2021 (and without the possibility of knowing, at this stage, if this meeting could be held in person or if it would have to be held virtually). Until then, Mr. Debels proposed, three additional decision-making procedures can be used, namely: decision by email; use of a virtual consultation and decision-making platform (e.g. Loomio); and virtual intersessional meetings.
38. With specific reference to the MoU, the delegation of the USA recommended the formation of a Working Group, with two sub-groups, one focusing on the legal aspects and the other on the technical aspects. These groups would operate virtually and try to reach consensus, or identify options, for consideration by the Steering Committee (in the subsequent discussion of this recommendation under Agenda Item 10, it was recommended and agreed that a single Working Group would be more practical). In the discussion that followed, the delegation from CRFM indicated its agreement with the proposal made by the USA and its satisfaction with the use of virtual platforms. IOC stressed that the intersessional work is possibly the most important work to be done by the PSC, and that it is therefore critical to use the tools available to perform the various tasks, but ensuring that these tools indeed allow for decision-making, for example by establishing *ad hoc* working groups and by convening virtual meetings of the Steering Committee if deemed necessary to address a specific issue. In conclusion, several delegations indicated their preference for decisions made in intersessional meetings with full participation of Steering Committee members (taking into account the costs and effort required to convene such meetings), using working groups, online platforms and email exchanges for consultation. The Steering Committee also noted the need for a schedule, with clearly identified steps and procedures.

## AGENDA ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

39. Dr. Robin Mahon of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus reported on the status of the monitoring of the SAP under the Governance and Effectiveness Assessment Framework (GEAF). The process to establish a baseline against which performance of the SAP would be monitored and assessed was initiated in 2018, and questions on biodiversity, pollution and fisheries were sent to all



countries and IGOs, with the intent of producing a baseline report that would allow for the assessment of performance and would inform future adjustments to the monitoring instrument. To date, the status of responses is: 63% to the question on fisheries, 53% to the question on pollution and 58% to the question on biodiversity. Dr. Mahon indicated that there have been numerous interactions and reminders, that the original intent was to complete the baseline much sooner, and that there was now need to draw a line. He therefore took the opportunity of this presentation to encourage countries and IGOs that have not yet responded to do so without further delay. He also noted that since France has now joined the SAP, it should become easier to gather data from Guadeloupe and Martinique. In conclusion, the delegations from the CRFM and the IOC recommended to the Steering Committee that it urge delegates who have not yet responded to the questionnaire administered by CERMES to do so as soon as possible.

40. With reference to the question of the number of Member States Signatories required to commence the Memorandum of Understanding, the USA noted that the current draft of the MoU states that five States and five IGOs would have to become signatories in order for the MoU to come into force, and expressed the view that this number is too small, and that the USA would favour a ratio of two-thirds of the countries and IGOs. The delegate of the USA further indicated that this observation was made at this time simply to raise the issue, and that it would be considered formally at a later stage by the Working Group. Reacting to this intervention, the delegate from the IOC agreed that it was important to consider the number of endorsements, but that qualitative criteria are also needed to reflect the true extent of commitment of countries and agencies.
41. Mr. Patrick Debels brought a number of instruments and materials to the attention of the Steering Committee, with an invitation to PSC members to consult them and use them. He focused in particular on the Hub of CLME+, which is meant to cover broader domains than those covered by the CLME+ Project. It includes information on progress made in implementation of specific actions of the SAP, as well as project updates that allow one to track the status of projects and their links to the SAP. It also provides information on all actors (countries, partners, working groups), in order to increase transparency and facilitate communication among all participants in CLME+-related processes. Mr. Debels also mentioned the PCU's collaboration with IOC on the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2), with maps created by Mr. John Knowles of the PCU, and with much of that material already available on line.

## AGENDA ITEM 10 – REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

42. At the beginning of this session, the delegation of Colombia submitted a statement in which it reiterated its vision and position in relation to the establishment of a permanent Coordination Mechanism and indicated that it does not agree with the draft recommendations and decisions as circulated. Colombia however does not wish to break what appears to be a regional consensus, and therefore indicated that it would step aside on this matter. Colombia therefore requested the inclusion of this statement in the official record of this meeting, and that its position be noted whenever reference is made to the decision of this meeting in relation to the Coordination Mechanism. Colombia's statement is provided in Annex 5 to this report.
43. The Chairperson invited the delegate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Rapporteur, to present the draft Recommendations and Decisions of the Meeting for review and adoption, with amendments as appropriate. These were displayed in real time to the Meeting through a multimedia projector in both languages, and discussed in detail by participants. The Recommendations and Decisions of the Intersessional Meeting of the Steering Committee, as approved



by this Meeting of the PSC, are included in Annex 6, while the Core Aspects of the Coordination Mechanism, as amended and discussed under this Agenda Item, are reflected in Annex 4.

