

Engaging Civil Society in the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

Involucrando a la Sociedad Civil en la Implementación del Programa de Acción Estratégicas para la Gestión Sostenible de los Recursos Marinos de Vida Compartida de los Grandes Ecosistemas Marinos de la Plataforma Caribeña del Norte de Brasil

Engagement de la Société Civile dans la Mise en Oeuvre du Programme d'Action Stratégique pour la Gestion Durable des Ressources Marines Partégées des Grands Ecosystèmes Marins de la Caraïbe et du Plateau du Nord du Brésil.

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Background

In 2013, countries bordering and/or located within the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) adopted a 10-year Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP). The 10-year CLME+ SAP aims to contribute to the achievement of the regionally adopted long-term vision of “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region.”

The CLME+ SAP, which has been politically endorsed by more than 20 countries, provides a roadmap towards sustainable living marine resources management, to be achieved by strengthening and consolidating cooperative governance arrangements at the regional and sub-regional levels. As an ambitious umbrella the implementation of SAP cannot be achieved through a single project, nor by a single organisation. Rather, better articulation and collaboration will be required among the different organisations and sectors with a formal mandate for, or with a broadly acknowledged long-term role for marine resources management in the CLME+.

At the time of developing the CLME+ SAP efforts were made to ensure that there was widespread consultation with all relevant societal stakeholders. Despite these efforts, the CLME+ SAP mainly contains priority actions that would be undertaken from a governmental/public sector perspective. However, successful governance of the region’s shared living marine resources demands the involvement of not just public-sector actors, but also those societal groups that have a direct stake in the management and use of shared living marine resources. Recognising this, capacity building efforts should not be limited to governmental organisations only but should seek to engage and empower civil society and private sector stakeholders to: ensure buy-in and support for the decisions that are being made; increase and scale up the opportunities and potential for implementation; and foster corporate responsibility and socially just outcomes. Full consideration of the gender dimension of institutional and stakeholder capacity and stakeholder participation will be required.

The UNDP/GEF Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems project (CLME+ Project)⁵ seeks to promote broader participation of, and contributions from civil society groups in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. Specifically, Component 2 aims at enhancing the capacity of key institutions and stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels to effectively implement knowledge-based ecosystem-based management (EBM)/ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) for sustainable use of shared living marine resources in the CLME+ region.

The development of a Civil Society Action Programme for Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+ C-SAP) that is aligned with the politically endorsed CLME+ SAP is critical for raising the profile of and guiding civil society capacity building for strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society in implementing the CLME+ SAP. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is one of the 25 key regional organisations involved in ocean governance in the CLME+ region and was selected to lead the process for the development of the C-SAP.

The CLME+ Region

The marine environment of the CLME+ region (see Figure 1) provides a multitude of goods and services that are critical for achieving enhanced livelihoods, human well-being and sustained socio-economic development, both within this region and globally. Fisheries, tourism, shipping and exploration of oil and gas are all important economic activities in the CLME+ region. At the same time, the region’s marine ecosystems are characterised by exceptionally high levels of biodiversity, and support globally important ecological processes.

Within this vast marine area, three ecosystem types are known to support the most important fisheries and biodiversity: reef and associated ecosystems, pelagic ecosystems, and continental shelf ecosystems. However, the capacity of these ecosystems to provide goods and services to our societies and to sustain such high levels of biodiversity is increasingly being impacted by human activities. Three inter-related key problems that occur throughout the region are:

- i) Unsustainable fisheries,
- ii) Habitat degradation, and
- iii) Pollution.

Impacts from these problems are made worse by increased climate variability and change.

Objective and Scope of the C-SAP

The objective of the CLME+ C-SAP is to contribute to strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society actors in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP and CLME+ Project to achieve the long-term vision for the marine environment in the CLME+ region. The focus of the C-SAP is to give due attention to the three priority issues (unsustainable fisheries, pollution and habitat degradation) and two overarching issues (climate and societal change) identified under the CLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis.

