



## **Part I: Project Information**

### **GEF ID**

10211

### **Project Type**

FSP

### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

### **CBIT/NGI**

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

### **Project Title**

?BE-CLME+?: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus

### **Countries**

Regional, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, St. Lucia

### **Agency(ies)**

CAF, FAO

### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

CRFM - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

### **Executing Partner Type**

Others

### **GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

### **Sector**

### **Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Species, Biodiversity, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Certification - International Standards, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Certification -National Standards, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Awareness Raising, Communications, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Information Dissemination, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Indicators to measure change, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Innovation

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Principal Objective 2

**Climate Change Adaptation**

No Contribution 0

**Biodiversity**

No Contribution 0

**Land Degradation**

No Contribution 0

**Submission Date**

5/20/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

10/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

9/30/2026

**Duration**

48In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

559,982.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
IW-1-1	Tools, strategies and cooperation frameworks developed and informing policy formulation, adoption and investment processes towards long term sustainability of coastal marine resources.	GET	3,573,217.00	23,014,301.00
IW-1-2	Policy reforms and strengthened frameworks developed and implemented at the regional and national levels, in support of sustainable fishing practices, market mechanisms to support sustainable fisheries value chains, and the expansion of opportunities for private sector engagement.	GET	1,759,943.00	10,810,066.00
BD-1-1	Loss, fragmentation, and degradation of significant natural habitats, and associated extinction debt, is reduced, halted or reversed, and conservation status of known threatened species is improved and sustained, including through monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, restoration, and strategic establishment of protected areas and other measures.	GET	287,934.00	2,814,462.00

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-2-7	The area of protected areas under effective and equitable management is significantly increased, including development of sustainable financing. The ecological representativeness of protected area systems, and their coverage of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, of particular importance for biodiversity is increased, especially habitats for threatened species.	GET	600,924.00	5,019,054.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>6,222,018.00</b>	<b>41,657,883.00</b>

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

To promote blue economy development in the CLME+ through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas (MPAs), ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), and sustainable seafood value chains.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Implementing cross-sectoral Marine Spatial Planning	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Governments and key stakeholders enabled to support the sustainable use of fisheries and key marine habitats</p> <p><b>Outcome 1.2:</b> The protection of critical fish habitats has been established/expanded, and informed by national marine spatial planning (MSP).</p> <p><i>Core Indicator BD-2.1: Marine protected areas created or expanded (in Jamaica, Belize, Panama, Barbados and Saint Lucia): at least 230,000 ha.</i></p>	<p><b>Output 1.1.1:</b> National MSP conducted in project countries, with a participatory, climate- and gender-sensitive approach[1]</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.2:</b> National BE strategies designed, validated and deployed in project countries (with key marine economic sectors).</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.3:</b> Sustainable financing strategies for national BE, designed and validated, highlighting marine-based economic opportunities.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.4:</b> National decision-support systems developed and implemented for sustainable fisheries management (including climate change impacts and data gap analysis, strengthened use of field monitoring, GIS and other spatial data collection technologies).</p> <p><b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Newly created marine protected areas or OECM (Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures) in targeted countries.</p> <p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> Enhanced marine protected areas management capacity in select countries.</p>	GE T	3,822,523.00	26,461,550.00

[1] To inform national blue economy strategy and opportunities

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Inclusive Sustainable Fisheries Value Chains	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> New and strengthened national and regional seafood value chains supporting realization of blue economy opportunities and sustainable development goals.	<p><b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Key seafood value chains assessed and incorporated into national blue economy strategies and marine spatial planning efforts, including identification of future value chains and end market requirements.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Seafood value chain added-value opportunities identified, and market and economic feasibility assessed, including testing innovative post-harvest processing methods and reduction of post-harvest loss and improved/creation of new seafood products to reduce waste</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.3:</b> National policy recommendations developed promoting enabling environment for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets, including empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.4:</b> Regional and national fisheries authorities and other relevant regulatory agencies trained in seafood value chain analysis and development within the context of blue economy.</p>	GET	973,985.00	7,746,046.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Regional Coordination, Project Management & Knowledge Management	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Outcome 3.1</b> Strengthened regional BE cooperation and coordination, and increased governments' capacity to adopt ecosystem-based fisheries management practices.</p> <p><b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Project implementation according to result-based management and lessons learned systematized and disseminated.</p> <p><b>Outcome 3.3:</b> Knowledge shared between Caribbean countries and organizations, and GEF IW projects in partnership with IW:LEARN.</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.1:</b> Assessment and compilation of existing MSP planning efforts in the CLME+ to inform regional ecosystem-based management of key fisheries (building on MSP plans from GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project).</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2:</b> At least 1 regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries, developed.</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.3:</b> New national and regional partnerships to foster cooperation on ecosystem-based fisheries management and the development of seafood value chains.</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Project monitoring and evaluation plan and system, in place.</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.2:</b> Project mid-term and terminal evaluations.</p> <p><b>Output 3.3.1:</b> Technical manuals on ecosystem-based management of fisheries informed by MSP, developed and disseminated within the region.</p> <p><b>Output 3.3.2:</b> One knowledge management &amp; information platform established (focused on project lessons learned from MSP, seafood value chain, and national blue economy implementation).</p>	GE T	1,129,224.00	5,488,818.00



Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>	<b>5,925,732.00</b>	<b>39,696,414.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
		GET	296,286.00		1,961,469.00	
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>			<b>296,286.00</b>		<b>1,961,469.00</b>	
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>6,222,018.00</b>		<b>41,657,883.00</b>	

Please provide justification

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	Development Bank of Latin America ( CAF)	Loans	Investment mobilized	25,000,000.00
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,000,000.00
Other	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	Grant	Investment mobilized	300,000.00
Other	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,899,250.00
Other	University of Florida Sea Grant Program	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	175,000.00
Other	University of the West Indies - CERMES	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Other	Dyer Aqua Panama	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	641,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment & National Beautification And the Blue Economy and Green Economy - Barbados	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,472,362.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation - Belize	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,601,815.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture - Guyana	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Fisheries Authority - Jamaica	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,071,428.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives - St. Lucia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,315,971.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment - Panama	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,081,057.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>41,657,883.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

CAF - THE POSSIBILITY OF MATERIALIZING THIS AMOUNT WILL DEPEND ON THE MARKET CONDITIONS AND RISK APPETITE THAT BANK MAY HAVE IN THE AREAS OF INFLUENCE AND VALUE CHAINS THAT ARE THE OBJECT OF THE PROJECT AND, IN ADDITION, THE INCENTIVES THAT CAF CAN OFFER TO PROMOTE THIS TYPE OF FINANCING. The USD 300,000 co-financing is regarded as investment mobilized and will be provided from the programmatic budget of the CRFM. These resources are for use across all three components of the project, including marine spatial planning and marine protected areas, and value chain development from the marine living resources. Activities will focus on communication, public relations, visibility, networking and sharing of information with stakeholders; gender equality, equity and mainstreaming; capacity building of public and private sector stakeholders; data collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination; fisheries and marine biodiversity conservation and management planning; preparation of policy advise and policy-making at the regional level; value chain analysis and development; support for regional and international meetings and workshops of direct relevance to the objectives and components of the project.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
CAF	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	2,891,345	260,220	3,151,565.00
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	2,441,815	219,763	2,661,578.00
FAO	GET	Barbados	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,885	8,000	96,885.00
CAF	GET	Belize	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,884	8,000	96,884.00
FAO	GET	Jamaica	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	444,433	39,999	484,432.00
CAF	GET	Panama	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	177,772	16,000	193,772.00
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,884	8,000	96,884.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>6,222,018.00</b>	<b>559,982.00</b>	<b>6,782,000.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**PPG Required **true****PPG Amount (\$)**

200,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

18,000

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
CAF	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	92,938	8,364	<b>101,302.00</b>
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	78,490	7,064	<b>85,554.00</b>
FAO	GET	Barbados	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,858	258	<b>3,116.00</b>
CAF	GET	Belize	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,858	258	<b>3,116.00</b>
FAO	GET	Jamaica	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	14,284	1,284	<b>15,568.00</b>
CAF	GET	Panama	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	5,714	514	<b>6,228.00</b>
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,858	258	<b>3,116.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>218,000.00</b>

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
230,000.00	540,774.00	0.00	0.00

### Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
230,000.00	290,239.01	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
TBD during PPG			230,000.00	290,239.01		

### Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	250,535.31	0.00	0.00

<b>Name of the Protected Area</b>	<b>WDP ID</b>	<b>IUCN Category</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>	<b>METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>METT score (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>METT score (Achieved at TE)</b>
Barbados: Folkstone Marine Reserve + West Coast Expansion	TBD	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		1,052.60			1.00		
Belize: Glovers Reef Marine Reserve + expansion	99653	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		47,102.40			1.00		
Belize: Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve + expansion	99656	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		130,166.41			1.00		



Name of the Protected Area	WDP ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Belize : South water Caye Marin e Reserve + expansion	99652	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		50,927.38			2.00		
Panama: Isla Bastimentos National Marine Park + expansion	TBD	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		19,586.52			1.00		
St. Lucia	TBD	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		1,700.00			2.00		

**Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations**

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Type/name of the third-party certification			
Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia			
Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
1	1	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
	Caribbean sea		

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA- ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Shared water Ecosystem</b>	North Brazil Shelf, Caribbean sea	North Brazil Shelf, Caribbean sea		
<b>Count</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
North Brazil Shelf	4	4		

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
Caribbean sea	4	4		

**Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>

**Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>

**Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)**

<b>Shared Water Ecosystem</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Rating (Achieved at TE)</b>
North Brazil Shelf	1	1		
Caribbean sea	1	1		

**Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels**

<b>Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)</b>
45,000.00	45,000.00		

**Fishery Details**

**Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments**

	<b>Number (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at TE)</b>
<b>Female</b>	8,000	28,000		
<b>Male</b>	80,000	60,000		
<b>Total</b>	88000	88000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

CHANGES FROM PIF	EXPLANATION FOR CHANGE
<p>IW Funds Approved in PIF as per Table A:</p> <p>IW-1-1: 3,573,217</p> <p>IW-1-2: 1,759,943</p>	<p>IW Funds Requested at CEO Endorsement as per Table A:</p> <p>IW-1-1: 3,523,063</p> <p>IW-1-2: 1,585,673</p> <p>Barbados increased its BD STAR allocation by \$400,000, so the IW funds being requested was reduced to not exceed 5% of the total project amount approved in the PIF, consistent with GEF rules.</p> <p>The BD STAR allocation of Jamaica has been decreased to 423,864 that corresponds to the total available amount for this country at this stage in time.</p>
<p>In PIF:</p> <p>The total Biodiversity STAR Allocation in the PIF is US\$1,000,000</p> <p>In CEO Endorsement Request:</p> <p>The total Biodiversity STAR Allocation committed by countries at CEO Endorsement is US\$1,400,000 (inclusive of agency fees), \$1,307,689 of which will be used in project implementation, consistent with distribution of the BD allocation presented in Section D of the CEO Endorsement Request.</p>	<p>Barbados has increased its STAR Allocation from US\$100,000 to US\$500,000.</p>

<p>In PIF:</p> <p>The total co-financing in the PIF is US\$40,199,250</p> <p>In CEO Endorsement Request:</p> <p>The total co-financing at CEO Endorsement is US\$ 41,657,883</p>	<p>The total co-financing has increased as a consequence of additional contributions from countries beyond the 9,000,000 committed in the PIF, and new cofinancing identified from the University of Florida-CRFM partnership, University of the West Indies-CERMES, and the private sector in Panama.</p>
<p>In PIF:</p> <p>Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares): 235,000</p> <p>In CEO Endorsement Request:</p> <p>Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares): 290,239</p>	<p>The commitment of project countries to increase the percentage of their marine space under protected status led to the identification and inclusion of areas covering 55,239.71 hectares more than the target identified at PIF stage corresponding to GEF Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use.</p>

**a) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed.**

Overview & Environmental Context

The Caribbean islands are of critical importance for global biodiversity conservation as large percentages of each species group are endemic to the region and often to particular islands and levels of endemism are very high in the region;[1]<sup>1</sup> up to 35 percent of species within the major marine taxa found globally are endemic to the Caribbean, containing 25 coral genera, 117 sponges, 633 mollusks, more than 1,400 species of fish, 76 sharks, 45 shrimp, 30 cetaceans and 23 species of seabirds. The Caribbean contains approximately 10,000 square kilometres of reef, 22,000 square kilometres of mangrove, and as much as 33,000 square kilometres of seagrass beds. The region also provides wintering and nursery grounds for many Northern Atlantic migratory species, including the great North Atlantic humpback whale, which reproduces in the northern Caribbean seascape[2]<sup>2</sup>. Similarly, the Caribbean coast of Panama, and in particular Bocas del Toro, is known for its impressive

coral formations, extensive seagrass beds, mangroves, and abundance of fish (a total of 1,157 marine fish species occur in the country)[3]<sup>3</sup>.

Coastal and marine ecosystems are of critical importance to Member States of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and Panama, providing a host of economic, leisure and cultural services to the Caribbean region, a fact that is common to all Small Island Developing States (SIDs). These coastal ecosystems support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and marine eco-tourism, and are instrumental in mitigating the effects of climate change. These ecosystem services are currently undervalued, yet their contribution to a healthy planet, income generation, national economies, and a positive climate change agenda is significant and cannot be substituted. The combined land area of CRFM Member States is 433,549 km<sup>2</sup> whereas the area of the combined Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is 2,046,948 km<sup>2</sup>; however, some Member States are still negotiating delimitation issues with neighbouring States[4]<sup>4</sup>. The five CRFM Member States participating in the project collectively possess a continental shelf of 79,108 km<sup>2</sup> and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 673,128 km<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, Panama's EEZ is 319,118 km<sup>2</sup> and its continental shelf is 250,900 km<sup>2</sup>, inclusive of both Atlantic and Pacific coasts[5]<sup>5</sup>.

#### Socio-Economic Context

In addition to sharing the Caribbean Sea, most of the countries participating in the project share similarities in geography, climate, history, culture and language. They also share many similar socio-economic and developmental challenges: small but growing populations, economic recession, poverty, vulnerability to climate change, economic vulnerability, social and environmental vulnerability, and exposure to natural disasters. Unlike Panama, which places substantial emphasis on the financial sector, the agriculture sector, and the Panama Canal as primary economic drivers, Caribbean Islands are heavily reliant on tourism and fisheries as primary economic drivers, both of which are heavily dependent on the sustainable management of marine resources. Fisheries contribute significantly to livelihoods and poverty alleviation, in 2011 representing 2.1% of GDP and 1.7% of GDP for Guyana and Belize, respectively, and just under 1% GDP for all other countries participating in the project. In the CARICOM/CRFM region they provide at least 117,000 people with direct employment in small-scale fisheries (mainly lobster, conch, and finfish) and aquaculture, and indirect employment for an estimated 400,000, including women, who are involved in fish processing, marketing, boat construction, net repairs, and other support services[6]<sup>6</sup>. In 2014, the Fisheries Sector provided steady employment for nearly 350,000 people across 17 Caribbean countries, generated fish production valued at US\$420 million and foreign exchange revenue of nearly US\$270 million[7]<sup>7</sup>. In the CARICOM countries, at least 64,000 people are directly employed in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and an estimated 180,000 are involved in fish processing, retailing, boat construction, net repairs, etc. The total number of fishing vessels operating in the commercial capture fisheries of CRFM Member States was

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estimated at 32,836 in 2016; and the number of vessels fishing on the high seas and registered in Member States of the CRFM during 2016 was estimated at 98; thus, the region had a total of 105 fishing vessels registered under open registries in 2015, a decrease of 66% from the 2012 estimate of 168[8]<sup>8</sup>.

Also relevant to the socioeconomic context is the impact of the COVID 19 disruption on Caribbean Economies and Panama, and in particular its impact on the fisheries/small-scale fisheries and tourism sectors, which have been hard hit in terms of employment, consumption and poverty. The countries of the Caribbean and Central America are in general small developing economies with low levels of export diversification and where connectivity and input costs hinder development, in addition to facing high levels of external debt and an employment structure that is dominated by small-medium enterprises and the informal sector[9]<sup>9</sup>. This recent COVID 19 experience has highlighted the need to build more resilient economies, especially as it relates to the fisheries and tourism sectors. In this COVID 19 context, development of the Blue Economy may be instrumental in assisting project countries to recover their economies and build resilience and sustainability.

#### Institutional Context

The regional institutional context for blue economy development in the Caribbean consists of several key institutions which provide suitable institutional and policy frameworks. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been engaged in nearly all major Caribbean- wide GEF investments, including institutional partnerships with FAO, the World Bank, and other key multilateral organizations promoting blue economy concepts. CARICOM recognizes that blue economy opportunities is in line with the stated goal of ensuring food security having developed a regional food and nutrition security policy and that climate change impacts are a key issue to address for future development for all Caribbean SIDS. Among the key CARICOM priorities involving blue economy planning include: i) improve marine and coastal biodiversity and conserve ecosystem health; ii) scaling up SIDS Marine Protected Areas and Marine Management Areas Initiatives; iii) ecosystem restoration projects especially as it relates to mangroves, sea grass beds and coral reefs; and iv) building economic resilience in fishing communities and building capacity of communities to benefit from broader economic activities e.g. recreational activities, tourism-based activities.

Closely aligned with the broader CARICOM commitments is the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), one of the specialized institutions of CARICOM. CRFM was established in 2002 to coordinate and promote regional cooperation for sustainable use, management and conservation of living marine resources and marine ecosystems and is the key regional fisheries body for the Caribbean. CRFM is an inter- governmental organization with its mission being to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region. The CRFM has 17 members, including all project countries, except Panama. The CRFM consists of three bodies ? the Ministerial Council; the Caribbean Fisheries Forum; and the CRFM Secretariat. The CRFM has an

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extensive record of fisheries and marine conservation and management project implementation in the region, and will be the Executing Agency of this project.

Another important regional player in fisheries is the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), the aim of which is to encourage the development and the coordinated management of regional fisheries and aquaculture activities, while helping to strengthen the Central American integration process, as well as strengthening global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members, and leading consensus- building towards improved conservation and utilization of aquatic resources. The area of competence of OSPESCA extends to the national waters, inland waters and EEZs of its Member States, which are: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Two of the countries participating in this project are members of OSPESCA: Belize and Panama. The CRFM and OSPESCA work together under a memorandum of understanding and a joint action plan to guide cooperation and collaboration between the CRFM countries in the Caribbean and OSPESCA countries in Central America over the period 2020 to 2025.

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) is a key player in regional and national fisheries. It is a regional organisation comprising representatives of national fisherfolk organizations from the CRFM Member Countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for fisherfolk and develop a sustainable and profitable industry through networking, representation and capacity building. The CNFO has been instrumental in advocating for the issues of interest to fisherfolk in the Caribbean, as evidenced through its more than 16 volumes of newsletter published to date, the 'Fisherfolk Net'. Of note is the success of the CNFO, in collaboration with UWI-CERMES, in leading on the development of the Protocol on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries as the first protocol under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP).

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is a regional intergovernmental organization. The OECS has made important progress in the development of blue economy at the regional level via the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP), the main goal of which is to strengthen capacity for ocean governance and coastal and marine geospatial planning. Important progress in the regional blue economy governance framework include the OECS Ocean Governance Team (OGT) and Ocean Governance and Fisheries Unit of the OECS Secretariat. The relevance and complementarity of the CROP with this proposed project are further outlined below under 'Policy Context' and 'Baseline Scenario'. St. Lucia, one of the countries participating in this project, is a member state of the OECS.

The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) as a regional advisory fisheries organization is also a relevant body for the development and management of fisheries resources within a blue economy context. WECAFC has created working groups on topics of particular interest, including queen conch, spiny lobster, spawning aggregations, fish aggregating devices (FADs), sharks and recreational fisheries (with a focus on billfish). It also coordinates with other international bodies with a role in managing the shared fish stocks of the wider Caribbean.

At the national level, the institutional framework for blue economy development in most countries consists of several sector-specific ministries and industry organizations, with the exception of Barbados which has a specific Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, and more recently, Belize

which following general elections in November 2020, established a new government ministry, the Ministry of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation. Policy and operational entities addressing different aspects of blue economy include Fisheries Authorities, Departments, and Divisions; multi-sector planning and management agencies such as the Coastal Zone Management Unit of Barbados, the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute of Belize, and environmental agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency of Guyana, National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica, and the Coastal and Marine Management Division within the Ministry of Environment of Panama. The national blue economy framework in some countries, such as St. Lucia, also include intersectoral National Ocean Governance Committees and National Ocean Governance Focal Points.

All countries participating in the project have national fisherfolk organizations as key entities advocating for improved sustainable incomes and livelihoods and protecting the private interests of fishers and fishing communities, and as such, they form an indispensable part of the institutional framework and decision-making structures at the national level. The national fisherfolk organizations in most Caribbean islands are members of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO). . Because of the mutual interests shared between fisheries and tourism, not just in terms of protection of natural ecosystems, but also in terms of the economic relationship between fisheries products and the tourism and hospitality industry, the Ministry of Tourism, National Tourism Boards, and National Tour Operator Organizations are also important elements of the national institutional framework relevant for the sustainable development of fisheries. These organisations are comprised largely of small-scale operators including fishers, as well as, fish and seafood processors and vendors, who are predominantly women, involved in retail marketing of fish to consumers. These fisherfolk organizations were closely involved in developing the CARICOM Protocol on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy. They are also playing important roles in implementation of FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and the related CARICOM Protocol.

### Policy Context

In terms of the regional level policy framework, the CLME TDA and SAP documents developed for the Caribbean and Northern Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems are the key baseline programs and knowledge from which to build discussion on blue economy opportunities in the region and at the national level. There are several CARICOM policies supporting blue economy. These include the Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community (2015 - 2019), Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) including its protocols, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Strategic Plan (2013 to 2021). The CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy was adopted in October 2014 and outlines goals for fisheries, aquaculture, and other living marine resources, coupled with conservation, management and protection of the fish stocks and associated marine habitats and ecosystems. The policy also stresses improvements in social and economic conditions, good governance, fairness, and equity so that sustainable benefits are equitable to all. The current Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Strategic Plan (2013 to 2021) maps out the region's priorities for fisheries development and management, with an objective to obtain optimum sustainable social, economic, and nutritional benefits for an overall improved quality of life for fishermen and fishing communities, while mutually preserving fish stock and marine ecosystem health and productivity.

In 2013, the OECS Secretariat, with support from the Commonwealth Secretariat, developed the first Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and Strategic Action Plan (SAP) (ECROP 2013) which outlined a comprehensive basis for the development of regional ocean policy. The ECROP was revised in 2019 and is now underpinned by National Ocean Policies (NOPs). The ECROP and NOPs set in place a framework for integrated marine planning and management of OECS Member States' marine space and the activities that occur therein. As described by the OECS, ECROP aims to sustainably and equitably address competition, interdependencies and tensions across a range of ocean-related sectors to ensure greater balance between the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean (SDG 14) and poverty reduction, food security, human health and healthy terrestrial ecosystems, ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation, and equitable economic growth and decent employment (SDGs 1-8 and 10-17) in coastal and marine areas. The ECROP seeks to comprehensively address the following seven policies at the level of OECS member states: Secure access to resources; Maintain and improve ecosystem integrity; Promote social and economic development; Adopt multiple-use ocean planning and integrated management; Promote public awareness, participation, and accountability; Support research and capacity building; and Build resilience and manage for uncertainty. The overall existing blue economy-enabling framework for the OECS consists primarily of the ECROP and NOPs and is complemented by the OECS Blue Growth Roadmap developed in 2018 to strengthen the science-policy interface within the OECS and the wider Caribbean[10]<sup>10</sup>.

A recent addition to the regional blue economy institutional framework is the UNDP's Multi-Country Office for Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean 'Blue Economy and Sustainable Management of Ocean Degradation Lab'. The primary objective of the Blue Lab is to promote out-of-the-box thinking and experimentation to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with a focus on Caribbean countries, in the sustainable development of its ocean-based economic sectors. It is expected to generate greater protection of the marine environment, develop environmentally-friendly public policies, increase blue economy businesses, create breakout research and spark innovation that protects the ocean[11]<sup>11</sup>.