## AGENDA ITEM 11 – MEETING CLOSURE

44. In this closing session, several delegations expressed satisfaction with the progress made during the meeting, and thanked the Chairperson, the Facilitator, the Coordinator and staff of the CLME+ PCU and the consultants for making this encounter possible and productive, in spite of the challenges posed by the need to hold it virtually. Mr. Patrick Debels reminded the meeting of the hopes he had expressed at the start of the proceedings and noted with satisfaction that, after three days of arduous work in its first-ever virtual meeting, thanks to the inputs of all countries and individuals participating, the Steering Committee and the region as a whole had taken a major step forward. In her closing remarks, the Chairperson congratulated the delegations for their constructive contributions during three days of fruitful deliberations, and thanked the consultants for information and recommendations provided, the facilitator for the support provided to the Chair, the PCU team for its excellent preparations for and support to the proceedings, and the KUDO support team for providing a suitable platform.
45. The Meeting was officially closed at 13hrs53 Panama time on 18 June 2020.

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## ANNEX 2: REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON CLME+ PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THE CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME

On 18 May 2020, members of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee (PSC) received a communication from the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) indicating that an online group was being created to provide a virtual, online platform (Loomio) to facilitate information exchange, discussions and decision-making processes related to the May-June 2020 CLME+ Project Steering Committee (PSC) Work Programme. This Work Programme identifies the actions required from the PSC prior to and during the PSC meeting of 16 – 18 June 2020, with the Loomio platform used specifically for actions required prior to the meeting.

This report provides a summary of the comments, questions, recommendations and responses shared through the Loomio platform until midnight Colombia time on the evening of Friday 12 June 2020. Also included in this report are the records of the polls taken on several agenda items. While the threads and polls will be closed for inputs at 19hrs Colombia time on Monday 15 June, posts and records will remain available for consultation and verification during the course of the PSC meeting.

### Threads 0.1. Work Programme and Participants

This thread:

- confirmed the suitability of the Loomio platform for discussion and recommendations, with threads moderated by the PCU;
- noted that all final decisions should be reserved for the virtual PSC meeting or via a clear process conducted virtually afterwards;
- noted the very ambitious nature of this meeting, the need for a shorter agenda and the importance of defining and adopting a clear process for taking PSC decisions after the virtual meeting; and
- gave participants access to a video and guidebook to familiarise themselves with the platform, and allowed participants to seek clarifications on the use of the platform.

### Thread 2.1.1. Mandate (Objectives) of the Permanent Coordination Mechanism,

Poll: Fully agree: 1  
Partially agree: 12  
Do not agree: 0  
Abstain: 0

In this thread:

- there was no objection to the four objectives as currently proposed, but important comments and recommendations were made regarding the actual wording. In particular, the following would require further consideration by the PSC:
  - should the Coordination Mechanism focus on coordination, rather than seeking to achieve integration, with corresponding changes to the wording of objectives 1 and 2?

- in objectives 1 and 4, should the formulation “sustainable management and use” be replaced by “conservation and management”, or “conservation and sustainable use”, to be consistent with international norms and to avoid an emphasis on “use”?
- could objective 4 include “support to intersectoral agreements”, or would this make the mandate too broad?
- in objective 4, is the mandate to “establish partnerships”? or only “support partnerships” (which implies a focus on existing partnerships)? or should it be “support and promote partnerships”?
- a number of useful revisions to the text were also suggested, and all have been considered by the CAD consultants, with proposed revised text provided in the thread.

#### Thread 2.1.1.1. Geographic Scope of the Permanent Coordination Mechanism

Poll: Fully agree: 8  
Partially agree: 2  
Do not agree: 0  
Abstain: 2

In this thread, where respondents were generally supportive of the proposed geographic scope:

- different views were expressed about the desirability to include references to adjacent ecosystems and to a potential expansion to the Gulf of Mexico, with two respondents recommending that the original geographic scope, as defined in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), should remain;
- a question was also raised (in thread 2.1.1) about the designation of the geographic scope. The terms “wider Caribbean” are now used. Does this make the scope too broad? Would the formulation “CLME+ Region” be preferable? Would the later be too project-specific? Are there advantages in using language similar to what is used by IGOs in the region?