The target civil society actors are defined as:

- i) Formal and informal civil society organisations (CSOs) at the regional, national and local/community levels (including environmental, fisherfolk, women and youth groups), and
- ii) Small and micro enterprises (SMEs) which have a role to play and/or are likely beneficiaries in the achievement of the long-term vision for the marine environment in the CLME+ region.
- iii)

Strategies and Actions in the C-SAP

The C-SAP has 8 Strategies and 90 associated Actions. Strategies 1-3 are specifically focused on engaging and

enabling civil society to contribute to the implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)/Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches in the management of the three key ecosystem types identified in the CLME+ SAP. Strategies 4 – 7 are overarching Strategies that focus on strengthening civil society's role in participatory governance and management of all three ecosystem types. Strategy 8 addresses the implementation of the C-SAP. The SAP includes a combination of broad-based and specific Strategies and Actions to address the diversity of issues and challenges impacting the marine environment in the CLME+ region. It also outlines a capacity building strategy and requirements for strengthening the role, participation and ownership of civil society in implementing the CLME+ SAP.

The eight Strategies for the CLME+ C-SAP are:

- i) Implement ecosystem-based management of reef and associated ecosystems (e.g. seagrass beds, mangroves, reef slopes and coastal lagoons),
- ii) Implement an ecosystem approach for pelagic fisheries,
- iii) Implement EBM/EAF of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery,
- iv) Strengthen civil society's role to conduct and participate in research and monitoring for management of the coastal and marine environment,
- v) Strengthen civil society's participation in governance of the coastal and marine environment ,
- vi) Develop and enhance livelihoods based on the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, and,
- vii) Enhance communication to raise awareness and advocate for issues impacting the coastal and marine environment.
- viii) Facilitate C-SAP implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning

KEYWORDS: Civil society, shared living marine resources, CLME+ region

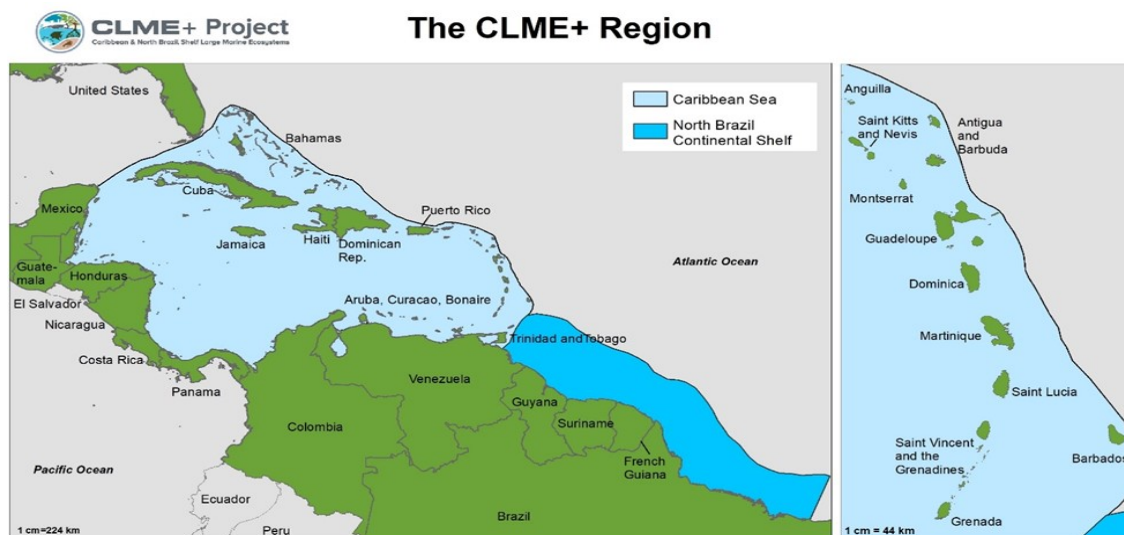


Figure 1. Map of the CLME+ region