At the national level, the policy context for blue economy development is gradually moving from sector specific policies and strategies to more targeted blue economy focused planning instruments and tools. Current examples of these include national blue economy strategies in Barbados and Belize developed with the support of UNCTAD, the Blue Economy Policy in Jamaica, the National Ocean Policy in St. Lucia developed with support from the ECROP project, the National Ocean Policy currently being developed in Panama with the support of UNDP, Coastal Zone Management Plans in Barbados and Belize, and the recently developed National Fisheries Policy Strategy and Action Plan in Belize, which embraces the blue economy approach to fisheries management as a specific strategic objective.

### Threats / Root Causes

The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (CLME TDA) found that the major transboundary environmental threats affecting the Wider

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Caribbean Region were: i) habitat degradation and ecosystem community modification; ii) unsustainable fisheries, and iii) pollution. On this basis, in 2013, countries bordering and/or located within the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region) finalized and 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) to contribute to the achievement of a 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 consists of six main strategies and four sub-strategies and has been designed to address priority problems in a holistic and integrative way. All three of the above environmental threats negatively impact Caribbean countries. The CLME+ SAP regional and sub-regional attention to transboundary institutional arrangements are necessary, but not sufficient, to address these threats at national and local level.

The growing interest of blue economy potential in the Caribbean provides a long-term and cooperative approach for addressing threats to the marine ecosystem and reversing losses of marine ecosystem services that underpin local and national economies, especially nationally and regionally important commercially marine fisheries and other seafood harvest activities that are essential to the Caribbean economy. Realizing blue economy opportunities in the Caribbean will rely heavily on sustainable and ecosystem-based approaches towards managing national and regional fisheries. While some Caribbean nations can often be seen as sustainable fishing role models for certain species, such as grouper and spiny lobster, unsustainable fishing continues to persist and poses a very real threat to the vibrant Caribbean-wide blue economy. Most of the fisheries across the three ecosystem types in the CLME+ are recognized to be fully or overexploited. The problem of the unsustainability of fisheries and fishery practices in the region originates from a multitude of causes including the over-harvesting of target stocks and the direct and indirect impacts of activities on species, size groups or life stages that are not directly targeted by the fishery. The fisheries in the region face weak governance, inadequate data and information for decision-making and limited capacity for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).

In 2014 overall fisheries production in the Caribbean region was reported as having declined by 40 percent in the two decades prior, with the region's fishery resources classified as being among the most overexploited in the world, with fifty five percent of commercially harvested fishery stocks overexploited or depleted and 40 percent of stocks are fully exploited. This data is similar for Panama, which saw a 70% reduction between 2008 and 2016. The demand for fish in the Caribbean region exceeds the local production. Increased demand for fish for local and tourist consumption in Eastern Caribbean States has resulted in more than 40 percent of fish consumed being imported. Over 250,000 tonnes of fish at a cost of USD 100 million are imported by the Caribbean states annually. In 2015 and 2016 total imports of fish for all CRFM Member States combined (including imports of fish for food, bait and live ornamental fish for breeding or rearing) was approximately 73,922 MT (product weight) annually. Fish imported for food accounted for ~99.8% of the total. The total value of the fish imports for all Member States combined was ~US\$286.6 million in 2015 and ~US\$281.4 million in 2016 (an average of ~US\$284 million annually)[12]<sup>12</sup>.

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Overfishing produces significant harm to marine ecosystems and directly affects the long-term potential of fish stocks to provide food, nutrition and employment to present and future generations. Destructive fishing practices may have unintended impacts on non-targeted fish species and other associated species such as birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles. Illegal fishing and poor transparency of fishing practices can also undermine fisheries management and threatens the viability of blue economy opportunities due to lack of transparency along value chains and perceived higher investor risks. Harmful fisheries subsidies such as those that support fleet acquisition and expansion, fuel, and equipment encourage over-fishing or contribute to excess capacity of fishing fleets, and further undermine the effectiveness of fisheries management efforts, and place the long-term environmental, social, and economic security of fisheries at risk.

Many fisheries activities are locally-based and lack the necessary data to manage stocks adequately. Catch data systems and vessel registries are outdated and need to be updated. Managing these data-poor fisheries is a challenge that should be addressed through localized actions, use of local knowledge and involvement of the private sector. It is therefore necessary to establish and/or enhance the data and information quality and collection and management capacity of the regional, sub-regional and national fisheries governance arrangements, including through the establishment of public-private partnerships. The Caribbean region data deficiencies and limited statistical information hamper national policy-making and fishery management in a regional context of shared marine resources. Data and statistics are also needed for national decisions on conservation and management.

While there is a recognized global problem of unsustainable fishing, from a Caribbean blue economy perspective, there is also a substantial missed opportunity to add economic value along the fish harvest and post-harvest chain. Assessments on how to maximize current fish value through new sustainable gear, post-harvest handling and quality control measures, packaging, marketing, processing such as fish smoking or salting, use of underutilized and/or invasive species, and use of fish waste have proven to be successful ways to yield additional economic value and improved livelihoods; however, these value-added strategies must be market-driven. Such activities can also yield multiple benefits, such as using fish silage (low-tech processing of fish waste) as an ingredient in animal feed that thereby reduces organic pollution of fish landing sites while increasing the value of fisheries waste products. Closing the animal feed cycle, for example, can reduce dependence on imported ingredients and reduce excess pollution back into marine habitats.

The regional processes of the CLME+ have provided many of the enabling conditions for fisheries especially those that are in shared waters. However, the CLME+ project was not designed to address local fisheries where community action is key to turning the fisheries around and in doing so generate positive biodiversity outcomes. In addition, the limited uptake of international and regional environmental measures inhibits conservation and biodiversity protection efforts. Further, lack of national intersectoral coordination mechanisms and marine spatial planning threaten long-term viability of a national and regional blue economy.

Underpinning these threats to sustainable economic benefits from marine resources and marine habitats in the Caribbean is the concept of blue economy. Blue economy has broadly focused on promoting sustainable socioeconomic activities that occur in the marine environment and/or generate income and livelihood benefits based on consumption or outputs from the marine environment. As stated above, for

the Caribbean Community, this often translate to sustainable marine fisheries and other seafood harvest, which accounts for over US\$300 million in annual export, employs over 1.3 million people and supports the livelihood over 4.5 million people, and contributes between approximately 0.5% and 5% of value added to GDP of CARICOM countries. Therefore, the Caribbean has rightly identified the opportunities of the blue economy to help address national socioeconomic issues including food security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable management of living aquatic resources. FAO's Blue Growth initiative supports these efforts in the Caribbean through four components: a) Marine and inland capture fisheries that address fisheries management and good governance; b) Livelihoods and foods systems, including CARICOM's efforts to promote a regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and addressing trade and capacity building issues; c) Aquaculture that also addresses improving food security; and d) Economic growth from ecosystem services, including an emphasis on marine ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation as it supports an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and other sustainable blue economy economic activities.

#### Barriers that Need to be Addressed

Addressing the marine environmental threats to realize national blue economies in the Caribbean are hampered by several key barriers and management and policy gaps. These are described below.

#### *Barrier 1 - Limited implementation of the ecosystems approach to fisheries management and low understanding of blue economic development.*

While National Action Plans (NAPs) as outlined under the CLME+ project provide governments with a holistic view of marine management concerns linked to transboundary issues at the Large Marine Ecosystem scale, the NAPs are inadequate to recognize socioeconomic opportunities, and provide no meaningful roadmap nor policy-enabling environment for effective and timely implementation. In most cases, the economic and social sustainability pillars of a NAP are often not well defined or absent. The absence of strong social and economic interventions limits the relevance of the NAPs to the private sector especially small-medium fishing enterprises at local government and community levels. This leads to a situation whereby there are limited incentives for reducing overfishing or improving the marine ecosystems health at local level.

A further barrier that persists is significant knowledge gaps on marine habitats, the contribution of economic sectors to marine pollution and habitat degradation, and fisheries data. The use of data analysis tools to guide decision making, such as marine spatial planning are not currently being used to communicate economic incentives and show linkages towards broader national development plans. In addition, a lack of consistent data and statistics and government capacity to assess and manage marine pollution, ecosystems health, and data-poor fisheries, especially small- scale fisheries are often extremely limited. However, the extent of small-scale fishing is substantial ? both in terms of income generation and impact on fish stocks - and collectively can have profound impacts on national

fisheries policy. National decisions on conservation and management of small-scale fisheries will require a multi-sectoral approach and significant investment in data collection and statistical analysis. A lack of data and understanding of marine ecosystem linkages significantly limits the ability of decision makers to employ ecosystem-based management approaches for marine ecosystems health and commercially important fish stocks. This has led to a situation where Caribbean countries have not just limited experience with implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management, but also an inadequate understanding of the economic potential of fisheries when managed within the multi-sectoral blue economy context.

*Barrier 2 - Value chains of Caribbean fisheries are poorly understood, policy and institutional frameworks are not designed to support value chains, resulting in lost opportunities for investment, marketing and optimization of economic returns from fisheries products.*

Another critical barrier is the fact that the value chains of Caribbean fisheries are poorly understood, i.e., the entire set of processes and activities which are required to produce and deliver a product to a target market. Smooth functioning of value chain requires not only the factors of production and technology but also efficient transport, market information systems and management. Value chains are concerned with what the market will pay for a product or service offered for sale. Currently, there is no comprehensive understanding of Caribbean fisheries value chains. A better understanding of the situation in the fisheries from an economic and value perspective is critical for objective planning for potential interventions to assist in the move towards a more market driven and sustainable fishery that will enhance and contribute to the growing demand for fish in the country level, as well, as investigate and enhance the ability to enhance export of fish and seafood to regional markets and beyond the region to markets extra-regionally. Examining existing value chains and analyzing the opportunities and constraints for its future development can help to maximize revenue flow in the fisheries sector and small-scale fishers in particular, through judicious utilization of scarce resources, processing, value addition, efficient marketing and distribution.

Current policy and institutional frameworks are not designed to support fisheries value chains, resulting in lost opportunities for investment, marketing and optimization of economic returns from fisheries products. As Caribbean fisheries become socially and economically more important for the region, limited data-based decision making will prevent realizing the full economic potential and integration into large public-private partnership programs into sustainable and ecosystem-based fisheries management over the long-term. This is especially the case for understanding the full suite of value adding opportunities in fisheries value chains. Private sector investment in blue economy opportunities across fisheries value chains has traditionally been low across the Caribbean. This is also true for fisherfolk, who regularly find access to private sector finance to invest in the needed interventions, especially in terms of micro-financing a major barrier. Further, poor financial literacy to develop and replicate innovative financing mechanisms has limited any meaningful previous scaling up efforts.

Barrier 3 - Insufficient capacity at both the regional and national levels to institutionalize sustainable fisheries within blue economic development approaches that promote sustainable development benefits.

Underpinning these barriers are poor experiences and knowledge on ecosystem-based fisheries and integration with blue economy approaches to maximize socio-economic and environmental benefits. Limited human and institutional capacity of the governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations including fisherfolk has been a persistent barrier for long-term success in marine ecosystem and fisheries management. While collaboration among country governments has been growing thanks to efforts such as CRFM, CARICOM, OSPESCA, WECAFC and previous GEF investments, including the CLME and CLME+ projects, not all governments participate equally in marine management. Insufficient capacity and knowledge is a concern for ecosystem stewardship practice, and is often driven by inadequate public awareness of ecosystem approaches, best practices, monitoring and compliance mechanisms, as well as poor documentation of successful experiences and practices from weak management, ineffective collaboration mechanisms and limited engagement of grassroots stakeholders in monitoring and evaluating.

Ultimately, the difficult dynamics of the above barriers in both space and time result in highly complex management challenges. The use of marine spatial planning (MSP) to promote ecosystem-based management of fisheries is still a relatively new concept for many Caribbean nations, and for others already embracing it, can continue to be strengthened with new and more reliable data, new resource user needs, and other emerging factors. Successful blue economic development in the Caribbean will rely heavily on MSP to provide a holistic cross-sectoral view, including the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and MSPs that incorporate divergent interests across all sectors of relevance to the marine space. MPAs and other spatial marine management mechanisms are increasingly proving to be an effective tool for ecosystem-based fisheries management, as well as appeasing other stakeholder concerns, such as marine-based tourism. While the Caribbean has been a leader in MPA establishment, some CARICOM countries have been slower to adopt new MPAs, potentially not meeting the goals of Aichi Target 11 and SDG 14[13]<sup>13</sup>. The linkage between a cross-sectoral MSP and the role of MPA in promoting blue economic development in the Caribbean continue to be a barrier for long-term management of marine resources, especially sustainable fisheries management.

**b) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects**

The proposed project will consolidate and build upon the significant foundation established and progress made by the series of GEF investments in the Caribbean particularly by the CLME and CLME+ Projects managed by UNDP and key regional partners. While the CLME+ SAP catalytic implementation phase (in the form of the CLME+ Project) is nearing an end, the baseline efforts of the CLME investments provided the critical regional roadmap for transboundary management of marine

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resources for the Caribbean and Northern Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems. The development of the CLME TDA and SAP documents, under the CLME project, are the key baseline programs and knowledge from which to build discussion on blue economy opportunities at the national level. Participating project countries included Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. This project will address some of the gaps identified under the CLME Projects and build onto the activities to enhance the regional governance arrangements for the protection of the marine environment and sustainable fisheries and by operationalizing improved policy coordination mechanisms for ocean governance, including enhanced marine spatial planning efforts and strengthened ecosystem-based fisheries management efforts, and sharing of information and knowledge management thereby promoting blue economy priorities.

At the national level and of the countries participating in the project, each nation differs to the extent that marine spatial planning has been used. In Barbados, Guyana, and Panama, currently no national level marine spatial planning process has been completed. In Belize, the government worked closely with the National Capital Project (NatCap) in 2016 to conduct marine spatial planning, but MSP is still in its inception in that country. In Jamaica, the government launched a national level marine spatial planning in 2018. In St. Lucia, marine spatial planning activities at the national level are underway as part of the World Bank CROP investment. Each participating country varies at the level of current baseline marine spatial planning, and most countries are still in need of significant support. All six participating countries have yet to translate any marine spatial plans into economic opportunities or informed national level blue economic strategies that stress ecosystem-based fisheries management and seafood value chain opportunities.

The project will also build on a number of previous GEF investments in the Caribbean region. These include the FAO- led Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries (REBYC II-LAC). This project included a partnership between six countries and regional organizations to better manage bycatch and support the sustainable development of trawl fisheries and the people who depend on them. Over a five-year period, the REBYC-II LAC project is aiming to reduce food loss and encourage sustainable livelihoods by improving the management of bycatch and minimizing discards and sea-bed damage, thereby transforming bottom trawl fisheries into responsible fisheries. The REBYC-II LAC project included the Caribbean nations of Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname as well as other Central and South American countries. This proposed project addresses key gaps during the implementation of REBYC-LAC which is mainly dealing with by-catch and discard issues pertaining to large- scale fisheries. Limited attention is being paid to by-catch and discards of small-scale fisheries or ghost fishing of small-scale gear after storms and hurricanes. Although small-scale fisheries have lower levels of by-catch and discards, considering that the region's fisheries are mainly small-scale, the bycatch and discard have a significant cumulative impact and affect the sustainability of fisheries and food security in the region.

The StewardFish project aims to implement the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Strategic Action Plan (SAP) within Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Member States by empowering fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision -making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened

institutional support at all levels. The project includes the Caribbean nations of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The key baseline actions supporting future blue economy opportunities from the StewardFish project include i) developing organizational capacity for fisheries governance; ii) enhancing ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability; and iii) securing sustainable livelihoods for food and nutrition security. One of several key gaps not covered by the StewardFish project is financial access for fisherfolk and the broader set of enabling environment activities for fisheries value chain addition and mechanisms for attracting private sector investment in blue economy opportunities.

The project will also draw on baseline efforts from the Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) project in the Eastern Caribbean. The CC4FISH project involves Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago to address climate change impacts on food security, livelihoods and household income. The project's main investments to increasing resilience of the fisheries sector to climate change are through: i) increased awareness and knowledge on climate change vulnerability of the fisheries sector; ii) capacity building of fisherfolk, fisherfolk organizations and aquaculturists; and iii) mainstreaming of climate change into fisheries policies, plans and legislation. The proposed project will significantly complement CC4FISH by adding value, opportunities, technology for data, and capacity for fisherfolk engaged in CC4FISH to realize national blue economy opportunities for Caribbean island nations.

Perhaps more relevant, the project is aligned and will be closely coordinated with the GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP), which is being implemented by the World Bank in Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica. The main goal of CROP is to strengthen capacity for ocean governance and coastal and marine geospatial planning. The Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project is not exclusively fisheries focused and contains a subset of CARICOM countries, thus serving as a solid baseline for developing ecosystem-based and blue growth approaches towards fisheries management for a larger portion of the Caribbean. As marine spatial planning products will be a key outcome of CROP, the two projects will establish a close working relationship to ensure Caribbean countries are strongly supported.

The project also builds on the baseline created by the GEF Implementing Agencies. In the case of the lead implementing agency, the Development Bank of Latin America or in Spanish, *Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF)*, has been investing in fisheries conservation since its inception, with one of its first projects focusing on tuna harvesting in Ecuador in the 1970s. CAF's Environmental and Climate Change Division leads investments in marine and coastal conservation, advised by its 2015-2020 Strategic Biodiversity Program (BIOCAF). Central to BIOCAF is goals on supporting the identification, conservation, and restoration of fragile and vulnerable marine ecosystems and promoting initiatives for the establishment of marine value chains and ecosystem services, based on scientific information that allows for the sustainable valorisation of oceans. CAF is a major advocate of ecosystem-based fisheries management in the Caribbean, including close support to CARICOM and CRFM. CAF has also been instrumental through its convening power, bridging national priorities into regional investment. CAF and CARICOM have been working closely together since signing a Memorandum of Understanding in 1996. More recently, CAF has been supporting CRFM, including

regional workshops in support of assisting with meeting SDG 14 targets. CAF's ongoing work in fisheries in marine conservation for the Caribbean focuses on: a) supporting an enabling business environment by investing in strategic projects; b) providing green and blue financing; c) supporting coastal and marine ecosystem assessments; and d) promoting knowledge brokering at regional and international level. The \$25 million of CAF cofinancing for lines of credit to project countries are directly focused on private sector investments tied to national blue economy strategy implementation with low-financing options aimed at removing capital-intensive barriers that support creating enabling environments for public-private partnerships and private sector investments, especially in seafood value chain creation activities under project Component 2, in addition to the contribution for the implementation of Components 1 and 3.

FAO/WECAFC has a long track-record in the Caribbean promoting the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. FAO baseline programs include the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and a \$45 million grant for Intra-ACP Blue- Growth Programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains. The BGI aims at building resilience of coastal communities and restoring the productive potential of fisheries and aquaculture, in order to support food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable management of living aquatic resources. Promoting international coordination is crucial to strengthen responsible management regimes and practices that can reconcile economic growth and food security with the restoration of the eco-systems they sustain. The BGI currently supports 20+ countries around the world in partnership with the UNDP, NORAD, WWF, UNEP, ICFA, MSC, GEF, World Bank, and the Netherlands. Key to the BGI is the objective of "Blue communities" in target countries promoting resource stewardship, ownership and improved livelihoods, as well as curbing marine ecosystem degradation. The proposed project will draw on lessons learned from existing BGI experiences in Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Seychelles, Senegal, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. The Intra-ACP Blue-Growth Programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains five-year project will contribute to economic growth, job creation, food and nutrition security by improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Guyana is one of the countries participating this ACP project.

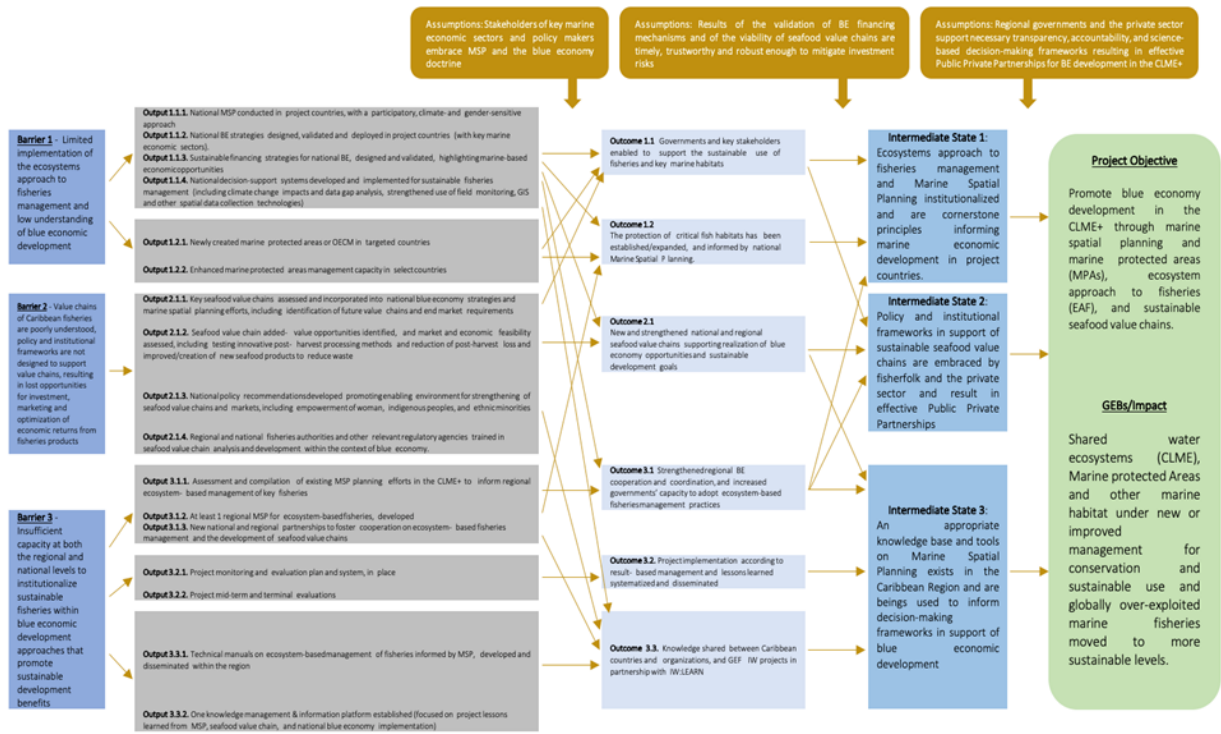
### **3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

#### Intervention Logic ? Theory of Change

The project's Theory of Change (TOC) described here follows the approach as described in the "GEF Review of Outcome to Impact (ROI) Handbook - Methodological Paper #2" of 2009 and the "Theory of Change Primer" developed by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF and published in December 2019. The project's TOC therefore is treated as an iterative process, first being developed during this PPG phase, to be revisited during project implementation to inform adaptive

changes, and during project evaluation to provide deeper context for the project's mid-term and final evaluations. The TOC describes the processes of change by outlining the causal pathways from outputs through direct outcomes through other 'intermediate states' towards the project's overall objective and impact. It explains how activities are understood to produce a series of results that contribute to achieving the final intended impacts.

The intervention logic of the project is guided by the 'drivers', 'assumptions', 'mitigation of perceived risks and barriers', and 'logical pathways' needed to achieve the ultimate impact of the project: *To promote blue economy development in the CLME+ through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas (MPAs), ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), and sustainable seafood value chains*, and consequently delivering on the global environmental benefits anticipated. The key drivers are those activities and processes that the project can potentially and directly sponsor, in support of project outputs and outcomes, while the assumptions are those conditions and circumstances that are necessary to achieve the required transition between outputs, outcomes, intermediate states and impact, but are outside the control of the project. The logical or impact pathways are the set of steps, consisting of activities, processes and assumptions that collectively will deliver the desired project objective (see illustration in the Project Theory of Change below and in Annex K).