#### Thread 2.1.1.2. Thematic Scope of the Permanent Coordination Mechanism

Poll: Fully agree: 5  
Partially agree: 7  
Do not agree: 0  
Abstain: 0

In this thread, greater focus was recommended, consistent with the thematic scope of the SAP.

#### Thread 2.1.2. Core and Complementary Functions of the Permanent Coordination Mechanism

Poll: Fully agree: 1  
Partially agree: 11  
Do not agree: 0  
Abstain: 0

In this thread:

- there was a general agreement with the proposed objectives, but with a number of recommended edits that the CAD consultants have since considered;
- a question was raised about the usefulness of describing the complementary functions with the same level of details as for the core functions.

### **Thread 2.1.3. Form / Structure of the Permanent Coordination Mechanism**

Poll: Fully agree: 1  
Partially agree: 9  
Do not agree: 0  
Abstain: 0

In this thread, respondents agreed on the proposed structure and its organs. Questions were however raised and recommendations made in relation to the specific roles of the components (the three organs and the Working Groups) and the relationships (hierarchy and operational connections) between them. Additional clarification will be provided by the consultants when the PSC discusses this item.

### **Thread 2.2.1.1. Format of the document establishing the PCM**

Poll: Agree: 12  
Disagree: 0  
Abstain: 1

This thread indicates a general acceptance of the proposed format, bearing in mind that this does not represent an agreement on the actual content of the non-binding instrument.

### **Thread 5.1. Project Implementation Progress, PSC agenda item 6.1.**

Poll: Progress acknowledged: 6  
Clarifications requested 4

In this thread, the requested clarifications were provided, but the PSC should be invited to comment further and ensure that all questions have been adequately answered.

### **Thread 5.2.1. Revised 2020-21 Work Plan, Budget and Timeline, PSC agenda item 6.2.**

Poll: Pre-approved: 9  
Clarifications requested: 1

### **Thread 5.2.2. Revised Project Results Framework, PSC agenda item 6.2.**

No poll in this thread, which is part of the Revised 2020-21 Work Plan, Budget and Timeline and linked to poll under thread 5.2.1.

In this thread, specific questions were raised and recommendations made, which were addressed by the PCU.

### **Thread 5.3. Project Terminal Evaluation. Not on PSC agenda**

No poll in this thread.

Several comments were provided and, while this item is not on the agenda of the PSC meeting, these comments will feed into the consideration of other agenda items.

### **Thread 6.1. PROCARIBE+ Draft Results Framework (new GEF PIF). Agenda item 7.**

No poll in this thread.

Several comments were provided and responded to. It was noted that it may not be possible for the PSC to examine the draft framework in details, and that this meeting may be asked simply to acknowledge it, with an agreed process to complete work after the meeting.



## ANNEX 3: AGENDA

**UNDP/GEF CLME+ PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING***Virtual Meeting*

16 - 18 June 2020

**REVISED AGENDA**

#	Time (Colombia time)	Agenda Item
<b>DAY 1</b>		
<b><i>Procedural Matters</i></b>		
	9:00 – 9:05	Brief on How Kudo Platform Functions
1	9:05 – 9:40	Opening of Meeting and Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CLME+ PCU</li> <li>- UNOPS</li> <li>- UNDP</li> <li>- GEF Secretariat</li> <li>- Government of Panama</li> </ul>
2	9:40 - 10:00	Review of the Progress Report on the CLME+ Project Steering Committee Achievements under the Current Work Programme
3	10:00 - 10:10	Review and Adoption of Meeting Agenda
<b><i>Matters for Consideration by PSC</i></b>		
4	10:10 - 10:25	Progress towards Integrated Ocean Governance in the CLME+ region in the last 20 years
5	10:25 – 11:45 11:45 – 12:30	Discussion and possible Decisions on the permanent Coordination Mechanism
5.1 5.2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core Aspects of the permanent Coordination Mechanism</li> <li>- Establishing Modality of the permanent Coordination Mechanism</li> </ul>
	12:30 – 13:30	<b>LUNCH</b>
5 5.3	13:30 – 14:20 14:20 – 15:00	Discussion and possible decisions on the permanent Coordination Mechanism (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Process and Timeline towards the Creation and Operationalization of a Coordination Mechanism</li> </ul>