The project's proposed interventions/activities (drivers) build on the CLME baseline investments which provided a critical regional roadmap for transboundary management of marine resources for the Caribbean, and in particular the 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 project seeks to drive those additional steps and processes required to achieve incremental results beyond the established baseline. The project's intervention logic also

capitalizes on the enabling environment for blue economy provided by the policy and institutional contexts existent in the region and in project countries, and the commitments of project countries to various international conventions and agreements. Primary *drivers* include:

- ? investments into national and regional marine spatial planning efforts that inform development and implementation of national blue economy strategies
- ? strengthening of institutional frameworks for MPAs, ecosystem approach to fisheries, and seafood value chains through multi-sector marine spatial planning at the regional and national level
- ? investments in the definition and incorporation of seafood value chains into MSP
- ? investments in capacity for blue economy implementation and Knowledge Management

The project's key *assumptions* are:

- a) **Outputs to Outcomes:** Stakeholders of key marine economic sectors and policy makers embrace MSP and the blue economy doctrine.
- b) **Outcomes to Intermediate States:** Results of the validation of BE financing mechanisms and of the viability of seafood value chains are timely, trustworthy and robust enough to mitigate investment risks.
- c) **Intermediate States to Impact/Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs):** Regional governments and the private sector support necessary transparency, accountability, and science-based decision-making frameworks resulting in effective Public Private Partnerships for BE development in the CLME+.

The project's *logical pathways* are summarized below:

**Pathway 1:** This logical pathway proposes that project investments in national and regional marine spatial planning efforts that inform development and implementation of national blue economy strategies, and support to the strengthening of institutional frameworks for MPAs, ecosystem approach to fisheries, marine pollution management, and seafood value chains through marine spatial planning at the regional and national level will create the enabling environment for the reduction of marine pollution, sustainable use of fisheries resources and the protection of critical fish habitats, thus strengthening blue economy opportunities through sustainable healthy coastal and marine ecosystems. This pathway requires that the project invests in multi-sector approaches for the development of national MSP, national BE strategies, sustainable financing strategies for national BE, national

decision-support systems for sustainable fisheries and marine pollution management, and enhanced marine protected areas management capacity.

**Pathway 2:** This pathway is closely linked to Pathway 1, in that it relies on the enabling MSP framework to be created under Pathway 1 to facilitate investments towards the definition and incorporation of seafood value chains into MSP, leading to new and strengthened national and regional seafood value chains and supporting the realisation of blue economy opportunities and sustainable development goals. This pathway requires that the project invests in identification of future seafood value chains and end market requirements, the identification of seafood value chain added-value opportunities, assessment of market and economic feasibility, the formulation of policy recommendations for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets, and in capacity building for regional and national fisheries authorities in seafood value chain analysis within a blue economy context.

**Pathway 3:** This pathway proposes that investments in capacity for blue economy implementation and Knowledge Management will lead to strengthened regional BE cooperation and coordination, increased governments' capacity to adopt ecosystem-based fisheries management and marine management practices, new national and regional partnerships to foster cooperation on ecosystem-based marine management, and the development of seafood value chains, and increased sharing of knowledge between Caribbean countries and organizations. For this pathway to be realized, the project will have to invest specifically in assessment and compilation of existing MSP planning efforts in the CLME+ to inform regional ecosystem-based management of key fisheries, development of regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries and marine management, technical manuals on ecosystem-based fisheries and marine management, and the establishment of an information and knowledge management platform focused on project lessons learned from MSP, seafood value chain, and national blue economy implementation, thus showing strong linkages and reliance on Pathways 1 and 2.

#### Alignment with GEF Focal Area Strategies

The GEF's inclusion of the blue economy in the GEF Programming Directing for the 7th Cycle (GEF-7) is an opportunity to strengthen the relevance of SAPs and NAPs to national governments and the private sector and to increase their investment in managing the resources of their EEZs so that countries can break their dependence on GEF funding. This opportunity includes working with financial institutions to invest in the blue economy, working on strategies at country and regional levels, and implementing blue economy interventions at national and local scales to contribute to achieving the GEF7 Programming Directions especially within the International Waters Focal Area. The project is closely aligned with the GEF-7 International Waters Strategy, specifically *Objective 1: Strengthening Blue Economy opportunities*. Within IW Objective 1, the project contributes to the GEF targets for 1) sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, and 2) catalysing sustainable fisheries management.

The project is also receiving US\$1,400,000 of investment from GEF Biodiversity Focal Area STAR contributions of Jamaica (\$500,000), Panama (\$200,000), and Belize (\$100,000), Barbados (\$500,000) and Saint Lucia (\$100,000). These funds will all be invested in respective national level activities aligned with supporting development of Marine Spatial Plans, establishment of Marine Protected Areas, and overall mainstreaming of marine biodiversity management in blue economic development. More specifically, these national level investments are aligned with *BD Objective 1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascape* and *BD Objective 2: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and the specific investment focus on marine protected areas*. The project's alignment with the Aichi Targets at the level of outcomes and outputs is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Project Alignment to the Aichi Targets

<b>SPECIFIC TARGETS</b>	<b>RELEVANT PROJECT ACTIVITIES (Outcome and Output Level)</b>
Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably	Outcome 1.2 Output 1.2.1 and 1.2.2
Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	Outcome 1.1, Outcome 1.2 Output 1.1.1, 1.1., 2.2.1, 1.2.2
Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	Outcome 1.1, Outcome 1.2 Output 1.1.4, 1.2.1, 1.2.2
Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	Outcome 1.2 Output 1.2.1 and 1.2.2
Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	Outcome 1.1, Outcome 1.2, Outcome 2.1 Output 1.1.4, 1.2.1, 1.2.2 Output 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4

<p>Target 12: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Outcome 1.2 Output 1.2.1 and 1.2.2</p>
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### Project Objective

To promote blue economy development in the CLME+ through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas (MPAs), ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), and sustainable seafood value chains.

### Components ? Outcomes ? Outputs

#### **Component 1: Implementing cross-sectoral Marine Spatial Planning (GEF: \$3,844,119; Co-financing: \$26,461,550)**

Project Component 1 will focus investments into national and regional marine spatial planning efforts that inform development and implementation of national blue economy strategies. These national-level efforts leverage multiple sources of valuable existing information, including from CLME SAPs/NAPs, relevant marine spatial planning efforts from the GEF-World Bank Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project and other initiatives, national sustainable development priorities, and country-specific information from key economic sectors. Since each participating country has its own unique challenges and opportunities, this component is focused on assessing each national situation through a lens of marine spatial planning tools and latest experiences in development of national blue economy planning. Component 1 is designed with two complementary outcomes that focus on national strategy development via MSP and BE combined with strategic use of MPAs to promote ecosystem-based fisheries management.

**Outcome 1.1 ?** Governments and key stakeholders enabled to support the sustainable use of fisheries and key marine habitats

Outcome 1.1 supports participating governments and key stakeholders in the sustainable use of fisheries and key marine habitats through national marine spatial planning and blue economy strategies. This will be accomplished through four outputs that target development of national marine spatial



plans, blue economy strategies, including sustainable financing strategies, and enhanced decision-support systems for sustainable fisheries management. National MSPs shall ensure a multi-sectoral approach inclusive of planning and management of all sectors contributing to land-based and marine sources of pollution and habitat degradation. Likewise, blue economy strategies will be designed to include specific strategies that will contribute to a reduction of marine pollution and habitat degradation, consistent with the project's goal of contributing to GEF Core Indicator 5.2: "Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia". In this regard, blue economy strategies will explore elements of a circular economy to reduce pollution in the marine environment, which may include considerations for renewed standards on fishing gear, reduction of plastics and microplastics in the fishing and tourism sectors in particular, dedicated and habitat-sensitive lanes for maritime traffic in mangroves, seagrass and coral reef habitats, the assignment of mariculture ventures in areas based on an "optimum use" criteria which considers minimum impact to the environment, etc. The expected project targets for Outcome 1.1 is 5 countries with comprehensive MSPs (building on synergies with the WB GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project MSP activities), 6 countries with national blue economy strategies in place and/or updated, aligned under GEF Core Indicator IW-8 to support 45,000 MT of globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (and GEF Core Indicator 5.2: "Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia", as stated above). Further, Outcome 1.1 will also contribute to the development of project knowledge products under Outcome 3.2, including the development of technical manuals (Output 3.3.1) and a project knowledge management and information platform (Output 3.3.2).

**Output 1.1.1:** National MSP conducted in project countries, with a participatory, climate- and gender-sensitive approach (To inform national blue economy strategy and opportunities)

The focus of Output 1.1.1 will be to conduct national MSP in each project country through a multi-sectoral, participatory, climate, and gender-sensitive approach. National MSPs will be approached as a strategic planning process, and undertaken through a consistent and agreed upon protocol that enables integrated, future-looking and consistent decision-making on the spatial use of the marine space, and will consider and integrate all uses and users of selected marine space, including retention and improvement of ecological services provided by habitats, species and environment, so that coordinated management can be planned and implemented. In this regard, MSPs will incorporate national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms (NICs) and will seek to strengthen existing marine information systems at the regional level to facilitate transboundary governance of marine resources. As a cornerstone to the overall project, this key project output will be used to inform development of national blue economy strategies (Output 1.1.2) and other opportunities including identification of MPAs and OECMs (Outcome 1.2) and potential seafood value chains (Component 2). As a stakeholder driven process, each national MSP will prioritize a gender-sensitive approach guided by GEF, CAF, FAO and Regional adopted gender policies and commitments (e.g. CRFM's). Each national MSP will also prioritize documenting, assessing, and mitigating or adapting to the spatial and temporal impacts of climate change as part of a sustainable resource management approach, especially for commercially important national fisheries. National MSPs also will document sources and magnitude of land-based and marine pollution by all relevant economic sectors, the findings of which will be used to inform the

MSP Protocol to be developed under Activity 1.1.1.2 and the sector context of blue economy strategies to be developed under Output 1.1.2. This fit-for-purpose documentation process will build on and complement two recent reports produced by UNEP CEP (Cartagena Convention): 'State of the Convention Area' Assessments: 'State of Nearshore Marine Habitats' and 'Assessment of Pollution from Land-Based Sources' and the 2021-2030 Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Reduction of Nutrient Inputs into the Marine Environment. With each participating country having its own existing timeline towards MSP, the project is taking a national approach with a goal of providing a consistent approach across the Caribbean region to allow for enhanced regional coordination (aligned with Output 3.1.2: Regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries). A snapshot of the current national MSP status within each country is as follows:

**Barbados** ? MSP progress in Barbados is characterized by the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Plan, which provides considerable detail of actual and proposed land-use for the entire coast, The Gully Ecosystems Management Plan, Barbados Marine Reserve and Carlisle Bay[1]. The MSP approach in Barbados will build on the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Plan to focus on the island shelf within the 3 miles territorial limit. The MSP will assess island shelf marine ecosystems and their current uses, and will develop a plan that preserve representative habitats, promote sustainable use and minimize conflicts over the use of marine space. The MSP will buttress on governance and institutional modalities and be developed as a dynamic planning tool with the intention to be legally adopted. Prioritization of MSP activities in Barbados will also be informed by the results of a comprehensive Blue Economy Assessment currently underway with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the current updating of the 1998 Barbados ICZM Plan to better embrace climate resiliency into the plan while also embracing the Blue Economy.

**Belize:** Belize has a territorial sea of 641,078 hectares and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1,475,555 hectares. A total of 428,778 hectares of the marine space are under protective status, 150,352 hectares of which are declared conservation or no take zones, where extractive commercial fishing is prohibited, and include 14 Marine Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Natural Monument, and Spawning Aggregation Sites. The MSP focus in Belize will build on the existing Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan with integration of socio-economic and other key data gaps related to the nine (9) use zones defined in the said plan: coastal agriculture, aquaculture, coastal development, dredging, fishing, oil exploration, marine recreation, marine transportation, and conservation. As a matter of national priority, the MSP will guide development of new spatial planning and integration of recent national legislation for expansion of no-take zones from 4.5% to 11.6%, expansion of replenishment zones, and enhancement of MPA management. MSP activities in Belize will also complement efforts in marine habitat mapping (coral reefs, cayes, and other coastal environments) by the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in partnership with the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association, the University of Belize, and the Belize Ports Authority[2].

**Guyana** ? Even though land use planning in Guyana has an established trajectory, the same cannot be said for planning in the marine space. Guyana has no declared MPA and solid evidence of MSP efforts are linked to the project 'Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean Governance in Guyana and Suriname: The Eastern Gate to the Caribbean' which was launched in 2017 by the World Wildlife

Fund and the Guyana Protected Areas Commission, with financing from the European Union[3]. This project seeks to fill critical information gaps by developing comprehensive spatial data (a GIS atlas and 3-D ocean maps) collated through participatory processes, enabling informed decision-making regarding marine protection and management. More specifically, the project seeks to contribute towards achieving 10% of Suriname/Guyana EEZ designated as Marine Protected Areas, which is a commitment each country has made on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Additionally, the project hopes that Marine Spatial planning (MSP) processes will enhance an ecosystem-based framework for managing activities in the marine environment. The project is aligned with Guyana's commitments to the SDGs, the CBD and the Ocean's Convention of which Guyana is a signatory. Capacity building efforts thus far include an MSP and MPA workshop in 2017 on ocean governance to present the MSP concept and assess stakeholders understanding and support for the concepts of MSP and MPAs, and more recently, a Marine Spatial Planning Training and a Sea Sketch Virtual Workshop were held between September 08 - 15, 2020, focusing on Blue Planning which aims to support integration of environmental management resources and Government priorities at local and national levels; and SeaSketch which is a web-based planning tool that utilises mapping interface to visualize Geo spatial data. In addition, of note, is a Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2020 between the Guyana Marine Conservation Society and Global Fishing Watch, to support MSP, research, and the development of marine management tools[4]. Notwithstanding the above, there is no concrete evidence of actual MSP occurring or of an MPA having been declared.

**Jamaica** - MSP efforts focused at Pedro Bank by the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica (NEPA) and The Nature Conservancy, led to the creation of a spatial database and related maps of both conservation and human use-themed datasets, maps of recommended potential locations for new conservation areas and fishing zones, recommendation of steps to support the implementation of zoning design, to include management plans, legal analyses, and the development of a monitoring and enforcement program[5]. A draft MSP was developed that prescribes zones ranging from no-take conservation areas to multi-use areas providing for a range of artisanal, industrial, development and other marine activities to occur in unison[6]. However, it is believed that existing laws that regulate some of the coastal and marine activities are insufficient to implement a comprehensive coordinated framework for ecosystem-based MSP, thus a close examination of legal and governance (i.e., institutional) arrangements to support MSP is necessary, to strengthen the institutional and management framework for the effective implementation of MSP. Project efforts in Jamaica will focus on building on the MSP efforts to date, with particular focus on the finalization/updating of the Draft MSP for Pedro Bank and the legal and institutional framework, coupled with efforts to declare new MPAs as part of Jamaica's commitment to increase the percentage of its marine space under legal protection. Other planning including zoning are mentioned below under Outcome 1.2 in relation to Montego Bay Protected Areas and fish sanctuaries.

**Panama** - Progress in Marine Spatial Planning in Panama to date has been restricted to the Pacific Coast, and primarily by efforts implemented by MarViva using a methodology oriented to promote OEM processes with low technological inputs, and implies public, multisectoral, participatory processes to analyse and conciliate ecologic, economic, and social objectives, aiming to plan and design effective models for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. Also of note are

efforts by the Panamanian Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP) and the Ministry of Environment in the production of the National Coastal and Marine Atlas for the South Pacific Zone of Panama as a technical and integral information repository, which serves as an instrument to support marine-coastal management and planning initiatives. Panama has also seen progress in the institutional framework for MSP, with the creation of the Commission for a National Ocean Policy in 2018 and the actual development of a National Ocean Policy with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. The MSP focus in Panama for the Atlantic coast under this project will capitalize on experiences and lessons from the Pacific coast, and will have a multi-sector focus with appropriate flexibility, as blue economy approaches in Panama are still evolving and continue to be refined. In addition, differences in economic activities between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts may limit the extent to which methodologies and lessons from the Pacific may be applicable to the Atlantic.

**St. Lucia** ? MSP will be approached within the existing CROP framework. For this project, the focus will be complementing existing national efforts with the development of a site-specific MSP to address multiple uses such as sea moss production, FAD management, and other marine activities. Of relevance will be alignment of project activities with the National Ocean Policy, which establishes a framework for integrated planning and management of the country's marine space and associated activities occurring within it for the period from 2020 to 2035. MSP efforts in St. Lucia under the CROP project will map out the state and value of the marine environment and will provide support in charting the way forward through beneficial policies and investments, especially from the private sector.

*Activity 1.1.1.1: National data gap and needs assessments to inform MSP (Consultancy)*

Through a single consultancy, a data assessment will be conducted to understand the baseline data status and data gaps to inform and implement MSP. The data assessment will focus on both all relevant spatial and temporal data types, to include *inter alia*, pollution and habitat degradation linked to economic sectors active in the coastal zone as well as anthropogenic sources, geographic/physical, biologic, economic, social (including a prioritization of gender and other marginalized groups), and others. Relevant spatial and temporal data to inform national BE strategies (Output 1.1.2) will also be prioritized as part of this assessment.

*Activity 1.1.1.2: Development of a project-wide MSP protocol that takes into account national data assessments (Consultancy)*

The development of a project-wide MSP protocol will take into account national data assessments (Activity 1.1.1.1) as well as relevant existing national and regional MSP and strategy plans, including *inter alia*, deliverables from the GEF CLME+ and CROP projects, as well as international MSP guidance from IW:LEARN and organizations like FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, and the "Blue Economy Protocol" being developed by the GEF MAR2R Project for the countries sharing the Mesoamerican Reef (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras). Further, the MSP protocol will also take into consideration guidance that mutually benefits the national BE strategies under Output 1.1.2.

The activity will include stakeholder participation and engagement and will yield one project-wide MSP protocol that provides high-level guidance to ensure a consistent, multi-sector and all-inclusive approach to MSP development at the national level. The project-wide MSP protocol will be solely for information purposes for project participants.

*Activity 1.1.1.3: Conduct national stakeholder-driven MSP following project MSP protocol and in support of nationally relevant priorities (Consultancy)*

This final activity will use the previous activities to inform implementation of a stakeholder-driven MSP in each country and guided by COVID 19 protocols in place. Each national MSP will follow the project MSP protocol and directly support nationally relevant priorities. National MSP processes will prioritize stakeholder engagement to ensure strong participatory planning and adoption of planning recommendations. Where possible to reduce project cost and government time commitments and enhance country collaboration and coordination, MSP events will be held with some or all participating project countries and regional projects and organizations including CRFM, OECS involved in promoting MSPs and area-based marine management.. The timeline for each national MSP will vary but will be prioritized early in project implementation to ensure recommendations can be made available early and often throughout the overall project implementation.

**Output 1.1.2:** National BE strategies designed, validated and deployed in project countries (with key marine economic sectors).

The focus of Output 1.1.2 will be to design national Blue Economy strategies in each project country through a multi-sectoral and participatory approach, and will show the economic benefits of sustainable management through MSPs to the communities and sectors active in the coastal zone. This key output of the project will be informed by the MSP process (Output 1.1.1) and directly informing socio-economic opportunities especially within seafood value chains (Component 2). The output consists of three activities that aim to develop, validate, and implement elements of the BE strategy within the project lifetime. Further the activities will be combined with the goals of Output 1.1.3 below to ensure that BE sustainable financing is prioritized through the BE strategy development process. In light of current events, the national BE strategies will also have the flexibility to prioritize post-pandemic support, including CARICOM Regional Post-COVID Strategy on Agriculture and Fisheries.

The BE strategy development will be a stakeholder driven process that prioritizes support for marginalized groups including advocating gender mainstreaming. While each participating country having its own existing timeline towards BE strategy development, the project is taking a national approach with a goal of providing a consistent approach across the Caribbean region to allow for enhanced regional economic coordination. More specifically, the current status of national BE strategies within each country is as follows:

**Barbados** ? The country is addressing BE institutionally and in a comprehensive manner through the collective objectives being addressed under the Coastal Zone Management Plan and with the new Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy. National BE Strategies are developed with the support of UNCTAD and additional future support from IDB. This project will add the 'spatial element' to BE planning through integration of MSP activities to strengthening connectivity between the Coastal Zone Management Plan and national spatial planning, including a detailed management plan for Barbados' 12 nm territorial waters, which has been identified as a key source of potential to blue economic growth. The project will also strengthen institutional and human capacity needed for implementation.

**Belize:** Under the national leadership of the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, the project will strengthen the existing National Blue Economy Strategy by addressing key policy and technical gaps, including targeted support to the Ministry of Natural Resources with integration of socio-economic and other data gaps into existing Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan. Project BE activities in Belize will provide support to increase the capacity of fishers for the sustainable harvest of commercially important deep slope fish species, add value to commercially targeted species, to access niche markets and to develop and implement smart marketing approaches for fishery products.

**Guyana** ? Guyana does not currently have a BE strategy and the project aims to provide support towards the development of a full BE Strategy. Guyana's BE priorities will build on the National Sector Policy for Sea and River Defence: Blue Charter, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012-2020). A BE Strategy for Guyana will seek to establish a sustainable ocean economy that balances economic activity with preserving the long-term capacity of healthy coastal and marine ecosystems. To achieve this, the BE Strategy must address the challenges posed by the developing oil and gas sector in relation to pollution, which could impact on the environment and fisheries resources; challenges posed by significant amounts of sediment, which is deposited in estuaries and along the coast from Amazon rivers; the need for modern data and modernised bathymetric and navigational charts; better understanding of the impacts of climate change on marine habitats to define appropriate mitigation strategies; reforms to policies and legislation for environmental management, marine protected areas, and resource extraction including fisheries; financing mechanisms; updated mapping of the seabed to support MSP processes; and training and capacity building for the implementation of integrated ocean governance. All data collection and mapping activities of the project will build on and complement the efforts started by the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme -Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**Jamaica** ? The project will support the development of a BE strategy which builds on Jamaica's existing BE Policy and include associated capacity building. The BE Strategy will complement Jamaica's Vision 2030 ? National Development Plan which supports the sustainable management and use of environmental resources, including ocean resources as well key pieces of maritime legislation under Jamaica's Maritime Authority, that seek to strengthen the framework for the protection, response and restoration of the marine environment. The BE Strategy will also complement the National Transport policy which promotes environmentally sustainable maritime transport, and shall be consistent with institutional reforms to manage the sustainable use of marine resources through the

National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management, which is a subcommittee of Cabinet tasked with formulating and coordinating maritime sector policies and promoting public awareness of the importance of the maritime resources to sustainable development. The sustainable management of Jamaica's fisheries resources will be central to a BE Strategy for the country, and as such the National Fisheries Authority will play a leadership role in the national Blue Economy institutional framework. The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), which is the lead government agency with the mandate for environmental protection, natural resource management, land use and spatial planning in Jamaica, will also be a key player.

**Panama** ? The country's approach towards developing a BE Strategy must be within the scope of and consistent with the National Ocean Policy currently being developed, with due consideration for the post-COVID context. The national, regional and global economic importance of the Panama Canal will be central to the BE Strategy, with clearly defined BE priorities for the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. In consideration of the fact that this project's focus is the Atlantic coast of Panama, priorities defined for the Atlantic coast within the National Ocean Policy will be used to guide the project interventions within the context of BE, but will at a minimum include capacity building and the mainstreaming of BE into sectoral policies such as fisheries, tourism, and maritime transport, the promotion of BE-relevant research, and the strengthening of institutional, decision-making and accountability frameworks.

**St. Lucia** ? The National Blue Economy Strategy will be in alignment with the National Ocean Policy, which establishes a framework for integrated planning and management of the country's marine space and associated activities occurring within it for the period from 2020 to 2035. The BE Strategy will build on institutional frameworks such as the National Inter-Sectoral Committee and the National Ocean Governance Committee, and shall also align with the regional investment project 'Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Eastern Caribbean' (UBEEC) currently under preparation by the World Bank and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and which will aim to enhance tourism, fisheries and aquaculture and waste management, with the anticipated impact of boosting economic recovery, help create jobs, and reduce marine pollution.

*Activity 1.1.2.1: Conduct national BE assessments and draft BE strategies, including specific focus on national BE sustainable financing options and seafood value chain opportunities (Consultancy)*

For project consistency and to ensure national relevance and prioritization, a national Blue Economy assessment will be conducted in each country that will lead to a draft national BE strategy for discussion (Activity 1.1.2.2). The national BE assessments will focus on stocktaking and stakeholder engagement to determine ongoing national BE programs and priorities, including participation in regional and international BE dialogues and existing CLME planning. The national BE strategies will be informed by and developed as an outcome of the assessment process and guided by the project MSP process (Output 1.1.1). Each national BE strategy will have a specific focus of sustainable financing options (Output 1.1.3) and seafood value chain opportunities (Component 2). Further, the national BE strategies will include short and long-term activities as recommendations for rapid demonstration of the value of BE towards national sustainable development. The national BE strategies shall be informal guidance documents to inform national dialogue and not intended nor targeting national policy reforms;

the project will, however, be supportive of individual countries' desire to elevate BE processes to the levels required to ensure institutionalization of BE strategies. These will be treated as necessary at the level of the Regional Steering Committee and further addressed at the level of annual planning as may be necessary.

*Activity 1.1.2.2: Hold national BE strategy validation workshops (Workshop)*

To validate the national BE strategies drafted in Activity 1.1.2.1, a national BE strategy validation workshop will be held in each country. The workshops will draw on key national stakeholders and important regional project participants like CRFM and CLME staff to ensure national economic opportunities leverage regional capacities and opportunities. Where possible to reduce project cost and government time commitments and enhance country collaboration and coordination, BE strategy validation workshops will be held with some or all participating project countries and regional organizations including CRFM.

*Activity 1.1.2.3: Implement at least one BE strategy recommendation as part of long-term BE strategy (Government sub-grant)*

For rapid demonstration of the value of BE towards national sustainable development goals, at least one BE strategy recommendation will begin implementation before the end of the project. Each country will have its own BE strategy priorities and the focus of this activity will be to spur momentum for future BE strategy implementation, especially related to topics that directly support sustainable management or financing of coastal and marine resources (as informed by Activity 1.1.2.1 and Output 1.1.3). Examples might include inter alia, promote green fees, value added opportunities from existing marine resources, or sector studies for exploration of additional income generation such as marine renewable energy opportunities or new sustainable tourism models.

**Output 1.1.3:** Sustainable financing strategies for national BE, designed and validated, highlighting marine-based economic opportunities

*Activity 1.1.3.1: [To be combined with Activities under Output 1.1.2]*

**Output 1.1.3** will be achieved through the activities presented in Output 1.1.2.



**Output 1.1.4:** National decision-support systems developed and implemented for sustainable fisheries management (including climate change impacts and data gap analysis, strengthened use of field monitoring, GIS and other spatial data collection technologies)

*Activity 1.1.4.1: Development of recommendations for nationally relevant data-driven decision support systems (Consultancy)*

This activity will develop a set of recommendations for each country that promote a data-driven long-term decision support system informed by nationally relevant MSP and BE project outputs and alignment with CLME-wide guidance. The activity will focus on climate change impacts and data gap analysis, strengthened use of field monitoring, GIS and other spatial data collection technologies to promote dynamic and long-term use of national MSP (Outcome 1.1) as a key sustainable management tool for national governments.

**Outcome 1.2 ?** The protection of critical fish habitats has been established/expanded, and informed by national marine spatial planning (MSP)

Outcome 1.2 builds on MSP and BE efforts from Outcome 1.1 by establishing and expanding critical habitats to promote ecosystem-based fisheries and marine management. This will be achieved through two outputs that focus on the creation or expansion as well as management capacity of national marine protected areas (MPAs) or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM). The expected project targets for Outcome 1.2 is aligned with GEF Core Indicator BD-2.1 to achieve at least 290,239 ha of created, expanded or enhanced management of MPAs or OECMs in Jamaica, Belize, Panama, Barbados, and Saint Lucia. The project will further support participating countries' commitments to the CLME+ SAP and, as nationally relevant, continued promotion of the spatial goals of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI).

This outcome includes a focus on investments of national GEF STAR Biodiversity from Barbados (\$496,884), Belize (\$96,884), Jamaica (\$484,433), Panama (\$193,772), and St. Lucia (\$96,884) for a total of US\$1,368,857, aligned with BD Objective 1 and BD Objective 2 that target protection of marine biodiversity and enhanced marine protected area management. Guyana will receive support from the GEF IW focal area to participate in national and regional MPA planning and management capacity efforts. The current national MPA planning for the project includes:

**Barbados ?** Less than one percent (< 1%) or 10.8 km<sup>2</sup> of the marine area in Barbados is classified as designated protected area[7]. The 220 hectares Folkestone Marine Reserve (also known as Barbados Marine Reserve) was established in 1981 on the island's west coast, and was Barbados' first marine protected area[8]. The Marine Areas (Preservation and Enhancement) (Restricted Areas) Regulations 1981 provides for the management of the Reserve. This no-take reserve consists of four zones with

different permissible uses -Scientific zone designated for marine research; Northern Water Sports Zone; Recreational Zone and the Southern Water Sports Zone, and there are plans to extend the existing boundaries of this marine managed area. Carlisle Bay Marine Protected Area was proposed in 1997 in response to an idea brought to the Government of Barbados by the Professional Association of Dive Operators (PADO) in 1993, to protect the bay and to preserve and rehabilitate the marine ecosystems in the area[9]. There are plans to establish a new West Coast Marine Management Area as an expansion of Folkstone Marine Reserve (Weston to Fitts Village), a Southcoast Marine Management Area (Carlisle Bay to Cacrabank ? Rockley), and the Brianna H. Wreck Protected Area and Biosphere Reserve as a reef fish replenishment area.

In terms of the broader legal framework, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 1998-39, allows for the provision of more effective management of the coastal resources of Barbados, for the conservation and enhancement of those resources and for related matters such as giving the Coastal Zone Management Unit the power to recommend for the approval of the Minister designated marine areas as restricted areas for the following purposes: the preservation or enhancement of the natural beauty of the areas; the protection or rehabilitation of the flora and fauna found in the areas; the protection of wrecks and other items of archaeological and historical interest found in the areas; the promotion of the enjoyment by the public of the areas; the promotion of the scientific study and research in respect of the areas.

**Belize** ? As stated above, Belize has a total of 428,778 hectares of its marine space (a recently approved government plan will increase marine protected areas coverage from the current 10.1% to 12% of the country?s marine space) under protective status, 150,352 hectares of which are declared conservation or no take zones, where extractive commercial fishing is prohibited, and include 14 Marine Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Natural Monument, and Spawning Aggregation Sites. Marine Reserves face a series of threats and risks, typical to most MPAs in Latin America and the Caribbean, including illegal extraction of resources, transboundary development and pollution risk, constraints with Inter-Ministerial coordination, constraints and threats relating to zoning effectiveness, overfishing and illegal fishing, direct and indirect impacts from boat activity, direct and indirect impacts from visitors, increased stress due to oceanographic and climate meteorological phenomena, harvesting of Black Coral, clearance of mangroves, and land-based sources of pollution, among others. Project activities in Belize will support the expansion of three MPAs (Southwater Caye Marine Reserve, Glovers Reef Marine Reserve, and Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve) critical to the National Protected Areas System and the Belize Barrier Reef System, enhancement of MPA management effectiveness and institutional frameworks, such as the standardization or harmonization of co-management arrangements of existing MPAs. In the specific case of the Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve, GEF resources will be used to help consolidate a government-approved expansion and will complement those of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), which is jointly implemented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Joint Research Center of European Commission (JRC).

**Guyana** ? As stated above, Guyana has no declared MPA. The country will seek to establish its first MPA as the ?Berbice Offshore Marine Protected Area (BOMPA)? with support from this project. The BOMPA will be located approximately 50NM offshore from the Berbice River estuary on the coastal shelf. Initial environmental data collection has indicated that the proposed area has a sand and shell

sediment bottom (infralittoral sand), with low surface and bottom currents. These conditions combined with favourable light penetration, provide all the necessary elements to support the exotic marine life, which have only been related by fishermen, and will need to be corroborated scientifically with the support of the project. This first Guyana MPA is initially estimated to be 777 hectares, with a possible upward revisitation of the size to as much 15,000 hectares (150 Km<sup>2</sup>). The final size will be determined during public consultations, and will require intensive collaboration with the private sector, and in particular, those involved in exploratory investments in the oil and gas industry on the coast of Guyana. The topographical, hydrographic, and bathymetric surveys needed for the elaboration of the MPA polygon may be possibly accessed from the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme -Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS); however, the project may need to provide support for the required biodiversity inventory, management plan preparation, drafting the legal instrument/framework, training and capacity building, and public consultations.

**Jamaica** ? The country has sixteen (16) marine areas under official protection, covering 3,483 km<sup>2</sup> or 1.2% of the total marine space. Jamaica has three (3) Marine Parks: Montego Bay Marine Park, St. James; Negril Marine Park, Westmoreland and Hanover; and Ocho Rios Marine Park, St. Ann. These Marine Parks include ecological communities such as coral reefs, seagrass beds, sandy shores, rocky shores and mangrove forests[10]. Three Marine Protected Areas are located in Montego Bay: the Montego Bay Marine Park, the Bogue Island Lagoon Special Fishery Conservation Area (Bogue Lagoon) and the Montego Bay Marine Park Special Fishery Conservation Area (Airport Point, established in 2009), encompassing over 15 square kilometres of mixed-use coast habitat, and benefit from comprehensive legal protection that regulates acceptable use[11]. These MPAs are administered by the National Environmental Protection Agency and the National Fisheries Authority, with day-to-day management by the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust. The Montego Bay Marine Park is governed in accordance with a zoning plan, which includes a Conservation Zone, Recreation Zone, Multiple-Use Zone and a Port Zone. The Bogue Lagoon Fish Sanctuary (now a Special Fishery Conservation Area) was established in 1979 and was one of Jamaica's first fish sanctuaries.

Jamaica aims to establish new MPAs through the project that are consistent with the country's commitment to declare at least 2% of its marine waters as protected areas. In this regard, the country will require support to conduct hydrographic/ bathymetric surveys; public consultations; updating and creation of new management plans; development/revision of legal framework surrounding new MPAs, baseline assessments, surveys/field assessments(in water and on shore), imagery, diving and stakeholder meetings, and workshops for 10 Proposed Fish Sanctuaries namely: Pedro Bank Protected Area, Little Bay & Homers Cove, North Trelawny, Mammee Bay, Folly ? St. Thomas, Barble Hill Bank, Bird Cay, Bowden, Galleon, and Discovery Bay Fish Sanctuary. Associated to the creation of fish sanctuaries will be the need for baseline surveys; biodiversity inventories; Fishery Management Plans; training and technical assistance on developing relevant indicators and protocols for monitoring and evaluating management effectiveness; access to science-based tools to help identify and measure ecosystems and site connectivity amongst existing MPAs and fish sanctuaries.

**Panama** ? The National Protected Areas System of Panama comprises of 67 protected areas, representing approximately 36% of the national territory, and with 17 different categories of protection.

Prior to 2015 Panama's marine space with some form of designated protection was 37,676 km<sup>2</sup> or 11%. However, the country has since created two major marine protected areas, Cordillera de Coiba (17,223 km<sup>2</sup>) and Banco Volcan (14,931 km<sup>2</sup>), increasing Panama's protected areas from 3.7 to 13.5 % of its waters[12] with a total of 27 declared marine areas. This project's interventions in Panama will be concentrated on the Isla Bastimentos National Marine Park located in the province of Bocas del Toro, on the Bocas del Toro Archipelago located on the Caribbean coast of Panama. The Isla Bastimentos National Marine Park was created in 1988 with an area of 13,226 hectares. This protected area contains the area known as Playa Larga, a very important nesting site for sea turtles. The Almirante Lagoon is located on the south coast of the island, with its numerous channels that wind between the mangrove islets, surrounded by corals and sandy bottoms covered by meadows of seagrass (*Thalassia testudinum*). The park preserves the largest extension of Caribbean mangroves in the country, dominated by the red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and the white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*)[13]. This marine park's primary management challenges and threats are illegal fishing and unsustainable tourism activities and associated infrastructure.

Panama will be seeking the project's support to expand the Isla Bastimentos National Marine Park by including the area known as 'Bahía de los Delfines', representing an expansion of 6,516.82 hectares. In this regard, project support will be sought to conduct activities crucial to the National Marine Park expansion process, including hydrographic/bathymetric surveys; baseline surveys; public consultation; biodiversity inventories; Fishery Management Plans for the park; identification of alternative livelihoods for indigenous fishers, including Seaweed Farming as an alternative; training and technical assistance on developing relevant indicators and protocols for monitoring and evaluating management effectiveness; revision and updating of the existing management plan; and revision of the legal framework to accommodate the planned National Marine Park expansion.

**St. Lucia** ? The country has 5,515.6 hectares under declared protective status that include marine areas (2.5% of marine space), the largest protected being the Piton Management Area at 2,909 hectares of which of 875 hectares are marine, followed by the Soufriere Marine Managed Area (SMMA) with 1,200 hectares and includes 5 Zones: Marine Reserves, Fishing Priority Areas, Multiple Use Areas, Recreational Areas and Yacht Mooring Sites. There are also five (5) no take zones declared to afford special protection to the flora and fauna of such areas and to protect and preserve the natural breeding grounds and habitats of aquatic life, with particular regard to flora and fauna in danger of extinction; allow for the natural regeneration of aquatic life in areas where such life has been depleted; promote scientific study and research in respect of such areas; or to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of such areas. There are also ten (10) areas declared primary for the protection of mangroves, to afford special protection to the flora and fauna of such areas and to protect and preserve the natural breeding grounds and habitats of aquatic life, with particular regard to flora and fauna in danger of extinction; allow for the natural regeneration of aquatic life in areas where such life has been depleted; promote scientific study and research in respect of such areas; or to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of such areas.

While management challenges of declared marine areas in St. Lucia are numerous, some of the primary ones include: no official demarcation of boundaries published, lack of capacity for monitoring, evaluation and law enforcement, lack of funding, lack of institutional capacity and governance (needs a

designated board, strong pressure to construct hotels and residential buildings (most important), need for "systematic" monitoring and law enforcement, to maintain visual attractiveness and minimize human impacts on flora and fauna, sedimentation and pollution of marine spaces from land based sources, overfishing and excessive harvesting of marine resources; invasive species, natural disasters, which may be aggravated by climate change. The country, consistent with the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the National Ocean Policy and Action Plan, is working towards 20% managed marine areas nationally. In this regard St. Lucia is seeking project support for the official designation and notice for Laborie Bay MMA building on existing data (GPS polygons and mapping data for habitats), and in feasibility studies to expand existing reserves to include protection for areas of seagrass beds. In an effort to strengthen MPA management effectiveness, support is also being sought to strengthen the institutional framework in the form of an official integrated management body for MMAs (currently managed by fisheries and forestry), capacity building for rangers, including dive training, training in maintenance of buoys and mooring lines, awareness programs for the public data collection, research and monitoring mapping/zoning and georeferencing.

A summary of the total area of Marine Protected Areas to be created or expanded and which will benefit from enhanced management effectiveness as a consequence of the project's support is presented below in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Area of MPAs Benefitting from Project Support

<b>Marine Protected Areas to be Created or Expanded</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Size in Hectares (Ha)</b>
Barbados: South Coast MMA (new)	552.4
Barbados: West Coast MMA (expansion of Folkstone)	832.6
Barbados: Brianna H Wreck (new)	28.3
Belize: Southwater Caye Marine Reserve (expansion)	3,202.8
Belize: Glovers Reef Marine Reserve (expansion)	12,035.4
Belize: Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (expansion)	114,537.97
Guyana: Berbice Offshore Marine Protected Area (new)	777
Jamaica: Pedro Bank Marine Protected Area (new)	33,900
Jamaica: Little Bay & Homers Cove (new)	81.7
Jamaica: North Trelawny (new)	140

Jamaica: Mammee Bay (new)	130
Jamaica: Folly- St. Thomas (new)	1,790
Jamaica: Barble Hill Bank (new)	140
Jamaica: Bird Cay (new)	1,515
Jamaica: Bowden (new)	56
Jamaica: Galleon (new)	261
Jamaica: Discovery Bay Fish Sanctuary (new)	169
St. Lucia: Laborie Bay (new)	164
Panama: Isla Bastimentos National Marine Park (expansion)	6,516.9
<b>TOTAL (To be created or expanded)</b>	<b>176,830.07</b>
<b>Marine Protected Areas to Benefit from Enhanced Management Effectiveness Support (Area is Exclusive of Expansion Listed Above)</b>	
Name	Size in Hectares (Ha)
Barbados: Folkstone Marine Reserve	220
Belize: Southwater Caye Marine Reserve	47,724.58
Belize: Glovers Reef Marine Reserve	35,067
Belize: Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve	15,628.44
Panama: Isla Bastimentos National Marine Park	13,069.62
St. Lucia: Soufriere Marine Management Area	1700
<b>TOTAL (Independent of new or expanded)</b>	<b>113,409.64</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)</b>	<b>290,239.71</b>

**Output 1.2.1:** Newly created marine protected areas (MPAs) or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM) in targeted countries.

*Activity 1.2.1.1: Conduct a data-driven assessment utilizing national project MSPs to develop recommendations that identify areas for newly created marine protected areas (MPAs) or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM) (Government-led or Consultancy) that promote an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management*

This activity is focused on using the national MSPs as an area-based management tool to better inform areas for newly created or expanded marine protected areas (MPAs) or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM). The activity will rely on a data analysis from the MSP process to inform a set of recommendations that identify and/or confirm geolocations of MPAs or OECMs, and will provide precise geolocation for probable and proposed MPAs. The focus of MPAs and OECMs under this activity will be to promote ecosystem-based fisheries management. To that end, coastal and marine ecosystem, socio-economic, and other relevant information will be prioritized to identify priority geolocations to sustainably manage key national commercial fisheries while providing robust baseline information to inform ecosystems management.

*Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold a stakeholder workshop to discuss MPA/OECM recommendations and draft national project specific MPA strategies that map out nationally relevant path for timely MPA/OECM creation/expansion (Workshop)*

The national MPA/OECM recommendations from Activity 1.1.2.1 will then be discussed with key stakeholders in at least one national workshop. The outcomes of the workshop will be twofold. First, the workshop will focus on seeking agreement of specific MPA/OECM geolocations. The workshop will also focus on drafting a project specific MPA/OECM strategy towards timely achievement of created or expanded MPAs and OECMs. Where possible to reduce project cost and government time commitments and enhance country collaboration and coordination, the national MPA/OECM workshops will be held with some or all participating project countries and regional organizations including CRFM. The national MPA/OECM strategy shall be informal guidance documents that inform national dialogue.

*Activity 1.2.1.3: Implement national project specific MPA strategies for timely MPA creation/expansion (Government-led)*

Lastly, under national government leadership the national MPA/OECM strategies will be implemented to ensure a timely creation or expansion of MPAs and OECMs, where possible. Strategy implementation will occur differently for each country, so programming flexibility will be key for the timely success of this activity.

**Output 1.2.2:** Enhanced marine protected areas management capacity in select countries.

*Activity 1.2.2.1: Develop project-wide MPA management training materials (online and in-person) that prioritize MSP, BE, and ecosystem-based fisheries management (Consultancy)*

To enhance MPA management capacity for participating project countries, a set of online and in-person training materials will be conducted, that will seek to enhance participatory governance and management capacity for the project countries. The trainings will have a particular focus on leveraging data-driven decision making, especially including the national MSPs. The training material deliverables from this activity will also be made available to other Caribbean countries through regional partners including CRFM as well as global dissemination via IW:LEARN (via Outcome 3.3).

*Activity 1.2.2.2: Hold a project-wide workshop for MPA managers from participating countries to implement MPA management training materials (Activity 1.2.2.1).*

Using the MPA management training materials from Activity 1.2.2.1, the project will then host a project-wide training workshop for participating MPA managers, that will focus on training key stakeholders and MPA managers in the MPA governance arrangements. Where possible, additional key stakeholders will be invited including key regional organizations like CRFM, UN Environment, OECS Commission, NGOs and representatives of relevant projects such as the JICA funded COASTFISH. Further training support and knowledge resources will also be sought from IW:LEARN to ensure maximum leverage of the workshop training (via Outcome 3.3).

**Component 2. Inclusive Sustainable Fisheries Value Chains (GEF: \$995,581; Co-financing: 7,746,046)**

This component focuses on establishing inclusive sustainable seafood value chains that take into account building resilience to climate change and capacity to deal with external shocks like COVID 19. The value chain stretches from the harvest activity to final consumption. Often, value chains in fisheries are complicated and entwined, so it is more accurate to talk about 'value nets' rather than value chains. To do a meaningful analysis some simplifications are always necessary. The simplification process is a balancing act, as the most important specificities or characteristics must not be thrown out during the process while at the same time the granularity must not be too small to make the analysis intractable. Improving value chains in fisheries is important, as it not only increases economic efficiency and value creation, but also because it is an important factor in securing sustainability of the fishery. Sustainability and long-term economic improvements go hand in hand. Improving the value chains is a necessary ingredient of sustainable fisheries management, which is an important part of the GEF-7 Focal Area Strategy, by enforcing ecosystem integrity and linking long-term resource management with efficient resource use; it helps in eliminating hunger through securing



raw material supply, promotes health through better fishing and handling technologies and better traceability, and reduce poverty by increasing the value of catches, labour and capital.

For fisheries value chains to be effective, they must be appropriately defined. Sub-optimal definition can lead to ineffective project interventions which may counteract the overall blue economy goals of the project itself. Therefore, it is necessary to launch an information campaign early in the project implementation to ensure the necessary buy-in for successful value chain definition and effective project intervention. In order to determine how to distribute the limited resources available towards the most promising case studies or projects to be developed further by the appropriate agencies and stakeholders, a ranking procedure will be developed to assist in identifying and prioritizing value chains for analysis. Such a ranking procedure can be designed in many ways but should reflect realistic economic, social and environmental goals set by each country or region, while building on existing policy frameworks, especially the ones related to BE and MSP strategies. Successful fisheries value chains require strong institutional frameworks and capacity, and as such, it will be necessary to map the institutional requirements and capacity needs necessary to implement strategies towards inclusive and sustainable value chains.

**Outcome 2.1:** New and strengthened national and regional seafood value chains supporting realization of blue economy opportunities and sustainable development goals

This outcome will assess current national and regional seafood value chains that support realization of blue economy opportunities and sustainable development goals. This will include assessing and incorporating current seafood value chains into national blue economy strategies, including marine spatial planning efforts (results from Component 1), that identify future value chain and end market requirements. There will also be a focus on identifying seafood value chain added- value opportunities and market and economic feasibility, including testing innovative technologies for post-harvest processing methods and reduction of post-harvest loss, and improved/creation of new seafood products to reduce waste at the regional and national levels. For increased uptake, this outcome will also provide policy recommendations to strengthen the enabling environment for seafood value chains and markets, with a specific focus on empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities. Efforts under this component will build on current national-level fisheries management plans, including national mainstreaming of FAO Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related policies into seafood value chain in the six project countries.

**Output 2.1.1:** Key seafood value chains assessed and incorporated into national blue economy strategies and marine spatial planning efforts, including identification of future value chains and end market requirements.

How the value chains are incorporated into national and regional blue economy strategies and marine spatial planning calls for an active engagement of the main stakeholders in the participating countries and engagement of the relevant authorities. The identification of future value chains will build on: a)

the special characteristic of the key value chains chosen, i.e. species, harvesting and processing methods currently in place; and b) recent examples of innovations regarding value chains and end market requirements. This includes innovations in current practices, introduction of new practices, as well as novel uses of existing resources. Here care must be taken in identifying end market opportunities, both locally, regionally and internationally. Those opportunities must be realistic within the national context of each country and have proven applications elsewhere. In addition, with regards to end market requirements, a comprehensive analysis of the certification issues, quality control requirements and labelling will be undertaken.

In summary, it is necessary to;

1. Identify key seafood value chains to be assessed.
2. Provide descriptions of national blue economy strategies and marine spatial plans which are detailed enough to enable an assessment on how the key value chains can be incorporated there within.
3. Gather information about improvements and/or new value chains, both locally and internationally.
4. Map the certification and quality control requirements in the potential export markets and identify gaps.

In the delivery of Output 2.1.1 due consideration will be given to the different situation in each country. Some countries have important export sectors in fisheries, while others may be more dependent on fisheries as a domestic food source. Game fisheries and tourism are important in some areas while fisheries are an important source of protein and serve as a safety net for local populations elsewhere.