		- Hosting Arrangements for a Coordination Mechanism Secretariat
<b>End of Day 1</b>		
<b>DAY 2</b>		
6		CLME+ Project Implementation Status, Budget, and Work Plan
6.1	9:00 – 9:45	- CLME+ Implementation Progress
6.2	9:45 – 10:45	- Response: revised CLME+ Project Work Plan and Budget 2020-21
7	10:45 – 11:45	New UNDP/GEF Concept Note (PIF): PROCARIBE+ Project
8		Way Forward
8.1	11:45 – 12:10	- Overview of remaining PSC Business Between Now and End of Project
8.2	12:10 – 13:00	- Defining and Adopting a Clear Process for Taking PSC Decisions after the Virtual PSC Meeting
<b>End of Day 2</b>		
<b>DAY 3</b>		
9	9:00 – 9:30	Any Other Business
	<b>9:30 – 10:30</b>	<b>BREAK TO COLLATE MEETING DECISIONS</b>
10	10:30 – 12:45	Review and Adoption of Meeting Recommendations and Decisions
11	12:45 – 13:00	Meeting Closure

## ANNEX 4: CORE ASPECTS OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM

This table presents the outcome of discussions and the possible decisions arising from the consideration of Agenda Item 5.

<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support regional collaboration towards a coordinated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal ecosystems and their goods and services;</li> <li>2. To support coordinated and interactive ocean governance in support of attaining ocean-based sustainable development;</li> <li>3. To promote actions towards the achievement of the long-term vision [articulated in] the CLME+ SAP, and other ocean-related international and regional goals and commitments of the Signatories;</li> <li>4. To promote partnerships with stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to facilitate and enhance efforts for the ecosystem-based conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources and to support intersectoral coordination and collaboration.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Geographic scope</b></p> <p>The geographic scope of the Coordination Mechanism includes the Caribbean LME and the North Brazil Shelf LME.</p>
<p><b>Thematic Scope</b></p> <p>The thematic scope of the Coordination Mechanism includes land and marine based sources of pollution of the marine environment, marine and coastal habitats and biodiversity, and marine and coastal fisheries. It includes maintaining and enhancing the resilience of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the human systems supported by these ecosystems to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters [in support of the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment] [in support of the development of ocean-based economies].</p>
<p><b>Core functions (<i>within the geographic and thematic scope of the CM</i>)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate programmatic coordination of ocean governance and support the monitoring of progress with ocean sustainability instruments, goals and commitments.</li> <li>2. Support the sustainable financing and coordinated resource mobilization for ocean governance.</li> <li>3. Facilitate the coordination of [regional] institutional and policy frameworks for ocean governance across multiple levels.</li> <li>4. Support, as requested, national ocean governance, including national level coordination for oceans.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Complementary functions (<i>within the geographic and thematic scope of the CM</i>)</b></p>

5. Coordinate knowledge management and facilitate data and information sharing.

6. Coordinate outreach, awareness raising and stakeholder engagement

7. Strengthen science-policy interfaces.

8. Explore new areas for collaboration (*within IGO mandates*)

9. Engage in cooperation with the Gulf of Mexico LME.

Undertake such additional activities as may be necessary to support the objectives of the Coordination Mechanism, as determined by the Signatories.

#### **Format/Structure**

3 organs:

- Steering Group – composed of country representatives and the Chair of the Executive Group as a non-voting Member
- Executive Group – composed of IGO representatives (*possibly with a non-voting member from the Steering Group*)
- Secretariat – Director, and technical and administrative staff

Working Groups including experts and representatives from the countries, IGO's, non-state actors, academia, etc. as necessary and appropriate

#### **Governance**

*The relationships between the organs and the governance principles will be refined further.*

#### **Type of establishing instrument**

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a voluntary, non-binding arrangement (*content to be revised*).

## ANNEX 5: DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA



**Declaration of the Delegation of Colombia**  
**UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
**18 June 2020**

Dear members of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee, representatives of International Organizations, members of the Project Coordination Unit, and members of the consulting team.