**Barbados:** In Barbados project intervention will focus on improving the existing value chains for the traditional flyingfish and other pelagic species, reef fisheries, and the lionfish, while at the same time exploring other possibilities and new value chains, for example, using the recent influx of Sargassum seaweed arriving in the region. A mapping of the different opportunities will be conducted and a thorough analysis of the ecological, social and economic factors undertaken.

**Belize:** Belize has important lobster and conch fisheries which are both potential high value export goods. Improving the value chain in these fisheries will have positive local and national effects. With regards to opportunities there are several ways forward. Further developing deep-slope and finfish fisheries calls for planning at many levels to ensure that the value chains deliver the expected outcomes and calls for the definition of stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities. This work will be integrated into the on-going Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) and the Oceans Economy and Trade Strategies (OETS) Action Plan. Particular needs of the country include the revision and update of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster and Queen Conch Management plans; strengthening of the tenure rights of women, their participation, and inclusion in the decision-making process in fisheries; improve management systems and cooperation by the small-scale fishers; support for improved fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance in support of the fight against IUU fishing; improve cooperation across the government to benefit natural resource management and economic opportunities aligned with the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy, among others.

**Guyana:** Shrimp is an important species, but shrimp catches are fluctuating in nature, so it is interesting to study other fishing opportunities (e.g., groundfish resources and demersal species) as substitutes for shrimp fishing activities. The MSC certification of the Seabob fishery creates opportunities but at the same time does not, in itself, guarantee improvements in the value chain. The project will support the analysis of other possibilities and new value chains. A mapping of the different opportunities will be conducted and a thorough analysis of the ecological, social and economic factors. The country is also in need of support for the training of fishers in post-harvest practices and standards; market analysis for key and emerging commodities including recommendations for access to new markets; assessment of the factors contributing to gender inequality in fisheries, and recommendations to foster gender mainstreaming in local fisheries activities; support needed to develop and or revise policy frameworks geared towards investment; development of policy tools to support public private partnerships. Value chains interventions in Guyana will be conducted in coordination with the 'FAO/ACP/EU Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains in ACP Countries', under which Guyana is a project country for the Seabob fishery.

**Jamaica:** Jamaica is dependent on imports for fish consumption while at the same time fisheries are an important food supply for local communities. Improving the value chain of the conch fishery is important but calls for an in-depth analysis of all the different links of the chain starting from the management regime. An in-depth assessment has to be made concerning the capacity needs including legislative aspects, capital needs and the framework to foster and implement capacity-building mechanisms, such as training and strengthening awareness programs. Some specific needs of the country are shared with those of Guyana and include value chain analysis and development for key fisheries (e.g., conch & lobster); training fishers and fish farmers in post-harvest practices and standards; market analysis for key and emerging commodities including recommendations for access to new markets; assessment of the factors contributing to gender inequality in fisheries, and recommendations to foster gender mainstreaming in local fisheries activities; support needed to develop and or revise policy frameworks geared towards investment; development of policy tools to support public private partnerships; development of supporting regulations for mainstreaming of small scale fisheries and aquaculture development and management, and to promote the Blue Economy priorities; and recommendations to support livelihoods diversification and social development in fisheries with emphasis on women and the youth.

**Panama:** The Caribbean fisheries of lobster and octopus can be improved, especially with regards to management, fishing techniques and marketing. To do that, not only is it necessary to analyse the different value chains, but what is also needed is to design an implementation strategy which maps out how to achieve improvements. Such an implementation strategy spells out the management procedure for the different tasks to achieve the desired outcome. Panama is also in need of support for the training of fishers in post-harvest practices and standards; market analysis for key and emerging commodities including recommendations for access to new markets; assessment of the factors contributing to gender inequality in fisheries, and recommendations to foster gender mainstreaming in local fisheries activities; support needed to develop and or revise policy frameworks geared towards investment; development of policy tools to support public private partnerships

**St. Lucia:** Offshore migratory pelagic species are of significant importance for both domestic and tourism consumption. Strengthening value chains that reduce dependence on importation of pelagics will be supported by the project. Value chains of the lobster, conch and fly fish fisheries, their links to recreational fisheries, and new marketing possibilities will be analysed and developed further. Other needs to be considered within the St. Lucia context include the need for updated Fisheries Management Plans, capacity building in sustainable post-harvest practices and the implementation of climate smart fishing practices, strategies to increase participation of women in the fisheries sector in harvesting and post-harvesting, the separation of science and decision making for clear communication of status of resources and impact on resources, strengthening fisherfolk communities and cooperatives so they may be able to assume ownership of their resources and work with the relevant agencies to co-manage the resources effectively, mainstreaming the SSF Guidelines into fisheries policy, public awareness programmes for SSF Guidelines, building of fisherfolk capacity to participate in monitoring exercises and decisions.

*Activity 2.1.1.1: Description and Analysis of Existing Value Chain (Consultancy)*

A top priority for project intervention will be the identification and analysis of different value chains at the country and regional levels, which will cover the entire value chain from the harvest activity to final consumption, and will require comprehensive collection of data. This activity will have to be sensitive to regional similarities and differences between fisheries and different countries in the region. Ideally, at least one value chain from each country would be analysed. This analysis will help to create and characterize the baseline for further work under Output 2.1.2 and shall be aligned with blue economy principles to be developed under component 1 and generally through-out the entire project.

*Activity 2.1.1.2: Identification of Opportunities for New Value Chains (Consultancy)*

New value chains can be created, either by changing the production methods for species already harvested or identifying new products using available resources. Innovation in fisheries and marine related production is lively, both in the field of creating new products from fish, such as in pharmaceuticals and health products, but also in utilizing new marine resources such as sargassum and other algae for various purposes. New value chains will be identified through case study analysis for countries participating in the project. Information on successful innovation experiences will be collected in a case study data bank. Drawing lessons from case studies around the world and adapting them to local conditions will help in identifying future opportunities.

*Activity 2.1.1.3: Mapping of the certification and quality control requirements in potential export markets and identify gaps. (Consultancy)*

Access to markets is not only a question of prices and costs. International trade in marine products is sensitive to certification and quality control requirements that can either be regulatory or self-imposed by the importers. Also, the possible effects of labelling, e.g. a Blue Economy label for the region, can improve access and increase demand for marine produce. Research has shown that markets differ with regards to the effect of labels and certifications. The certification and quality control requirements and perception will be identified for the main markets, especially the US, Europe and Japan. The outcome of this analysis will be a report that can serve as a *Market Access Handbook* for the relevant authorities and other stakeholders in the countries and for the region as a whole.

*Activity 2.1.1.4: Linking value chains to BE strategies and MPA planning (Workshop)*

Linking different value chains to BE strategies and MPA planning is not an easy task. Although there exists no one-size-fits-all solution there are nevertheless many lessons learned that different countries could share. For example, conflicts and cooperation can arise with regards to how different stakeholders are affected (positively or negatively) by MPA planning decisions. These experiences can be shared between different countries in the region and serve as a driver towards improvements at local, national and regional levels. A workshop, bringing together stakeholders from the participating countries will help in linking the value chains identified in Activity 2.1.1.1 with the different national and regional strategies. Such a workshop will have the double dividend of both sharing and increasing knowledge among the different stakeholders and thereby contribute to capacity building at the institutional level.

**Output 2.1.2.:** Seafood value chain added-value opportunities identified, and market and economic feasibility assessed, including testing innovative post-harvest processing methods and reduction of post-harvest loss, and improved/creation of new seafood products to reduce waste, and improved product forms and packaging based on consumer preference.

Based on the specificities of the different value chains, using comparisons and/or examples from other similar fisheries in other countries will help in identifying innovations to improve the value chains with the aforementioned aims in mind. It will be necessary to decide on the criteria for the choice and ranking of value chains to be analysed further in terms of added-value opportunities, and must be guided by ecological, social, cultural, and economic considerations. Economic sustainability, social acceptability and economic feasibility need all to be fulfilled as well as clear ideas on what the possible innovations are to deliver.

The ranking process will include:

- ? Refinement and expansion of data collected under Output 2.1.1 on the specific value chains, including technical description of species, harvesting methods, fleet size and composition, labour use, processing and storage methods and end market. Also, information on prices and costs.

- ? Collection of information on the parts of the value chain where waste (both physical waste, such as reduced quality and economic/social waste, such as high costs, low wages and prices) is known to exist and the reasons for these.
- ? Gathering of information on other economic and/or development policies, such as tourism, foreign trade, trade agreements (including custom duties, technical trade hindrances/hygiene), and investment policies.
- ? Identifying key stakeholders that may contribute to Output 2.1.2., either through the dissemination of information or direct participation.
- ? Providing information on possibilities and hindrances for new territorial uses, such as for aquaculture production.

In this process, care must be taken in identifying local specificities that can help in introducing novel ways of doing things, including harvesting methods, processing and marketing, e.g. by creating increased value by linking local fisheries with recreational fisheries and tourism. Fisheries can thereby contribute to other policies for economic development.

Once value-added opportunities are identified, their technical and economic viability will be analysed. This can be done in many ways. One is to use case studies from other fisheries where experiences provide lessons learned and indications of monetary, social and economic effects. The second method is to use economic modelling to predict or make scenario analysis of different opportunities. The third method is to engage stakeholders to taking part in innovation projects where the outcomes provide lessons learned and measures of outcomes such as effects on profits, labour use and remuneration, pressure on resource, etc. For this output the method to be used will depend on the specificities and data availability of the different value chains chosen.

*Activity 2.1.2.1: Assessment of bottlenecks to value chain added-value opportunities (Consultancy with private sector engagement)*

Often the main hindrances for improvements in the value chain are due to bottlenecks which may be due to the legal and/or institutional framework of the different fisheries in different countries and regions. The manifestation of these bottlenecks can be lack of capital/investments which again leads to poor quality, low prices to fishers and difficult access to markets. Identifying and analysing such bottlenecks requires active private sector engagement that is representative of both small-scale and industrial fisheries, such as through the CNFO, OSPESCA and local fishing and food processing organizations in Panama, as well as the exploration of opportunities for capital investments in value chain added-value.

*Activity 2.1.2.2: Identification of ?optimal? value chains in fisheries ? Case studies (Consultancy)*

It is not self-evident what constitutes an optimal value chain in fisheries. Optimality refers to how well the value chain delivers the attributes which are aimed for. This again depends on the aims of who, i.e. different stakeholders may have different aims or goals. There are several cases that can be used for guidance, both at the international and regional level on what to aim for when improving value chains in fisheries. These shall be compared to the baseline cases described in Output 2.1.1, allowing for specific country-level recommendations on value chains to be pursued.

**Output 2.1.3:** National policy recommendations, developed promoting enabling environment for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets, including empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities.

Most often value chains in fisheries are complicated and entwined with other value chains in other related industries. They also include many different stakeholders which sometimes have conflicting interests. A holistic view is necessary to improve national policies so that value chains can be strengthened, taking into account the different stakeholder groups. Special attention must be given to small-scale vs large-scale fisheries. Considerations must be given to often neglected stakeholders such as indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and the important roles and responsibilities of women.

In order to provide national policy recommendations a clear and concise mapping/list of the different stakeholders is necessary, consisting of the following key steps:

For the specific value-chains, a clear and concise mapping/listing of the stakeholders should be provided. This includes a classification of the different groups, their number, role and responsibilities.

The legislative framework concerning each stakeholder group (if it exists) should be mapped, including (if any) privileges, special status, etc.

Provide information on special national or regional policies for the empowerment of women, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

Secure the engagement and inclusiveness of the said groups in the forming of recommendations to national policies.

The value chain analysis in the BE: CLME+ project must take into consideration the aims of the project, most notably *sustainability* and *inclusion*. This holds especially true when designing recommendations for national policies related to value chains. In preparing the recommendations the issues analysed in Output 2.1.2 (Activity 2.1.2.1) should be taken into account as well as the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Small Scale fisheries and the related CNFO Protocol providing assessment of Target 4.

*Activity 2.1.3.1: Preparing national policy recommendations (National Workshops + 1 Regional Workshop)*

The national policy recommendations will build upon and synthesize the main outcomes of the different outputs and activities, not only of Component 2 but also of other components in the project. Such recommendations must simultaneously be well thought out and take into consideration gender aspects as well as the empowerment of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, and also be politically and judicially feasible. This calls for an active consultation process with different stakeholders at all levels. National Workshops + a Regional Workshop to consolidate would help in securing both understanding and consensus on policy reforms for strengthening all-inclusive fisheries value chains.

*Activity 2.1.3.2: Capacity Building for Mainstreaming FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines into value chains*

The project will support a case-based training workshop at the regional level to demonstrate and provide knowledge on how the provisions of the *FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines* and the *CARICOM Regional Protocol on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries under the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy* may be mainstreamed into different types of fisheries value chains, including particular focus on market dynamics and the role of the private sector, and how alliances between fisherfolk organizations and the private sector in a value chain context can support the objectives and vision of the *FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines*.

*Activity 2.1.3.3: Value Chain Policy Awareness and Understanding*

Both during the design and after the creation of national policy recommendation it is necessary to foster both awareness and understanding of the recommendations and the potential benefits they bring. This will be done with a specifically designed dissemination strategy with the help of all participating countries and stakeholders. The dissemination strategy will be targeted towards specific stakeholders at all levels to create awareness and understanding where needed and will be linked with Output 2.1.4.

*Activity 2.1.3.3: Evaluation of Fisheries Value Chain Carbon Footprint*

In the process to develop and promote Fisheries Value Chains, it is necessary to minimize risks, improve efficiency, cut costs and become more resilient by taking action on value chain and supply chain carbon emissions and resource use. In this regard, the project will evaluate the fisheries value chains carbon footprint, leading to climate mitigation action plans which will be instrumental to guarantee the long-term competitiveness of fisheries production and added value products for local markets and particularly for exports to key markets. This activity will include the development and application of the required analysis tools and development of the mitigation action planning framework.



**Output 2.1.4:** Regional and national fisheries authorities and other relevant regulatory agencies trained in seafood value chain analysis and development within the context of blue economy.

Know-how and capacity building are necessary ingredients for the successful implementation of all the work conducted in Component 2. This holds true for all stakeholders in the value chain, be they public authorities or people from the private sector. Attention shall be given to provide the necessary know-how and capacity with regards to both value chain analysis and Blue Economy strategies and tools. Such training courses can be provided both *in situ* and on-line, and may consider the CNFO's Virtual Leadership Institute as a means of delivering training to fisherfolk. Ideally, these courses should be provided as early as possible in the project lifetime as they will strengthen the individual and institutional capacity to lead the project to a successful outcome.

Training and other forms of enhancing human resources of regional and national authorities and other important agencies with regards to the analysis and design of value chains in fisheries is a necessary part of a successful Blue Economy design and implementation. A two-pronged approach will be used in this regard, i.e. first, a general educational/training program and secondly, a more specific educational/training program aimed at different needs for different authorities and agencies. Such educational/training courses can be tailor-made in three levels. A general level, where the design and analysis of fisheries value-chains are presented in a general way; a regional level, where the fisheries value-chains for the Caribbean are given special focus and finally on a national level, looking into the specificities of each location.

In summary, key activities under this output will seek to:

1. Identify the appropriate authorities and agencies which would benefit from educational and/or training programs.
2. Identify the most important elements of each training program at the general, national and regional level and how they can enforce the design and implementation of Blue Economy plans and strategies.
3. Design the contents of the training courses.
4. Provide the training.

*Activity 2.1.4.1: Identification of value chain capacity needs and gaps (Consultancy)*

It is necessary to map the capacity needs and gaps in each country and at the regional level for the stakeholders identified in Output 2.1.3., inclusive of public, private and fisherfolk organizations. Capacity needs will be ranked and prioritized to inform the design of training materials and delivery under activity 2.1.4.2. This Activity is also directly linked to Output 2.1.1 (Activity 2.1.1.2).

*Activity 2.1.4.2: Training courses for relevant stakeholders (Consultancy)*

Building on the results of Activity 2.1.4.1 the contents of the training courses can be carved out. A special training course will be offered for regional and national fisheries authorities on value chain analysis and Blue Economy strategies and the link between the two. This course would focus on policy implementation issues. Tailor made training course on value chains in fisheries and Blue Economy strategies will also be offered to the appropriate private sector entities. This course will include both technical and non-technical discussion on production techniques and business aspects as well as Blue Economy opportunities through access to markets, etc. This activity complements Outputs 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 and will actively seek to engage with GEF IW:LEARN.

**Component 3. Regional Coordination, Project Management & Knowledge Management (GEF: 1,168,300; Co-financing: 5,488,818)**

This component supports the first two project components through knowledge management and project monitoring and evaluation, based on knowledge and experiences from the project as well as taking advantage of knowledge and experiences with the blue economy from other regions and other GEF International Waters projects in partnership with IW:LEARN as well as the experiences and lessons from the CLME and CLME+Project. Collectively the three outcomes under Component 3 will bolster regional capacity and engagement in blue economy opportunities, from regional and national organizations, to private sector partners and on down to targeted trainings for individual fisherfolk. Specifically, the component will focus on advancing lessons learned on marine spatial planning and the role of marine protected areas for ecosystem-based fisheries management, promotion of sustainable fisheries value chains and value of marine ecosystem goods and services within the context of blue economy. This component will also promote cooperation through the establishment of a knowledge management platform that will facilitate partnership building, knowledge exchange and collaboration, and promoting participation in technical meetings for regional knowledge sharing and targeted training for beneficiary institutions and associations, including actively engaging in IW:LEARN activities. Finally, to ensure successful project execution, the project will be supported by robust project monitoring and evaluation systems to inform timely adaptive project management, including meeting project reporting requirements and third-party mid- term and terminal evaluations.

**Outcome 3.1:** Strengthened regional BE cooperation and coordination, and increased governments' capacity to adopt ecosystem-based fisheries management practices

This outcome will focus on supporting regional and national level blue economy capacity building through targeted assessments and trainings to personnel from all institutions concerned (government, non-government, CSOs, and private sector) on the principles and practical application of Marine Spatial Planning and the use of Marine Protected Areas in ecosystem-based fisheries management in the development and implementation of a Blue Economy, and will complement trainings in Sustainable Fisheries Value Chains being delivered under Component 2.

**Output 3.1.1:** Assessment and compilation of existing MSP planning efforts in the CLME+ to inform regional ecosystem- based management of key fisheries (*building on MSP plans from GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project*)

Building on the results of Outcome 1.1., this output will focus on documenting all progress to date in MSP in project countries, including analysis of progress under the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and its associated strategic action plan (ECROP SAP), clearly identifying efforts to date in MSP pre-planning, MSP completion, and status of MSP implementation. This assessment and compilation will have a fishery focus, targeting ecosystems where fisheries most occur, demonstrating harmonization in approach, measures, strategies, and anticipated outputs, and institutional and governance frameworks as a baseline to replicate and expand in the future. This exercise will also show gaps and need for further collaboration to strengthen ecosystem- based management of key fisheries within an MSP context at the level of critical transboundary ecosystems that are essential for fisheries within the CLME+.

*Activity 3.1.1.1: Develop and implement training on Marine Spatial Planning and the Blue Economy*

The data obtained from the assessment and compilation of existing MSP planning efforts in the CLME+ will be used to design and implement training on Marine Spatial Planning and the Blue Economy at the regional and national levels. The training will cover presentation of the current situation of the national and regional marine management; introduction to the planning, institutional and accountability frameworks, implementation, and evaluation concepts of MSP and Sustainable Blue Economy; data and information in MSP processes; and strategies for stakeholder engagement in MSP processes using transparent criteria. In the development and implementation of this training, the project will also coordinate closely and embrace the approach used in the GEF LME:Learn training course, and include practical approaches and lessons on MSP and Blue Economy Strategies, including the use of illustrative case studies. Ultimately this training course will seek to build capacity of participants to better understand the relevance of marine spatial planning within the context of coastal and marine development and management, and its linkage to the Blue Economy.

*Activity 3.1.1.2: Develop and implement training on MPAs and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management*

This training will seek to build capacity of participants at the national and regional levels to better understand the purpose, function, declaration and management of MPAs and their contribution to ecosystem-based fisheries management within the context of MSP. The training will address MPAs as spatially-defined areas where species and populations may be protected from exploitation; contribution of MPAs to the recovery of exploited fishery stocks; how MPAs can protect entire ecosystems by conserving multiple species and critical habitats; how MPAs can reduce conflicts between fishers and other users by providing areas where non-fishery users can pursue non-consumptive uses of the resources; MPAs as a necessary tool but not a substitute for comprehensive fisheries management; the role of stakeholder participation, understanding and local acceptability, monitoring and enforcement as key elements for the success of MPAs; and balancing scientific and social and economic needs and realities in MPA management.

**Outcome 3.2:** Project implementation according to result- based management and lessons learned systematized and disseminated

Results Based Management (RBM) increases project implementation transparency and accountability, allowing interventions to complement each other and avoid overlap and waste. Three interconnected processes, namely good planning, monitoring and evaluation are critical to RBM and provide a robust foundation for successful and impactful project implementation.

**Output 3.2.1:** Project monitoring and evaluation plan and system in place

*Activity 3.2.1.1: Develop Project Annual Work Plans and detailed Project Monitoring & Evaluation System.*

This activity will ensure project planning and implementation follow standardized and approved formats and timelines with the definition of appropriate metrics and monitoring protocols to allow for monthly, quarterly and annual reporting of project progress and use of project resources, in accordance with the Project Results Framework and the GEF-7 Core Indicators applicable to this project, and will facilitate the preparation of Project Implementation Reports (PIR). This activity would normally be done during project inception with the participation of the project's principals, Regional Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

**Output 3.2.2:** Project mid-term and terminal evaluations

*Activity 3.2.2.1: Conduct Project Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE)*

This activity is an external consultancy to assess overall project implementation progress in terms of delivery of outputs and likelihood of completion of all planned outputs and outcomes by the end of the project. The mid-term evaluation has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned. The MTE also provides an opportunity to modify project strategies, improve performance for the second half of project implementation, and may provide evidence and justification for adjustments to the project's results framework, without affecting the overall project objective.

*Activity 3.2.2.2: Conduct Project Terminal Evaluation*

The Terminal Evaluation (TE) is undertaken at completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and

potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. Since a follow-up project or similar interventions for the future may be likely, in the TE particular attention should be given to learning from the experience. Therefore, the *Why?* question should be at the front of the TE and should be supported by the use of a theory of change approach. This activity is an external consultancy.

**Outcome 3.3:** Knowledge shared between Caribbean countries and organizations, and GEF IW projects in partnership with IW:LEARN

This outcome focuses on building the required capacity in the region to make effective the management of fisheries resources within the context of Marine Spatial Planning. It also is meant to maximize opportunities for partnership with IW:LEARN in its quest to collect and share best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems, while promoting learning among all project principals and beneficiaries.

**Output 3.3.1:** Technical manuals on ecosystem-based management of fisheries informed by MSP, developed and disseminated within the region

*Activity 3.3.1.1: Develop and disseminate Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Manuals*

The project will commission the development of technical and instructional-type Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Manuals to be informed on the compilation and assessment conducted, and also used in the training to be delivered under Output 3.1.1. In this regard, due consideration will be given for the use of relevant FAO EAF training tools, including customizing them to suit where applicable and feasible. Besides being shared with participants in trainings, these manuals will be widely disseminated as part of the project's broader Knowledge Management strategy.

*Activity 3.3.1.2: Develop and implement training at the regional level in the use of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Manuals*

A regional training of trainers workshop will be conducted to establish a cadre of professionals who can provide further training at the country level, beyond the one-time and targeted training being offered by the project under Output 3.1.1. This capacity will be crucial for the institutionalization of ecosystem-based fisheries management in project countries and the region.

**Output 3.3.2:** One knowledge management & information platform established (focused on project lessons learned from MSP, seafood value chain, and national blue economy implementation)

*Activity 3.3.2.1: Design and implement structure and operational protocols for knowledge management & information platform*

The project will establish a knowledge management & information platform to facilitate access to and dissemination of experiences and lessons learned from MSP, seafood value chain, and national blue economy implementation under the project, as well as from other initiatives in the region. Experiences and lessons will be systematized and operational protocols developed and disseminated to users and beneficiaries in project countries, including through instructional webinars on the operational features of the platform.

*Activity 3.3.2.2: Develop and implement technical meetings and targeted training for beneficiary institutions*

Country-specific and targeted capacity needs will be identified in terms of MSP, seafood value chain, and national blue economy implementation, and the project will provide at least one training per country to address country-specific needs, beyond the general trainings identified under other outcomes. Capacity needs critical for institutional sustainability of project results will be given priority under this activity.

**4) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing**

Scenarios with and without GEF Funding

To address the national and transboundary environmental threats of Caribbean marine habitats and the key barriers towards successful realization of national blue economy opportunities across Caribbean islands, an incremental GEF investment is critical. Not only is the investment window timely, given the emergence of blue economy dialogue at the global level, but the proposed GEF investment also builds on a series of previous GEF investments supporting Caribbean SIDS in the achievement of mutual national development and marine conservation goals.

The proposed project builds on National Action Plans (NAPs), focused on using existing CLME+ SAP, to develop national blue economy strategies that are addressing more than just the core LME modules of governance, pollution and habitats/conservation and fisheries, but to also include the other key sectors. Building off elements of FAO's approach to Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and CAF's ongoing support to CARICOM Member States and experience with blue economic development, the GEF incremental investment mobilizes numerous partners to realize blue economy opportunities by providing value adding in areas of marine habitat protection and conservation of ecosystem services, and sustainable use of key commercial fisheries, while addressing associated fish value chain issues such as food loss/waste reduction, as well as indirectly dealing with issues of climate change resiliency,

marine biodiversity protection, and technical and financial innovation. Successful implementation of Caribbean blue economy strategies can provide an integrated approach to addressing root causes of threats to fisheries and ecosystems, and at the same time put these interventions in a broader integrated framework that also takes into account the needs of other marine sectors such as tourism and shipping. Caribbean blue economy strategies can also make use of marine spatial planning tools to address these issues, while ensuring efficient use of resources, decent work opportunities, and encouraging technical and financial innovation, which are not commonly featured in LME projects. The project will help translate MSP results and larger CLME+ plans through establishment of new MPAs in at least five Caribbean countries. The proposed approach builds on existing work at the national and regional levels, ideally adding value across existing supply chains, and highlighting opportunities to develop new value chains.

CARICOM member states have requested assistance from CAF to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG targets in respect of fisheries and promote blue growth in CARICOM Countries. CARICOM has specifically requested assistance to help implement science-based fisheries management plans for key commercially important transboundary species, in order to effectively regulate harvesting, protect essential habitats and restore fish stocks at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics, by the agreed SDG 14 target date of 2020. There is also a recognized need for support with developing and implementing programs to increase the economic benefits to countries from the sustainable use of specific marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture development, improved sanitary and phytosanitary systems and trade, and by strengthening the linkage and cooperation between local fisherfolk and tourism operators and increasing the use of locally produced fish and seafood in tourist establishments. This includes, in particular, identification of possibilities for blue economy development in respect of specialized fisheries and aquaculture and sea food products, sea-based cosmetics, marine pharmaceuticals, and coastal and marine eco-tourism activities. CAF has also been requested to support targeted human and institutional capacity building interventions to support the abovementioned actions and achievement of the SDG 14 targets. CAF support will be provided as a USD 25 million loan mobilized.

The FAO BGI has received funding from multiple donors, including the EU and Sweden. A second phase was just renewed and BGI looks to further harness the potential of oceans, seas and coasts to: i) eliminate harmful fishing practices and overfishing, and instead incentivize approaches which promote growth, improve conservation, build sustainable fisheries and end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; ii) ensure tailor-made measures that foster cooperation between countries; and iii) act as a catalyst for policy development, investment and innovation in support of food security, poverty reduction, and the sustainable management of aquatic resources.

GEF added value will facilitate dual support of FAO and CAF to participating Caribbean countries. GEF funds will help link up parallel baseline activities so that each GEF Agency's comparative advantage is maximized to the benefit of participating countries. CAF's comparative advantage as a bank will be largely focused on financial support through loans, technical expertise, and leveraging existing regional networks in Project Components 1, 2, and 3. FAO's comparative advantage will be as a technical agency with competencies in ecosystems based fisheries management and marine spatial

planning, including marine protected areas and marine management areas in Project Components 1, 2, and 3. The PIF was formulated on the principle of an equal allocation of grant resources building on the Agencies' respective comparative advantages and technical competencies. During project preparation phase, the distribution of tasks and responsibilities across components and between outcomes will be better defined, which may change the fee allocation among agencies.

Consistent with Section C above, the project's total co-financing is US\$ 41,657,883 between in-kind and cash contributions from project partners. The six countries collectively through their liaison ministries for the project are providing a combine US\$ 9,787,932 in-kind co-financing in the form of staff time, use of equipment, office space, etc. The private sector and universities are collectively providing US\$916,000 in-kind for co-financing. The project's Executing Agency, CRFM, is providing a cash co-financing contribution of US\$300,000 grant and in-kind contribution of US\$1,899,250. The GEF Implementing Agencies CAF and FAO are also each providing co-financing through line of credit and grant, respectively. CAF anticipates co-financing of \$25,000,000 which will be comprised of lines of credit to be made available to support national financial institutions focus on implementing blue economy strategies by targeting enabling environments relating to fisheries governance, protection of critical habitats for fish, consolidation of fisheries value chains, and removal of capital-intensive barriers to attract private sector investment. FAO will provide \$4,000,000 in cofinancing from the EU support towards the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) (see Table C), which is part of a \$45 million Intra-ACP Blue-Growth programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains project.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has also been working on supporting their member countries in exploring Blue Growth opportunities. The CDB has developed a report entitled "Financing the Blue Economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity" which examines the potential of the blue economy to drive sustained and inclusive economic growth. The proposed project will be based on the work done by IFIs in the region. Collaboration and drawing from the expertise of the CDB will be further strengthened during full project development.

Under a business-as-usual scenario without GEF investment, participating Caribbean nations will make use of blue economy opportunities in an opportunistic way without a national roadmap that represents multi-stakeholder integrated interests and lacks data-backed decision-making tools, such as marine spatial planning. Further, financing opportunities are likely to be uncoordinated, failing to take advantage of economies of scale and experiences from other Caribbean nations and other countries in the IW community. Private sector investment will continue to view new blue economy opportunities as high risk and opaque. The net result will likely be varying degrees of modest progress made based on capacity and motivation of individual governments at the expense of sustainable marine resource management throughout the wider Caribbean region. Finally, as the CLME+ SAP implementation project and Caribbean Regional Oceanscape projects come to an end over the next few years, GEF International Waters investments into regional Caribbean priorities will cease, leading to possible losses of critical institutional knowledge, expertise, opportunities to leverage information and project results, and most importantly, political momentum for regional cooperation towards improved management of marine fisheries and marine habitats.



Of the critical barriers preventing blue economic growth in the Caribbean to realize ecosystem-based management of fisheries, the critical barriers remain without GEF intervention. Specifically, GEF incremental investment will target addressing the lack of national and regional policies and strategies that promote sustainable use of marine natural resources, especially aiming to mainstream use of marine spatial planning and use of marine protected areas as tools for promotion of blue economic growth and ecosystem-based fisheries management. While the blue economic development needs of each country vary, common barriers the GEF intervention are targeting include promoting cross-sector marine spatial planning, establishment of marine protected areas, promotion of financial tools and market mechanisms that encourage local innovation and entrepreneurship as blue economic opportunities present themselves. For example, the GEF incremental investment will support assessing and improving fisheries value chain opportunities that balance maximizing economic potential with sustainable yields. And, to ensure long-term success, GEF incremental investment will leverage project baseline partners and fisherfolk to improve their capacity for adoption of sustainable fisheries management across fisheries value chains.

Key to the success of the project will be the full buy-in and adoption of blue economy planning at the national and local government levels of participating Caribbean countries. Key technical ministries will be providing unparalleled expertise, sharing data and other resources, and facilitating sharing of information and knowledge with decision makers to ensure project success. The individual baseline support from each government will be detailed during full project development and will represent an essential foundation from which the project will grow.

#### Co-financing

As stated above, the \$25 million of investment mobilized by CAF for co-financing is to provide lines of credit to project countries and will be directly focused on investments tied to national blue economy strategy implementation with low-financing options aimed at removing capital-intensive barriers that support creating enabling environments for public-private partnerships and private sector investments, especially in seafood value chain creation activities under project Component 2, in addition to the contribution for the implementation of Components 1 and 3.

Investment mobilized for co-financing by the Food and Agriculture Organization is a \$4,000,000 grant funded by the European Union to support to Blue Growth Initiative in the Caribbean which is part of a \$45 million Intra-ACP Blue-Growth programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains project in ACP countries. Specifically, the co-financing investment will contribute to the implementation of components 2 and 3 of the BE-CLME+ project supporting private sector investment and knowledge dissemination as follows:

- 1) improving knowledge of the functioning of value chains and supporting the development of specific improvement strategies.
- 2) increasing MSME economic performance through strengthened market access, conducive business and regulatory environments.

- 3) improving the inclusiveness and the social sustainability at the different stages within the value chain;
- 4) enhancing environmental sustainability of selected value chains through improved management of natural resources and increased consideration for climate change; and
- 5) facilitating MSMEs' access to additional sources of finance and investment.

The CRFM Secretariat will provide co-financing for this GEF-7 project in the amount of US\$2,199,250 (US\$300,000 ? Cash and US\$1,899,250 ? in-kind) which will be available over the four years of the project. These resources are for use across all three components of the project, including Project Management Cost and will support personnel cost; liaison, communication and networking with stakeholders; fisheries data collection, compilation and dissemination; fisheries conservation and management planning; policy advice and policy making at the regional level; regional meetings and workshops; travel and public education and awareness raising.

National Governments in-kind contributions total US\$ 9,787,932 and will cover recurrent expenditures at the country level. These include primarily staff salaries, office space, local boat and land transportation, local meeting facilities, utilities and communications, the integration of fisheries and aquaculture value chains and in complementary national processes to promote and strengthen cross-sectoral Marine Spatial Planning and marine protected areas management.

The \$175,000 being secured as cofinancing from the University of Florida (UF)-CRFM Partnership will be used to cover recurrent expenditures in the form of professional fees of experts in MSP, MPAs and value chains who will be available to provide specific and targeted technical support to the countries at the request of the CRFM, professional development and exchanges between UF and participants from project countries, and other indirect UF costs associated with executing the partnership within the context of the project's implementation. The US\$100,000 co-financing provided by the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES) will cover complementary activities by CERMES in marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, blue economy, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, and governance aspects of seafood value chains.

#### **5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

The proposed project will generate global environmental benefits by helping Caribbean countries meet their objectives under numerous global conventions and associated national strategies, including the CLME+ SAP and national action plans (NAPs) guided by SAP recommendations. The project's support to developing National MSPs, National BE strategies, sustainable financing strategies for national BE, national decision-support systems, the creation of new and expanded marine protected areas, capacity building and institutional strengthening will deliver in enhancing the governance framework and multi-state cooperation in the region for the management of shared living marine resources in the CLME. Critical coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs) and globally

important biodiversity will be better managed, ecosystem services restored, and over-exploited fisheries returned back to more sustainable levels through MSPs and BE strategies implementation.

The proposed global environmental benefits will be measured through four GEF Core Indicators aligned with the GEF International Waters and Biodiversity Focal Areas. Specifically, the project will generate benefits under **Core Indicator 2: Created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)** through the establishment, expansion and enhanced management of marine project areas (MPAs) in at least five countries, with an estimated area coverage of 290,239 HA. The project will also contribute to **Core Indicator 5: Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)** and also support **Core Indicator 7: Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management** through establishment of new MPAs in at least five participating countries, as well as strengthened marine habitat management through an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries. The project will result in three (3) shared marine ecosystems within the larger CLME under improved management: Reefs and Associated Ecosystems; Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem; and Continental Shelf Ecosystem. Third, the project supports **Core Indicator 8: Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)**, with a very conservative estimate of roughly 45,000 metric tonnes of over-exploited fisheries moving towards more sustainable levels. Lastly, the project will also yield co-benefits that can be monitored under **Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**, with an early and initial goal to generate direct benefits to more than 60,000 males and nearly 28,000 females across the six countries participating in the project. More refined GEF Core Indicator targets values will be defined during full project development phase.

In addition to addressing GEF Objectives IW-1-1, IW-1-2, and BD-2 and the above GEF Global Environmental Benefits, the proposed project will address SDG Goal 14, which call for specific actions in fisheries inter alia: effectively regulate harvesting; addressing overfishing and illegal and poor fishing transparency; address fisheries subsidies; increase economic benefits from sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture; provide access for small-scale fisherfolk to resources and markets; implement UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provisions. The project will particularly address targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, and 14.7. Of particular importance to the context of the proposed project is Target 14.7: "By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism?". The emphasis on enhanced economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs in Target 14.7 is worthy of attention as it will ensure that greater attention is given to the special needs and vulnerabilities of LDCs and SIDS, and the importance of ocean management for their economic and social development.

While there is general alignment between the project and several of the Aichi Targets, the project is particularly aligned with Target 6, which highlights the importance of taking a broad and holistic approach to management to ensure sustainable use of marine resources; Target 6: "By 2020, all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and

vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.?

## **6) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

*Innovation:* Central to the project's goal is implementing innovative MSPs based on a regionally agreed MSP Protocol and the subsequent development and implementation of national Blue Economy Strategies. MSPs and BE Strategies will constitute innovative reforms to the national policy framework in the six countries of the project and will reflect a new political prioritization in the approach to managing shared living marine resources. The national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms (NICs) to be established (and strengthened in the case of St. Lucia) with the support of this project for MSP and BE strategy implementation is an innovative addition to the national governance framework for multi-sector marine resources management and will be crucial for integrating all uses and users of the selected marine space, and thus for the success of MSP implementation. This innovative approach will deliver social, economic, and environmental outcomes in an open and planned way, reduce conflict among user groups, provide an opportunity to place biodiversity consideration at the heart of planning and management, will facilitate public participation and inter-institutional coordination, enforcement, monitoring, evaluation, research, and financing for MSP implementation. The ordered management of coastal and marine resources through the implementation of MSPs and BE strategies inclusive of the development of sustainable fisheries value chains, will support the development of sustainable market mechanisms and the identification of more opportunities for private as well as public-private partnerships and investments in sustainable use of marine resources across multiple sectors through-out the CLME.

The project will assist countries and their citizens reassess economic opportunities to mutually generate unforeseen benefits and sustainably protect marine environments. Innovative business opportunities, such as new value-added fish products from fish waste, or whole new value chains from sargassum are exciting and innovative concepts. Further, by understanding private investors' needs, the project also aims to support de-risking investments from microloans to fisherfolk in support of new entrepreneurial enterprises, up to large private investments in regional and international firms and potentially infrastructure, as innovate new business opportunities are realized. The project also aims to make use of innovative tools, such as marine spatial planning and e-learning hubs, maximizing on new and innovative ways to analyse complex and dynamic knowledge and training new users to long-term impact.

*Sustainability:* The project is designed and supported by strong and well-supported regional and national entities, such as CARICOM and CRFM. The project has been intentionally designed to closely align with already endorsed policies and mechanisms, such as the CLME+ SAP, the Fisheries and SAP Interim Coordinating Mechanisms, and associated NAPs, the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), and the CARICOM and CRFM Strategic Plans as well as the CRFM and OSPESCA Joint Ministerial Declaration and Joint Plan of Action. By focusing on building and

supporting these existing organizations and their mandates, and implementing already approved policies, the project is ensuring long-term sustainability through a project design that leverages their existing scopes of work. Therefore, the project does not rely heavily on new mechanisms to be established that would then be charged with continuing promotion of project goals after the project concludes. Furthermore, the use of Marine Spatial Plans will serve as continual resource for policy makers and adaptive natural resource management for the long-term implementation of national blue economy strategies. These concepts as well as the use of MSPs over the implementation of MPAs and sustainable fisheries management will be further analyzed and elaborated during project preparation phase. The project is also designed very much from the perspective of empowering fisherfolk and fishing communities through targeted capacity building programs and an e-learning hub. By strengthening capacity from the ground up, especially targeting youth and women, allows for increased potential for future decision-making to be supported by the project outputs, and lessons learned from the application of blue economy and ecosystem-based fisheries management concepts. These efforts collectively promote a sustainable project design that takes a long-view on addressing the recognized barriers far beyond the initial project interventions.

*Scaling-up:* As a regional project, the initial project results can be of high value to non-participating member countries of CARICOM, CRFM, CAF, FAO, the CLME+ Hub, and the IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN communities. The blue economy concept is still in early phases of implementation and much of the success of this project can be translated elsewhere in the Caribbean or other coastal and island states. The project is also designed for the potential to scale up impact through attracting private sector investments at the local, national, and CLME+-wide levels. Assessing value chains and new business opportunities may intersect in new and unforeseen locations that provide additional opportunities for impact and generation of socioeconomic benefits. Additionally, the e-learning hub will be a public service freely available for anyone to engage, providing very simple opportunities for fisherfolk in non-participating Caribbean countries opportunities to engage.

The project will be leveraging the frameworks and knowledge generated by FAO and CAF, which can be tailored to individual countries and other regions. The Blue Growth work of FAO which forms the basis of this proposal is already being scaled up or parts of it are being replicated in approximately 20 countries in Africa and Asia. In Africa, these efforts are linked to the Africa Package a partnership with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, so that development of blue economy strategies are tightly linked to developing blue economy Investment Portfolios for various institutions to uptake or scale up. The tight link to investment portfolios improves the likelihood of project success. This project's partnership between FAO and CAF will explore similar opportunities to continue partnering as these are realized.

*1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates.* Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

While MPA establishment or expansion is anticipated in at least five countries, the exact coordinates of MPAs will be determined through MSP processes in each country. MPA coordinates will be shared as they become available throughout the project, including captured in project implementation reports, knowledge products and other publications, and in mid-term and terminal evaluations. A general map of the project area is presented in Annex E.

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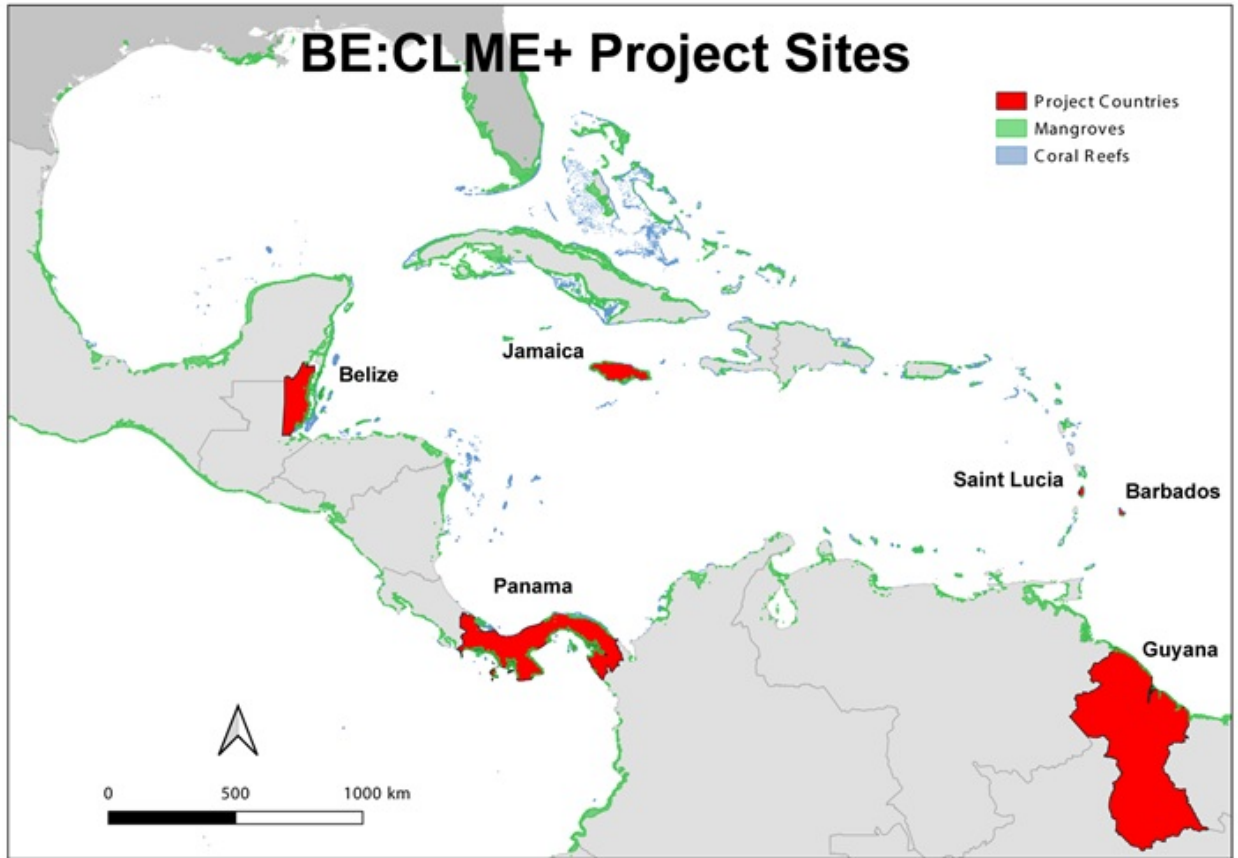
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#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

While MPA establishment or expansion is anticipated in at least five countries, the exact coordinates of MPAs will be determined through MSP processes in each country. MPA coordinates will be shared as they become available throughout the project, including captured in project implementation reports, knowledge products and other publications, and in mid-term and terminal evaluations. A general map of the project area is presented in Annex E.





1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

During project identification phase, the project engaged key stakeholders at the national and regional level. This has involved CAF and FAO working closely with CARICOM, CRFM, the CLME+ GEF project, and Caribbean countries in the development of this project proposal. Initial consultations included a CAF led workshop in February 2018, numerous bilateral discussions, and a PIF consultation workshop in February 2019 in Barbados led by CAF. In the PPG Phase, and notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, consultations were intensified using virtual means. A physical Project Design Inception Meeting was held in March 2020 in Belize City, Belize with the participation of all project countries, fisherfolk organizations, academia, inter-governmental organizations, and partner projects in the Caribbean region. Since the inception, a series of Regional Virtual Consultation Meetings and individual electronic consultations were held with project counterparts to analyze the details of project components, activities, outputs, outcomes, indicators, project implementation arrangements and governance, potential partners for project implementation, co-financing, coordination opportunities, and to build on multiple iterations of the project document, culminating with a Regional Validation Workshop on the final version of the project document prior to submission to the GEF Secretariat.

Project stakeholders had the opportunity to review and comment on proposed project activities and to provide specific inputs to the project formulation process. Consultations were also held with the authorities of the Nga?be-Bugl? Congress representing the Nga?be-Bugl? people in the Bocas del Toro area within the Nga?be-Bugl? Indigenous Reservation. During project implementation, stakeholder participation will include the provision of co-financing, participation of technical staff in workshops, training, and tools development, the facilitation of local project events and processes, the provision of project oversight through participation on the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) or on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as data sources, technical expertise and knowledge management through the institutionalization of project results and lessons learned to allow for up-scaling, replication, and sustainability. The inclusion and engagement of academia and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the public in the implementation of the project will be ensured via their direct participation in the governance and decision-making bodies of the project. Special effort will be made to ensure that CSOs and fisherfolk groups active or present in the area of influence of the project are represented in project decision-making and in interventions which may affect their interests. In all instances, the standards and guidelines of the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards and the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement shall apply, especially as it relates to ensuring appropriate stakeholder participation.

Consistent with the engagement approach described below, the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan is summarized in Table 4 below, while the corresponding monitoring plan in accordance with the minimum standards required by the GEF, is presented in Table 5. The required budget for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is absorbed under the project's Knowledge Management Approach in Component 3. The Indigenous Peoples Plan for the Nga?be-Bugl? people is presented in Annex L.

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

This section describes the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the project. The SEP is designed to ensure effective engagement between all stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project. The project will aim to maintain dialogue with the relevant government ministries, fisherfolk organizations, the private sector, local community groups, NGOs, academia, and international organizations. The SEP embraces the definitions of 'stakeholder' and 'stakeholder engagement' as defined in the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement:

**Stakeholder** means an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF- financed activity or is likely to be affected by it, such as local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, comprising women, men, girls and boys.