Colombia would like to thank the project coordination unit for the efforts made in recent weeks to hold this important meeting of the CLME+ Project Committee virtually. Similarly, we would like to recognize the work carried out by the consultants so far and for considering our opinions with regard to the proposed mechanism.

We wish to express that the Government of Colombia is committed to the sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the Wider Caribbean Region, and so we have advanced and worked constantly, not only within the framework of this project to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of these resources. Our commitment to environmental sustainability has always been present, as demonstrated with the endorsement of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) by four national Governmental authorities, including three Ministries and our fishing Authority.

For us, it is timely and necessary to refer specifically to Agenda Item 5 “Discussion and possible decisions on the Permanent Coordination Mechanism”.

In this regard, Colombia’s contributions and participation through this process have been based on careful and detailed preparation for each meeting, by rigorously reviewing the submitted documents, providing inputs to enrich the discussions, thus the analyses are profound, well-founded and well-informed.

At the previous regional consultation meeting on this matter, held in Panama City (2019), Colombia expressed that a coordination mechanism that facilitates synergy and optimizes the use of available resources in the CLME+ Region beyond the project and the SAP was evidently necessary. However,

we also expressed our concern that a coordination mechanism would imply the establishment of a new structure, with financial contributions and new administrative arrangements. For Colombia, the priority is then to seek greater coordination, efficiency and synergies among existing mechanisms, to avoid duplicating efforts.

During this Steering Committee meeting, we have carefully listened to all discussions and interventions made by countries and intergovernmental organizations. We are aware that our vision differs from other countries in the region, which agree in the establishment of a new body with legal personality, that would become the permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism, along with all the financial and administrative associated implications. In this sense, Colombia wants to express that we cannot support the decision for the establishment of this body, based on the reasons manifested in this meeting, in the several regional consultations, and in the written documents sent to the project coordination unit. However, we have decided to step aside on this decision in the interest of not breaking the regional consensus, that is now evident.

Colombia considers the work made by the consultants is valuable, but we also consider that it could have completed the objectives by presenting several and different options for this mechanism, rather than just one for final countries decision making, as initially agreed. Similarly, we highlight the draft of a Memorandum of Understanding, which does not seem to be the most suitable mechanism for the establishment of an international organization.

We thank the PCU and all the Steering Committee meeting participants for opening this space and listening to us. We would like this text to be an integral part of the meeting report and that each time this decision is mentioned; the position of Colombia is clarified.

Thank you very much.

## ANNEX 6: RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE UNDP/GEF CARIBBEAN AND NORTH BRAZIL SHELF LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (CLME+) PROJECT

Virtual Meeting of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee, 16 – 18 June 2020

**The CLME+ Project Steering Committee:**

**Having** convened the intersessional UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting virtually utilizing the Kudo Meeting Platform from 16-18 June, with a total of 114 participants representing 22 countries and 16 organizations and Chaired by Panama with the Deputy Chairperson from Trinidad and Tobago and the Rapporteur from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

**Noting** the Declaration of the Delegation of Colombia relative to the decisions of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee on the Coordination Mechanism, contained in Annex 5 and available online with title "[PSC2006 Colombia Declaration](#)";

***The Steering Committee:*****AGENDA ITEM 5 – DECISION ON THE COORDINATION MECHANISM*****SUB-AGENDA ITEM 5.1 - CORE ASPECTS OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM***

1. Reiterates the importance of proceeding with the setting-up of a Coordination Mechanism.
2. Supports and endorses in principle the text included in document "PSC2006\_AG5.1 Core Aspects of the Coordination Mechanism" and recognises that further refinement may be needed as the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is further negotiated.

***SUB-AGENDA ITEM 5.2 - CREATION OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM***

1. Supports the use of a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding as the preferred modality for expressing the intent to create the Coordination Mechanism.



2. Supports the formation of a drafting group, with representation from legal and technical expertise, to advance the work on the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the Coordination Mechanism.
3. Requests the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to issue a call for interest for participating in the MoU drafting group.