**Stakeholder Engagement** means a process involving stakeholder identification and analysis, planning of Stakeholder Engagement, disclosure of information, consultation and participation, monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout the project cycle, addressing grievances, and on-going reporting to stakeholders.

Consistent with the definitions above, the SEP seeks to ensure that stakeholders are identified, and their meaningful participation and involvement secured through-out project preparation and implementation; that consultations are gender-responsive and free of manipulation, interference, and/or discrimination; and that stakeholders have access to all relevant project information in an easily accessible and timely manner. Stakeholders were identified and placed in 1 of 3 levels according to their relationship with the project:

**Level 1:** persons and groups who are able to influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project

**Level 2:** persons and groups that participate in the project directly or indirectly

**Level 3:** persons and groups affected directly or indirectly by the outcomes of the Project implementation.

Key project stakeholders and their relationship level with the project are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Project Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Participation in project preparation	Participation in project implementation	Level
<b>Government Institutions</b>			
<b>BARBADOS</b>			
Fisheries Division, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research and licencing	1
Ministry of Environment and National Beautification	GEF Operational Focal Point  Validation and endorsement of PIF and CEO Endorsement Request	Facilitate and support all policy related outcomes proposed by the project  Project Monitoring and Evaluation at the national level Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project's Executing Agency	1
Coastal Zone Management Unit	Source of technical data and advice on integrated coastal zone management within the context of the ecosystems approach	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for the ecosystems approach and Knowledge Management within a blue economy context	1
Barbados Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3
Ministry of Tourism and International Transport	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management	3
Customs Department	Consultation on operational and structural opportunities to incorporate surveillance and monitoring of IUU fishing into customs operations	Key capacity building and awareness-raising partner for blue economy and promotion of legal fishing	3
<b>BELIZE</b>			

Fisheries Department, Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research, marine reserves, licensing, and fisheries enforcement	1
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management	GEF Operational Focal Point  Validation and endorsement of PIF and CEO Endorsement Request	Facilitate and support all policy related outcomes proposed by the project  Project Monitoring and Evaluation at the national level  Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project's Executing Agency	1
Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (Beltraide)	Information source on fiscal incentives granted to productive sectors	Key consultation partner in process to revisit fiscal incentives which may lead to destructive fishing.	3
Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute	Source of technical data and advice on integrated coastal zone management within the context of the ecosystems approach	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for the ecosystems approach and Knowledge Management within a blue trade context	2
Belize Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3
Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management	3
Customs Department	Consultation on operational and structural opportunities to incorporate surveillance and monitoring of fishing into customs operations	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for blue economy and promote legal fishing	3
<b>GUYANA</b>			
Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research, marine reserves, licensing, and fisheries enforcement	1

Environmental Protection Agency	GEF Operational Focal Point  Validation and endorsement of PIF and CEO Endorsement Request	Facilitate and support all policy related outcomes proposed by the project  Project Monitoring and Evaluation at the national level  Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project's Executing Agency	1
Ministry of the Presidency ? Department of Energy	Source of information on the developing petroleum/hydrocarbon resources sector	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management	3
Ministry of Agriculture	Parent ministry responsible for fisheries policy and management	Important project partner for policy and decision-making on blue economy at the national level	1
Customs Department	Consultation on operational and structural opportunities to incorporate surveillance and monitoring of fishing into customs operations	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for blue economy and promote legal fishing	3
Ministry of Business (Department of Tourism)	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management	3
Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3
<b>JAMAICA</b>			
Fisheries Authority	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research, marine reserves, licensing, and fisheries enforcement	1
National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)	Direct influence on national interest in project related to marine spatial planning	Primary liaison for all marine spatial planning issues	1
Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	GEF Operational Focal Point	Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project's Executing Agency	3

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Parent ministry responsible for fisheries policy and management	Facilitate and support all policy related outcomes proposed by the project  Project Monitoring and Evaluation at the national level	2
JAMPRO, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries - Jamaica	Information source on fiscal incentives granted to productive sectors	Key consultation partner in process to revisit fiscal incentives which may lead to destructive fishing.	3
Jamaica Tourism Board (JTB)	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management	3
Jamaica Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3
Customs Department	Consultation on operational and structural opportunities to incorporate surveillance and monitoring of fishing into customs operations	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for blue economy and promote legal fishing	3
<b>PANAMA</b>			
Authority for Aquatic Resources (ARAP)	Orientation on fisheries value chain within project design	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research and licencing	1
Ministry of Environment/Department for Marine Management	GEF Operational Focal Point  Validation and endorsement of PIF and CEO Endorsement Request  Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Facilitate and support all policy related outcomes proposed by the project  Project Monitoring and Evaluation at the national level  Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project's Executing Agency	1
Panama Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3

Panama Maritime Chamber of Commerce	Consultation on proposed project activities in Panama	Consultation on considerations for maritime transport within the context of MSP planning on the Atlantic Coast	2
National Customs Authority - Panama	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3
Ng?be-Bugl? Congress	Must provide Free Prior and Informed Consent to project activities to be implemented within the Bocas del Toro Area of the Nga?be-Bugl? Indigenous Reservation.	Key participant in project?s consultative processes in Panama, participation on project?s governing body, and authority overseeing indigenous fishers which may receive trainings and capacity building supported by the project, including alternative livelihood (seaweed culture)	1
Asociaci?n de Ambientales DEGO (ASAMDEGO)	Indigenous environmental association located and active in the project intervention area.	Key participant in project?s consultative processes in Panama and source of technical inputs within the local indigenous people context.	1
<b>ST. LUCIA</b>			
Department of Fisheries	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research and licencing	1
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Science, Energy and Technology	GEF Operational Focal Point  Validation and endorsement of PIF and CEO Endorsement Request	Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project?s Executing Agency	1
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development	Parent ministry responsible for fisheries policy and management	Facilitate and support all policy related outcomes proposed by the project  Project Monitoring and Evaluation at the national level	2



Customs Department	Consultation on operational and structural opportunities to incorporate surveillance and monitoring of fishing into customs operations	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for blue economy and legal fishing	3
Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing	3
<b>Inter-governmental Institutions</b>			
Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)	Provide macro policy direction at the regional level	Consultations on macro policy direction for blue economy	2
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	Project Executing Agency	Facilitates delivery of project activities, outputs, and outcomes, coordinates communication between all project partners and the GEF Implementing Agency	1
Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	Political institution for integration of policies in all sectors of the Eastern Caribbean States	Political Secretariat with lessons learned in a series of policy-related projects for the OECS region	2
OSPESCA	Source of data and key partner for alignment of fisheries and blue economy policies in Belize and Panama	Consultations on opportunities for alignment of fisheries and blue economy policies	2
<b>Regional Civil Society Organizations</b>			
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	Consulted on strategies to engage fishers and civil society on blue economy approaches	Capacity building and advocacy partner for the ecosystems approach and Knowledge Management within a blue economy context	3
<b>Academia</b>			
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies	Source of data and information on the socio-economic benefits of blue trade in the Caribbean	Source of technical expertise and consultations in processes to develop blue trade engagement and awareness strategies	2

University of Florida Sea Grant Program	Source of data and technical expertise in MSP, MPAs and fisheries value chains	Partner for the development of key and targeted project interventions in project countries	2
<b>Private Sector</b>			
Northern Fishermen Cooperative Association - Belize	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
National Fishermen Association - Belize	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
National Fisherfolk Cooperative Association ? St. Lucia	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
Georgetown Fishermen's Cooperative Society Limited - Guyana	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2

Upper Corentyne Fishermen's Cooperative Society - Guyana	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
Sindicato de Pescadores de Bocas del Toro - Panama	Key institution representing fishers? socio-economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental in ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy and definition of seafood value chains.	2
Central American Confederation of Artisanal Fishers (CONFEPESCA)	Key institution representing fishers? socio- economic interest and source of extensive traditional knowledge on fishing.	Instrumental to ensure the participation of fishers in capacity building and in garnering support for blue economy policy.	2

During project identification phase, the project engaged key stakeholders at the national and regional level. This has involved CAF and FAO working closely with CARICOM, CRFM, the CLME+ GEF project, and Caribbean countries in the development of this project proposal. Initial consultations included a CAF led workshop in February 2018, numerous bilateral discussions, and a PIF consultation workshop in February 2019 in Barbados led by CAF. In the PPG Phase, and notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, consultations were intensified using virtual means. A physical Project Design Inception Meeting was held in March 2020 in Belize City, Belize with participation of all project countries, fisherfolk organizations, academia, inter-governmental organizations, and partner projects in the Caribbean region. Since the inception, a series of Regional Virtual Consultation Meetings and individual electronic consultations were held with project counterparts to analyse the details of project components, activities, outputs, outcomes, indicators, project implementation arrangements and governance, potential partners for project implementation, co-financing, coordination opportunities, and to build on multiple iterations of the project document, culminating with a Regional Validation Workshop on the final version of the project document prior to submission to the GEF Secretariat.

Project stakeholders had the opportunity to review and comment on proposed project activities and to provide specific inputs to the project formulation process. Consultations were also held with the authorities of the Nga'be-Bugl' Congress representing the Nga'be-Bugl' people in the Bocas del Toro area within the Nga'be-Bugl' Indigenous Reservation. During project implementation, stakeholder participation will include the provision of co-financing, participation of technical staff in workshops, training, and tools development, the facilitation of local project events and processes, the provision of

project oversight through participation on the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) or on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as data sources, technical expertise and knowledge management through the institutionalization of project results and lessons learned to allow for up-scaling, replication, and sustainability. The inclusion and engagement of academia and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the public in the implementation of the project will be ensured via their direct participation in the governance and decision-making bodies of the project. Special effort will be made to ensure that CSOs and fisherfolk groups active or present in the area of influence of the project are represented in project decision-making and in interventions which may affect their interests. In all instances, the standards and guidelines of the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards and the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement shall apply, especially as it relates to ensuring appropriate stakeholder participation.

Consistent with the engagement approach described above, the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan is summarized in Table 4 below, while the corresponding monitoring plan in accordance with the minimum standards required by the GEF, is presented in Table 5. The required budget for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is absorbed under the project's Knowledge Management Approach in Component 3. The Indigenous Peoples Plan for the Nga'be-Bugl' people is presented in Annex L.

Table 4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Group	Engagement Purpose	Engagement Method	Frequency	Responsible Entity
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<p><b>Level 1:</b> persons and groups who are able to influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project</p>	Define details of project intervention strategies	Physical or virtual meetings of the RSC	Progress reports quarterly	Chair of the Regional Steering Committee
	Review of project work plans and budgets	Written Progress Reports	Audit reports annually	Individual Project Steering Committee members
	Review and approval of project progress reports	Written letters Official project emails	Physical or virtual meetings quarterly	Regional Project Coordinator GEF Operational Focal Point
	Review of project Audit Reports	Written grievance reports	At least one physical meeting every 6 months	National Project Liaison
	Conduct fiduciary duties	Written Audit Reports	Grievance deliberations on an as needed basis.	CRFM
	Address project conflicts	Project Meetings with the GEF Operational Focal Points		CAF and FAO
	Addressing stakeholder grievances			
	Conflict resolution at all levels			
	Agree on project policy communications with the Governments, CRFM, CAF and FAO			

<p><b>Level 2:</b> persons and groups that participate in the project directly or indirectly</p>	Consult on project work plans and budget	Technical Working Groups	Technical Advisory Committee meetings at least every 4 months;	CRFM
	Technical inputs to Terms of Reference	Focus Group Sessions		Regional Project Coordinator
	Validation of technical reports	Meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee	Field extensions, data collection and monitoring at least quarterly	National Project Liaisons
	Exchange of technical data and lessons learned	Field extension visits		Project Staff
	Joint planning and collaboration	Field data collection and monitoring	Project website postings and social media on a continuous basis	Members of Technical Advisory Committee
	Extension services and provision of technical assistance	Workshops and trainings in the field	Progress reports quarterly	
		Memorandum of Understanding between organizations and the project		
	Project website, social media, printed materials, Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)			

<p><b>Level 3:</b> persons and groups affected directly or indirectly by the outcomes of the Project implementation.</p>	Inform on the project implementation status	Local and community level informative and focus group discussions	Focus group discussions at least every 4 months	CRFM
	Collect opinions and concerns during public meetings or other contacts	Social media	Workshops at least twice per year	Regional Project Coordinator
	Register, analyse and address grievances or comments submitted	Local radio and TV in language of local community and with tailor-made messages	Radio and TV messages on a continuous basis	National Project Liaisons
		Printed brochures	Printed materials on a continuous basis	Project Staff
		Community level trainings and workshops		Local fisherfolk organizations and community leaders Private sector entities

Table 5. Stakeholder Engagement Monitoring Plan

Parameter	Monitoring & Reporting Responsibility	Reporting Frequency
1. Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase	Project Management Unit	Annually
2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in the project implementation phase	Project Management Unit	Annually

3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase	Project Management Unit	Annually
4. Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are taken into account by the project	CAF/FAO - Outsourced	Annually
5. Grievances handling mechanism ? how grievances are received, and results communicated to all stakeholders	Project Management Unit	Annually

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Please see section above.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes**

**Co-financier;**

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;**

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)**

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

FAO and CAF are committed towards gender equality and woman?s empowerment. The project will follow FAO and CAF gender policies during project development to ensure the project maximizes opportunities to women in all project activities. Additionally, specific project activities have been



developed that target creating opportunities for women and youth (Component 3). Further, the proposed project recognizes that the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and CARICOM entered into an MOU in January 2017. The project will explore every opportunity to support CARICOM in implementation of the objectives of this MOU through the proposed project. Additionally, the project will support implementation of CRFM's recent gender mainstreaming policy for the fisheries sector, and a regional protocol on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries for Caribbean Community fisherfolk and societies. This protocol was developed under the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy. The project has set an initial Core Indicator target of generating direct benefits to approximately 60,000 males and 28,000 females across the six countries participating in the project. It is important to that note that it is a statistical fact the gender distribution in the fisheries sector has historically been and continue to be heavily skewed towards males in project countries simply due to the nature of the activity and deeply rooted cultural norms, even though this is slowly changing towards increased female participation in the sector, especially in Belize, with all legal and economic incentives available to both male and female fishers. Most women are involved in the processing, distribution, and marketing of fisheries products, and have been considered in the estimate of beneficiaries proposed in this project. The male to female distribution in the sector may be improved with regulatory and structural changes targeting female participation, however, that specific objective falls outside the scope of this project. Nevertheless, the project's Gender Action Plan goes to great length in mainstreaming gender in all the project's activities. The project proposes to revisit and revise the targets for Core Indicator 11 at the mid-term and project's end, once new MPAs have been established with project support and more gender mainstreaming has been outlined as part of the MPA management planning process.

A complete Gender Analysis and Action Plan has been prepared for the project as per the requirements of the CAF-GEF Projects Manual and is presented in Annex H.

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; No**

**Improving women's participation and decision making Yes**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes**

**Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

**4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

Private sector engagement in Caribbean blue economy initiatives at the national and regional level are key aspects of all technical project components. More specifically, the project aims to facilitate increased private investment into blue economy priorities, especially sustainable business ventures that rely on important marine resources of the Caribbean, including marine fisheries and aquaculture, fish-byproducts, and sargassum. Both CARICOM and CRFM work closely with key industry organizations in the fisheries sector. FAO and CAF equally provide expertise and unique added value to private sector engagement at the international and regional levels. Project success and long-term impact relies heavily on private sector engagement in the project's design and implementation, but more importantly, in long-term private sector investments into strengthening existing and capitalizing on new local, national, and regional fisheries and seafood value chain opportunities as a result of the project.

It is necessary to ensure that local knowledge of the private sector, concerning both the challenges and the opportunities in different fisheries is used in the development of the objectives under Component 2, especially in the development and implementation of national action plans, which would have limited probability of success without having appropriately incorporated the private sector. The project will not only help in identifying and creating awareness about the economic investment opportunities along the value chain but also provide guidance on how to help the private sector to benefit from such opportunities. There are many ways to achieve this, but among the most important are the removal of barriers to improvements, ease access to finance and increase certainty concerning access to raw material (fish) through sustainable management of fish stocks. Attracting private sector investment into Blue Economy opportunities calls for the identification of the opportunities as well as building awareness about them. In this regard, the 25 million USD credit line from CAF will be instrumental in attracting and consolidating private sector interest and consolidation in developing the Blue Economy in project countries. Similarly, private sector involvement in the process of MSP is crucial, especially since Public-Private-Partnerships may be built using government approved regional BE strategies and MSPs as guides to investment, as strategic frameworks to prioritize action, and as tools to reduce private sector investment risks. Private sector engagement will specifically involve the following:

1. Consultations with each relevant sector on interests and possible role of private sector organizations in the decision-making and governance frameworks to be developed as part of MSP and BE processes
2. Secure private sector support and buy-in for the MSP Protocol as a crucial step towards securing political support for the prioritization of MSP and BE strategies as innovative policy additions to the marine governance framework in project countries and the region
3. Demonstration and information sessions with the private sector on the "business case" for MSP and BE strategies based on established and evolving examples from around the world
4. Seek inputs from private sector organizations on their vision for the economic development of the coastal zone in project countries, and as an opportunity to feature biodiversity conservation as a central part of that vision
5. Consultations with private sector organizations in the development of value added products and investments in sustainable seafood value chains

6. Institutional strengthening and capacity building to private sector organizations on circular economy approaches and opportunities, MSP and BE
7. Explore and develop with private sector organizations the possible terms and conditions for public-private partnerships within a BE context
8. Participation in the project's governing bodies
9. The project will look at the possibility of including the private sector organisations/representation on NICs or relevant equivalent mechanisms]
10. The project will support mainstreaming MSP into national and sectoral (including the Private Sector) policy and planning.

### 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

The risks identified below are residual risks, and thus risk ratings reflect risks after mitigation measures have been considered.

**Table 6.** Identified Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measure
MSP not mainstreamed into political policy prioritization	H	The project will spare no efforts to ensure all stakeholders are fully onboard, especially the private sector and representatives of relevant authorities. Political support will be almost impossible without the support of industry and the private sector.

<p>Low private sector engagement from the multiple economic sectors active in the coastal zone</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>The project will apply both adaptive and assertive management in ensuring private sector participation, by inviting private sector organizations to form part of the project's governing bodies, as well as in specific engagement activities as listed above in Section 4: Private Sector Engagement. Moreover, the project will aim to creating awareness among key stakeholders, including the Private Sector about MSP and its likely role in improving the investment climate and involving private sector organization in NICs, etc.</p>
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<p>Impacts of climate change, including ocean warming and acidification in the Caribbean Sea, that may disrupt fish populations and impact fish catch and aquaculture operations. However, the Caribbean region has moderate vulnerability and high adaptive capacity to weather related threats.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Central to the project is employing marine spatial planning (MSP) tools to assess the impacts of climate change on Caribbean fish stock ? both currently and forecasting into the future. The project will make use of science-based adaptive management and MSP to advise regional fishing bodies like CRFM as ocean conditions and fish stocks adjust to prioritize sustainability over short- term profit.</p> <p>Fisheries need to have access to climate and weather information to manage risks to ensure safety of fishers. The timescale and spatial resolution of the climate/weather information required by fishing communities varies according to the distance from coastline and species targeted. As a result, <b>climate services</b> need to be tailored to end-users needs. The project will seek to support countries in accessing data on high swell forecasts, high tide forecasts, visibility forecasts, wind forecasts, potential lightning zones and SST, El Ni?o and La Ni?a seasonal forecasts which are essential for determining the fishing quotas for sustainably managing available resources and for the planning processes linked to MSP.</p> <p>The project will conduct a feasibility assessment for the introduction of a <b>climate-based insurance scheme</b> for fishers, which may consider compensation for damages and lost income due to postponement of fishing activities in extreme weather conditions, replace and repair fishing boats, gear, tools and infrastructure destroyed or damage by storms, etc. This assessment will include the evaluation of relevant existing climate-based insurance schemes in the region.</p> <p>The project will evaluate the fisheries value chains carbon footprint, leading to climate mitigation action plans which will reduce risks and be instrumental to guarantee the long-term competitiveness of fisheries production and added value products for local markets and particularly for exports to key markets.</p> <p>Expansion and diversification of seafood value chains to be supported by the project also will increase the resilience of fishing communities in project countries, as well seaweed culture as an alternative to fisheries, in the case of Panama.</p>
<p>Government engagement declines during life of project</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>The project has been designed and directly supports CARICOM and CRFM and its member states participating in the project. The project will leverage existing coordinating and cross-cutting intergovernmental and transboundary mechanisms that govern these institutions to ensure participation remains strong.</p>

Weak implication of private sector and/or investment for sustainable fisheries development is low	M	Long-term impact of the project and implementation of blue economy principles are key to the project's success. The project will engage private sector groups directly from early project design. Further, the project is directly aiming to identify financial and risk barriers to encourage market interventions, while also empowering fisherfolk (especially youth and woman) with skills and financing to engage in entrepreneurial programs. This bottom-up approach aim to make for a strong enabling environment. Lastly, CAF has a long history courting private financial investment and will make use of its numerous resource and networks in support of the project's objectives.
Lack of communication and coordination between participating agencies	M	Set up communication procedures customized to each country's situation particularly through National Project Focal Points and Project Committees and/or National Inter-sectoral Coordination Mechanisms, as appropriate.
Low participation and support from stakeholders due to a limited understanding of the ecosystems approach to fisheries management	M	Training and outreach to fishers and local communities on blue economy and sustainable fisheries management. The project will carry out a structured knowledge management approach and targeted awareness raising campaign to increase public understanding and awareness of blue economy; the socioeconomic benefits to be derived from implementing the ecosystems approach to fisheries management and strengthening of fisheries value chains, and including benefits to women; this will be initiated in the very early stage of project implementation.
Difficulty in defining fisheries value chains results in ineffective project interventions intended to strengthen these	L	Value chains and opportunities to strengthen these will be identified, and an information campaign launched early in project implementation to ensure buy-in necessary for successful project intervention.
High staff turnover in participating Government agencies	H	Designing the implementation of the project so it will not overly rely on individual staff, but on institutions and organizations. Additionally, attempts will be made to spread capacity development within individual countries so that as many individuals are involved and trained as possible.
Low political interest to prioritize blue economy	M	Political buy-in will be secured through strategic and periodic communication to key decision-makers, including parliamentarians, through a regional blue economy forum and carefully crafted messages to targeted audiences at the national level.
Gender risk - Gender mainstreaming by the project may be undermined without a series of activities aimed at understanding women's challenges, and if the project does not take advantage of their capabilities and leadership roles within the family unit and the local community.	L	The project will have to be genuinely gender mainstreamed, from the initial design phase, through the implementation, and impact evaluation. Particular attention has to be paid to addressing all possible information gaps that may place women in an unfavourable position. The project has developed a Gender Mainstreaming Plan, inclusive of a Gender Action Plan, to ensure that the project truly gender-sensitive and minimize any potential gender risks.