### ***SUB - AGENDA ITEM 5.3 - PROCESS AND TIMELINE TOWARDS THE CREATION AND OPERATIONALISATION OF A COORDINATION MECHANISM***

1. Acknowledges the proposed process and tentative timeline towards the creation and operationalisation of the Coordination Mechanism as presented by the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and as reflected in document “PSC2006\_AI5.3 Process and Tentative Timeline”.
2. Acknowledges the debriefing of the CLME+ PCU on the preliminary call for expressions of interest to host the secretariat of the Coordination Mechanism, noting an expression of interest submitted by the Government of Honduras.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 - CLME+ PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS, BUDGET AND WORK PLAN**

### ***SUB-AGENDA ITEM 6.1 - CLME+ PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS***

1. Acknowledges the technical and financial implementation status of the CLME+ Project until May 2020, as summarised by the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit in document “PSC2006\_AI6.1 Project Implementation Status”.

### ***SUB-AGENDA 6.2 - RESPONSE: REVISED CLME+ PROJECT WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2020-21***

1. Notes the conclusions of the analysis undertaken by the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit on CLME+ Project Implementation status until May 2020.
2. Further notes the delays to some of the Project activities caused and/or accentuated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Approves an extension of the project duration until 31 July 2021, to enable successful project completion and delivery of key outputs.
4. Approves the revised work plan as presented in document “PSC2006\_AI6.2 Revised 2020-21 Work Plan & Budget”, including the amendments to the CLME+ Project Results Framework file name “PSC2006\_AI6.2 UpdatedResultsFramework\_v200522”.

5. Approves the Revised Project Budget for the period 2020-21 as presented in document “PSC2006\_AI6.2 Revised 2020-21 Work Plan & Budget” and “PSC2006\_AI6.2 Annex - PCU Pending Activities and Budget 2020-21”.
6. Urges the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit, co-executing partners and participating countries to work diligently towards achieving the (financial and technical) project implementation objectives in this final stage.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 - NEW UNDP/GEF CONCEPT NOTE (PIF): THE PROCARIBE+ PROJECT**

1. Acknowledges the critical importance of giving continuity to the CLME+ initiative through the submission of a new UNDP/GEF concept note.
2. Notes the proposed components for the draft new concept note as presented in document “PSC2006\_AI7.0 CLME+ Continuity draft Concept Note”.
3. Notes the proposed draft key outputs for the draft new concept note as presented in document “PSC2006\_AI7.0 CLME+ Continuity draft Concept Note”.
4. Acknowledges the process and timeline towards the development and submission to the GEF Secretariat of the new project concept as presented in document “PSC2006\_AI7.0 PIF Development Timeline”.
5. Request that the CLME+ PCU share a draft version of the Project Concept Note (PIF) for the continuity of the CLME+ initiative with the CLME+ Project Steering Committee, as soon as possible, with a view to provide opportunity for more consultation and input from the countries and to allow for detailed review and consultation at country level.
6. Recommends that those Steering Committee Members interested in participating in such new project, work diligently with the CLME+ PCU and UNDP towards the timely finalization and submission of the new concept note.
7. Recommends that those members interested in participating in such new project, provide the required information (GEF endorsement letter and indicative co financing) within the stipulated time frame.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 - WAY FORWARD**

1. Commends the efforts undertaken by the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit to support the work of the Project Steering Committee through the use of innovative tools such as Loomio and Kudo Platforms.
2. Recognises the technical difficulties the Project Steering Committee confronted in addressing all PSC Work Programme and Agenda items during the virtual CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting.

3. Supports further efforts by the CLME+ PCU to advance and successfully conclude all CLME+ Project remaining business, including through the use of virtual platforms and intersessional meetings.
4. Recognizes the importance of taking decisions in a formal meeting structure with clear consensus.
5. Requests the MoU drafting group to advance its work through electronic means.
6. Requests the PCU to hold a virtual PSC meeting by end of September 2020 to take stock of progress on the draft MoU and to hold additional virtual project steering committee meetings as may be necessary to finalize MoU.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Notes the further clarifications provided by the CLME+ PCU regarding the Revised Budget.
2. Notes the presentation by the delegate from CERMES on the Status of the questionnaire surveys for the GEAF baseline SAP Monitoring.
3. Urges delegates who have not responded to the questionnaire administered by CERMES to do so as soon as possible.
4. Notes the comments by the United States of America related to the number of Member States Signatories required to commence the Memorandum of Understanding.
5. Thanks the CLME+ PCU for the presentation on the CLME+ Hub.
6. Recognizes and commends the Coordinator and staff of the CLME+ PCU for the excellent work they have done in managing the implementation of this complex project including organizing and convening this virtual PSC meeting.