<p>Indigenous peoples - The technical nature of project activities may potentially lead to exclusion or limited participation of indigenous peoples, in the event that they may be directly affected or relevant for the project's intervention</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>An Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) for the Nga?be-Bugl? peoples of Panama has been prepared and approved during the PPG, which outlines a series of principles, actions and budget to ensure effective participation by the Nga?be-Bugl? peoples. All efforts will be made by the project to ensure communication and outreach materials are sensitive to the needs and inclusion of the Nga?be-Bugl? peoples as necessary and relevant consistent with the IPP. Local community leaders, including those of indigenous peoples, will be invited to participate in all local events where project results will be presented and interpreted for the local community.</p>
<p>Covid-19 pandemic - Prolonged social distancing measures and recurring national quarantine measures in project countries.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>To guarantee the continuation of the project despite prolonged social distancing requirements, project meetings and the engagement processes could transition on-line or a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize contagion risks. Remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement including easily accessible videoconferencing services, etc. For those who cannot participate remotely, in-person meetings could be held with a reduced number of participants and holding social distancing and hygiene best. The development of the crisis will be closely monitored, and creative responses will be explored and implemented along the way focused on advancing project outcomes through alternative forms of engagement, and flexibility in case meetings have to be rescheduled.</p>
<p>Changes in the restrictions and accessibility to countries sites and regional travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic affect project implementation.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Short term impacts will affect engagement and planning activities with project stakeholders.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has required a considerable shift in the way meetings and workshops, rural consultations and fieldwork are conducted.</p> <p>Over the medium term, the contracting and supervision of local teams to operate in field locations is now necessary, with international or regional backstopping provided remotely.</p> <p>In terms of regional coordination and between country sharing, the use of virtual meetings has been relatively successful. It is expected that this will be increasingly used in place of traditional face to face meetings. The advantage is that more meetings can be held. There are also cost savings which could be transferred to increased costs incurred at local level.</p> <p>Long term it is expected that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project activities will gradually decline or cease to be relevant during the project lifetime.</p>

<p>Reduction in financial (co-financing) support from Government, development partners, and private sector, due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-19-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID-19, since Government expenditure and prioritization of different programs and sectors, including agriculture, food security and natural resources, might change.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>If reductions in co-finance do occur, then partners to work closely to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas. This would include accessing potential COVID-19 rehabilitation funds or budgets, if these become available, in particular those relating to promoting suistanbale fisheries and food security.</p> <p>These options will be thematized in consultations with participating Governments and partners, including private sector entities, during the inception phase and monitored during implementation.</p> <p>In these consultations the overarching requirement for observing the principles of sustainable development, and in particular ecosystem-based management, will be emphasized.</p>
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## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

### Institutional Arrangements

The six participating countries have requested co-implementation from CAF and FAO to promote sustainable marine and coastal value chains/blue economy development in the CLME. This innovative partnership plays to the comparative advantages and competencies of the two GEF Agencies to create synergies for effective project development, and successful project execution. Under this arrangement, CAF is lead GEF Implementing Agency, FAO is Co-GEF Implementing Agency, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) is the project's Executing Agency.

CAF is tasked with the overall responsibility of ensuring that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and deliver on expected outcomes. Other specific Implementing Agency responsibilities include ensuring compliance with GEF policies and standards for results-based M&E, fiduciary oversight, safeguards compliance, project budget approvals, technical guidance and oversight of project outputs, approval of Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), and participation in the project's superior governance structure.

The CRFM will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) at its Secretariat in Belize City to oversee day-to-day project delivery. The PMU is responsible for the fiduciary oversight and reporting of the project, including financial management and procurement consolidation according to the projects operational manual and procurement plan. It is also responsible for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), provides and coordinates technical advice, and coordinates and assists overall orientation concerning project conception, strategies, criteria and methodologies. The PMU will be staffed with a **Regional**



**Project Coordinator, a Marine Spatial Planning Specialist, and a Seafood Value Chain Specialist.** Financial, procurement and administrative services will be provided to the project by the CRFM Secretariat and such services shall constitute part of the PMU. Additional technical assistance and expertise will be outsourced via institutional partnerships, technical exchanges, and consulting services as necessary.

The project's superior governing body is the **Regional Steering Committee (RSC)**. The RSC is responsible for ensuring that the project meets goals announced in the Project Results Framework by helping to balance conflicting priorities and resources. Conclusions and recommendations produced by the RSC will be used by CRFM to modify implementation strategies, annual work plans and resources allocation budget and, when necessary, to adjust the project's Result Framework in consultation with CAF and FAO and the government of the participating countries. This committee will meet every six months, either physically or virtually. The RSC shall be chaired by the CRFM or the participating countries on a rotation basis, and will include representatives from the GEF Operational Focal Point, project focal point ministries or departments, regional organizations such as CNFO and CONFEPESCA, the CAF-GEF Task Manager, and the FAO-GEF Task Manager. The specific roles and responsibilities of the Project Steering Committee are as follows:

- ? Provide input into planning and coordination of the project;
- ? Review and approve project policies and procedures;
- ? Review and approve Annual Operational Plans and Budgets at the beginning of each fiscal year, to allow for smooth project execution through-out the rest of the fiscal year
- ? Review the progress of the project and ensure activities are in line with approved annual operational plan and budget;
- ? Review and approve all project technical and financial reports (quarterly, semi-annual reports, PIRs, and audited financial statements);
- ? Ensures that required resources are committed and arbitrates any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems between the project and external entities
- ? Promote partnerships with relevant Government Ministries/agencies/departments for monitoring and execution of the project;
- ? Facilitate the coordination of project financed activities with other related investments and institutions in participating countries where applicable;
- ? Ensure accountability by making decisions in accordance with standards that ensure management brings about development results, best value for the money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition.

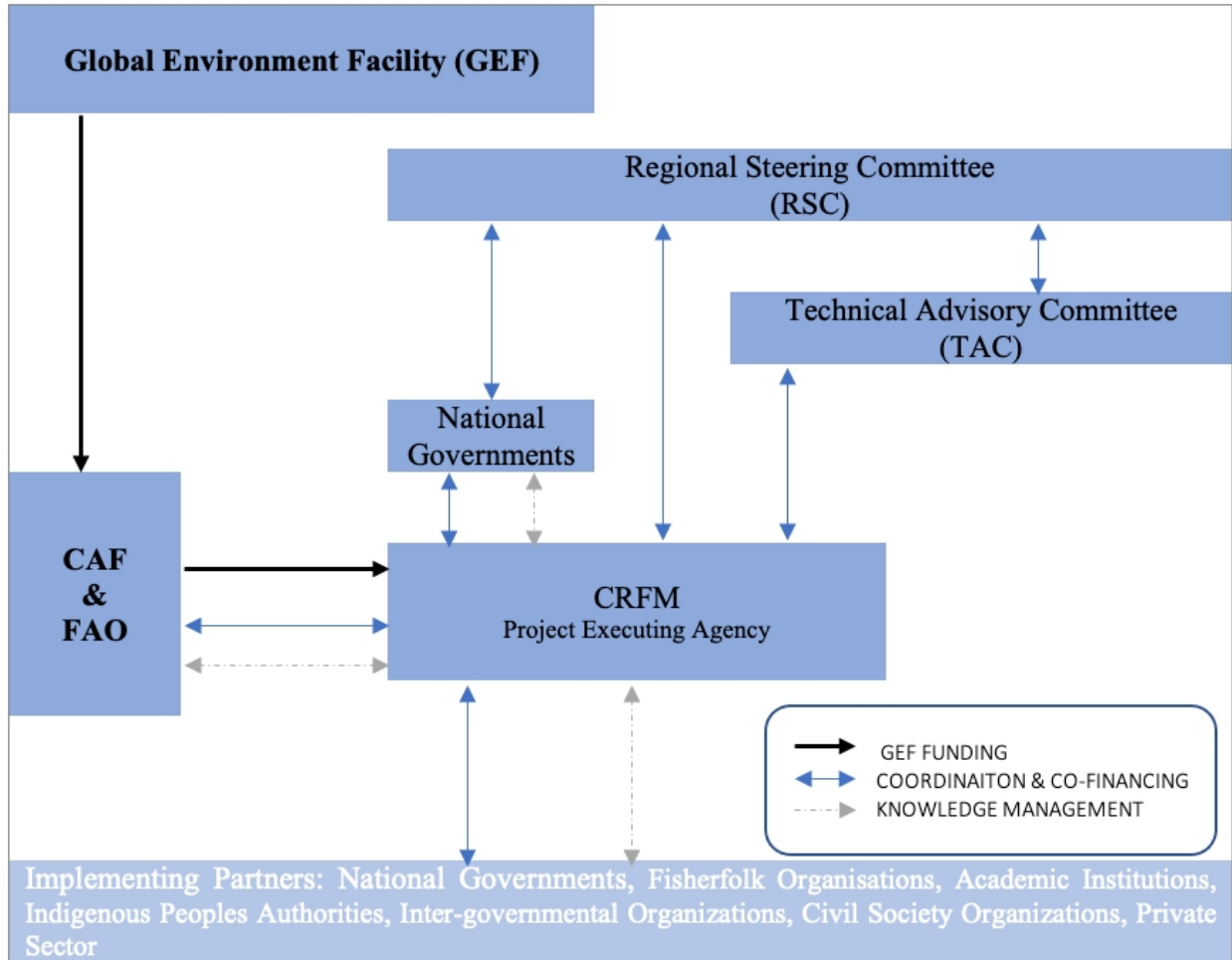
A **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** will be appointed to provide technical oversight, guidance and support during project implementation. The TAC is also responsible for reviewing and providing recommendations on project methodological processes (technical quality) and activities to the PMU for its consideration. The TAC will meet at least quarterly and will be facilitated by CRFM as executing agency. Members of the TAC will include the Regional Project Coordinator and senior technical officers from the

key ministries of government, CSOs and academia with thematic competence and/or authority of relevance to the areas of interest and objectives of the project. The TAC shall be Chaired by the Regional Project Coordinator and consist of eight more members, at least 2 of which must be from non-government institutions. The specific roles and responsibilities of the Technical Advisory Committee are as follows:

- ? Review and make recommendations to the PMU and RSC on technical matters related to the Annual Operational Plans, Procurement Plan, Annual Reports and Project Implementation Reports;
- ? Ensure that project activities adhere to the Annual Operating Plan, the GEF and CAF Environment Social & Environmental Safeguards, and those of the CRFM and participating governments;
- ? Review and make recommendations for improving the Terms of References for the recruitment of consultants, while ensuring that this review does not constitute undue delay to the project's procurement processes;
- ? Participate in key meetings, workshops, consultations, trainings and other related activities as required;
- ? Provide the project with access to information, data, and technical advice of specialized areas of competence of the Member;
- ? Ensure accountability by making decisions in accordance with standards that ensure management brings about development results, best value for the money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition.

The project's Institutional and Implementation Structure is presented In Figure 1.

Figure 1. Project Institutional & Implementation Structure



### Coordination

In addition to CLME+ activities, the project will also ensure close coordination with the World Bank Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (#9451), which is supporting marine spatial planning in Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica. As noted above, the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project is not exclusively fisheries focused and is a very important baseline for developing ecosystem-based and blue economic development approaches towards fisheries management for a larger portion of the Caribbean. Careful attention will be given to ensure MSP processes between the two projects are highly complementary, leveraging the Oceanscape Project's experiences, improved local and regional expertise, and to jointly build an overall stronger capacity base in the Caribbean in marine spatial planning. The two projects will not have any geographic overlap with respect to MSP development or other key project outputs. This will be ensured through coordination at the national level with respective planning and management agencies, at the regional level among regional coordinating bodies, and directly among the two project management units and GEF Implementing Agencies. During

further project development, specific areas of coordination and complementarity will be further defined to collectively promote the shared goals of CARICOM, CRFM, OSPESCA, and respective national plans. This will ensure that the project is consistent with and builds on current global approaches and best practices, special efforts will be made to coordinate with the 'Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 Billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems (GEF ID 10375)' implemented by Conservation International and the 'Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC' project (GEF ID 10394) implemented by UNDP.

All efforts will be made by this project to find synergies and coordinate with the NORAD-funded project 'Strengthening Evidence Based Decision-making in CARICOM Fisheries.' The overall aim of the project is to build capacity of national fisheries administrations to improve data collection and use, in order to promote evidence-based development and management of the region's fisheries resources. The project: 'Supporting member countries implement climate change adaptation measures in fisheries and aquaculture' (GCP/GLO/959/NOR) seeks to improve capacity of partner countries and key stakeholders, including trade and industry experts, policy and management experts, fishers and fish workers, to implement climate change adaptation actions that promote socio-economic development in fisheries and aquaculture. It developed a range of tools (guidelines, roadmaps, targeted capacity building frameworks) that will be considered for this project through close collaboration and coordination.

There are two projects in Barbados that are particularly relevant to this project and with which coordination must be sought. The project '*Strategic Roadmap for the Blue Economy in Barbados BA- T1063 (IDB TCP) ATN/CO-17589-BA*' seeks to strengthen the institutional framework for supporting the growth of the blue economy in Barbados, and specifically supports an improved coordination across country agencies involved in the promotion, coordination and implementation of BE related activities, and increasing awareness among private and public sector stakeholders on the strategic importance of the BE as a pillar for growth in Barbados. The project '*Sustainable Fish Value Chains for Small Island Developing States (SVC4SIDS) GCP/GLO/098/ROK*' seeks to ensure that stakeholders have a solid understanding of designated [high-value] fisheries value chains and develop specific improvement strategies, and also supports the enhancement of environmental sustainability through restoration or improved management of targeted high-value species.

The project will also build off many existing collaborations with regional and international partners including the SICA, CCAD, OSPESCA, OECS Secretariats, University of the West Indies (CERMES, Marine Sciences Centre, Faculty of Law), United Nations University, Fisheries Training Programme, the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), CONFEPESCA, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), UNCTAD, UNEP-RCU, and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). Additionally, the project will draw on the deep knowledge and experiences of IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN. The project will contribute to the IW:LEARN community through participation in

IW:LEARN workshops and conferences, sharing of experiences, and other knowledge products through a dedicated portion of the project budget.

The CRFM and the University of Florida Sea Grants Program (UF-FSG) have been in a technical cooperation partnership for the last nine years, under which CRFM countries have benefitted from a variety of capacity building initiatives mainly in the areas of fisheries research and management, livelihoods of artisanal fishers, and training including in marine spatial planning. The technical cooperation partnership will be extended into the foreseeable future beyond the life of this project, and as such, presents a valuable opportunity for the UF-FSG to act as a strategic resource to be accessed by project countries under the institutional framework agreement with the CRFM. Technical capacity and skills available to project countries via the CRFM/UF-FSG Partnership will be accessed as needed within the context of skills available to the CRFM under other collaborations with academic institutions such the University of the West Indies (CERMES, Marine Sciences Centre, Faculty of Law) and United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme, and within the context of contemporary approaches to Blue Economy and Sea Food Value Chains currently used at a global scale by the World Bank, UNESCO, FAO, etc. The UF-FSG will place at the disposal of the project skills in MSP processes including facilitating MSP inputs (stakeholder needs assessment and gender considerations), analysis (framework design, modelling approaches, MPA legal analysis and policy development) geo-spatial planning, and training; expertise in evaluating and developing the sustainability, environmental and social value of seafood value-chains, using an approach which emphasizes a collaborative engagement strategy built on a foundation of outreach, stakeholder engagement, product development and testing and economic analysis of standards and their attributes that reflect key facets of a *Blue Economy*; capacity building to individuals and institutions in project countries.

#### **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDC/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC

- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Others

The project will help Caribbean countries meet their objectives under numerous conventions and associated national strategies, including the CLME+ SAP and national action plans (NAPs) guided by SAP recommendations. The project will also generally support countries with making progress on several key international policies, including the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 1: Poverty, SDG 2: Food Security, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 8: Sustainable Economic Growth, SDG 13: Climate, and SDG 14: Marine. The project will also support efforts for implementation of the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), the 2001 International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the 2014 Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), and the 2010 Castries (Saint Lucia) Declaration on IUU fishing. The project may also indirectly support the 1983 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention), with associated protocols on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Land Based Sources of Pollution (LBS) Protocol and the Oil Spills.

The countries participating in this project are signatories to numerous other conventions and agreements at the global and regional levels specific to sustainable fisheries management. Those listed below are the most relevant for blue economy, inclusive of commitments to take actions towards sustainable fisheries management using the ecosystems and precautionary principle approach, and the reduction of illegal fishing practices.

*United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ? UNCLOS (1982)*, sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, including fisheries activities; and sets out the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purposes of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing living resources within areas under national jurisdiction, as well as their duties with regard to the conservation and utilization of such resources.

*FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)*, which seeks to establish principles, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, for responsible fishing and fisheries activities, taking into account all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects; policies for the conservation of fisheries resources and fisheries management; fisheries for food security; facilitation of the legal and institutional framework for sustainable fisheries; the protection of living aquatic resources and their environments; and the trade of fishery products.

*1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement -UNFSA (1995)*, promotes good order in the oceans through the effective management and conservation of high seas resources by establishing, among other things, international standards for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The UNFSA aims to ensure that measures taken for the conservation and management of those stocks in areas under national jurisdiction and in the adjacent high seas are compatible and coherent and that there are effective mechanisms for compliance and enforcement of those measures on the high seas.

*FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels (1993)*, addresses the responsibilities of Flag States and seeks to stop vessels that are flagged by States that are not a member of a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) from fishing in contravention with the conservation measures taken by the RFMO.

*FAO Port State Measures Agreement - PSMA (2009)*, aims to prevent IUU-caught fish from entering international markets through implementation of harmonized measures by countries and through regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

*The International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2001)*, encourages countries to implement international fisheries instruments in their National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU).

*Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy ? CCCFP (2014)*, is a regional treaty designed to help countries work together to ensure that the fisheries and other aquatic resources make optimum sustainable contribution to the region's development in a sustainable manner, and calls for more scientific and market research, and attention to develop better and easier access to export markets, to support fishers and coastal communities and economic development. The policy seeks to expand the data and information used in decision-making and resource management, enabling States and fishers to better protect their interests and manage the resources. The policy is anticipated to result in improved governance systems, conservation and management measures, enforcement and cooperation, which will consequently result in better

protection of fish stocks and ecosystems, and livelihoods threatened by losses in fishing opportunities caused by illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing[1]

*Castries (Saint Lucia) Declaration on IUU fishing (2010)*, demonstrates the region's determination and commitment to protect the economic interests of CARICOM Member States and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by enhancing effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance at the national and regional level by creating and sustaining the necessary harmonized and contemporary legislative and regulatory regime.

CARICOM's policy commitment to conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources is articulated in a series of instruments including the Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community (2015 to 2019) and its Implementation and Operations Plans as well as the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy. The CARICOM countries have committed themselves to the implementation of a CCCFP to guide aquaculture and fisheries development, conservation and management in the region. The Policy, which was adopted by the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development in October 2014, sets out the goals to be achieved in respect of aquaculture, fisheries and other living marine resources, including the desired improvements in social and economic conditions, and the desired targets in respect of conservation, management and protection of the fish stocks and associated ecosystems. It also sets out the fundamental principles and standards to be followed to ensure good governance, fairness, and equity in order to obtain optimum sustainable benefits from the living marine resources. The region's priorities for fisheries development and management are further elaborated in the CRFM Strategic Plan (2013 to 2021). The basic objective is to obtain optimum sustainable social, economic and nutritional benefits, while preserving the health and productivity of the fish stocks, the integrity of the marine ecosystems, and ensuring a better standard of living and quality of life for fishermen and fishing communities that rely on fisheries.

At the national level, the project will assist with broader ecosystem protection in support of healthy fishing grounds, countries like Barbados and Belize possess a Coastal Zone Management Unit and a Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute, respectively, while Jamaica has a National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), and Guyana has an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Countries also rely on their Ministry of Environment, Environment Department, and Forestry Department to assist with coastal and marine pollution control and the protection of mangroves as essential inputs to sustaining healthy ecosystems for fisheries and tourism. The project will be working closely with national Ports Authorities in countries where they hold responsibility for the licensing and registration of fishing vessels. Through implementation of concepts on blue economy the project will also be working alongside national ministries of trade and associated Small Business Development Centres (SBDCs), who can be crucial to the development of entrepreneurial skills of fisherfolk and other actors along the fisheries value chain, as well as in the provision of technical guidance and orientation necessary to access international markets. All countries participating in the project also have national fisherfolk organizations, who will be key partners



to support advocating for and protecting the private interests of fisherfolk , and as such, they form an indispensable part of the institutional framework and decision-making structures at the national level. Lastly, because of the mutual interests shared between fisheries and tourism, not just in terms of protection of natural ecosystems, but also in terms of the economic relationship between fisheries products and the tourism and hospitality industry, the Ministry of Tourism, National Tourism Boards, and National Tour Operator Organizations will also be important partners of the national blue economy frameworks.

The policy and legal context of sustainable fisheries management within the framework of a blue economy is characterized by instruments that link participating countries to implement policies and actions conducive to sustainable fisheries management. All six participating countries are signatories of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) and have made consistent efforts to meet their obligations under this agreement as expressed in national strategies, plans, regulations, and laws. Most relevant to the proposed project objectives are the recent National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, all of which contain specific references to the governments' commitment to sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, with specific reference to fisheries resources. Other expressions of the policy and legal context in support of proposed project objectives include parent Acts governing the access, use, and management of biological resources, such as the Fisheries Act, Wildlife Protection Act, Protected Areas Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Environmental Protection Act, Species Protection Regulations, Marine Reserves Regulations, policy documents such as National Fisheries Policies, National Tourism Policies, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policies, Biosafety Policies, Fisheries Management Plans, Natural Resources Management Plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans, and National Environmental Action Plans.

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[1] CRFM News. Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism ? Management Issue, March 2014, 16pp

## **8. Knowledge Management**

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

The project is committed to knowledge management (KM) and has dedicated activities for KM in Project Component 3. As limited capacity was recognized as a key project barrier, the use of knowledge to strengthen capacity will be critical to the project's success. Core to this project component will be the development of a knowledge management plan for the project that ensures a robust information exchange to increase awareness and engagement on the topics of ecosystem-based fisheries management and Blue Economy in the Caribbean. This will be ensured through the creation of a KM platform to disseminate lessons learned from the project, promoting best practices for advancing blue economy strategies, including marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based fisheries management.

As a regional GEF IW project with a responsibility to collect and disseminate knowledge to the wider Caribbean, as well as other GEF recipient countries and the IW community, the project will be an active partner of IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN. This will be especially important for this project's success as it aims to promote lessons learned in the development of new Blue Economy strategies that will be applicable to a wide range of GEF recipient countries both in the Caribbean and in other marine systems. The project also strives to be an active learner from past experiences in other regions through IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN, especially participating in south-south and twinning exchanges on topics related to marine habitat conservation, ecosystem-based fisheries management, and successes in implementing the concepts of Blue Economy at the national and regional levels. The project will establish a dedicated project website and coordinate with existing FAO, CAF, CARICOM, CRFM, and CLME+ websites to ensure broad dissemination of knowledge is achieved on an ongoing basis.

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

The project will follow CAF's standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates will be provided by CAF and will be an integral part of the legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and CAF. The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators and means of verification for each expected outcome. These indicators will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project expected results are being achieved.

An Inception Workshop will be held at the onset of project implementation to ensure all actors understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of CRFM and the project management team. It is the responsibility of CRFM to inform CAF of any delays or difficulties faced during project implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The CRFM will issue reports every 3 months on progress by the project and make recommendations concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Project Results Framework, or the M&E plan. Supervision to ensure that the project meets CAF and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the CAF-GEF Task Manager. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of project outputs in close collaboration with CRFM and FAO.

CRFM will develop an initial supervision plan that will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop for comments. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring, but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental and adaptation benefits will be assessed by CAF. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by the RSC and CAF. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR), which will be conducted prior to the Mid-Term Review and once again prior to the Terminal Evaluation. The quality of

project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monthly to ensure cost-effectiveness in the use of financial resources.

An external Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) will be conducted at the mid-point in the project. CAF as GEF Implementing Agency will lead this evaluation process, with the full participation of CRFM. The MTE will address evaluation parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office and will verify information gathered through the project's monitoring and evaluation efforts, as relevant. The RSC will participate in the MTE and will support CRFM in the development of a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the CAF-GEF Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

An Independent Terminal Evaluation will take place within the last month of project implementation. CAF will manage the terminal evaluation process. A review of the quality of the evaluation report will be done by CAF and submitted along with the report to the GEF Evaluation Office not later than 3 months after the completion of the evaluation. A costed monitoring and evaluation plan are presented in Table 7.

**Table 7. Costed Monitoring & Evaluation Plan**

<b>M &amp; E Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Estimated Budget (US\$) (Excluding Staff Time)</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Inception Workshop (2 days) to produce:  Annual Work Plan; Discuss Project Operations Manual, Discuss Roles, Responsibilities, and Decision-making Structures, Review Gender Action Plan and Indigenous Peoples Plan, Financial Reporting and Project Progress Reporting;  Present Supervision Plan	? CAF/FAO ? CRFM ? RSC ? TAC ?	Indicative Cost: <b>40,000</b>	Within first 4 weeks of project start-up
Regional Steering Committee Meetings and Project Technical Advisory Committee Meetings (with formally prepared minutes and resolutions)	? CAF/FAO ? CRFM ? RSC ? TAC ?	Indicative Cost: <b>158,000</b>	At least 6 meetings during the project cycle

Monitoring of Environmental and Social Safeguards and management plans	?	CAF/FAO	Indicative Cost: <b>40,000</b>	At least twice during the project cycle
	?	CRFM		
	?	RSC		
	?	TAC		
Learning Missions/Site Visit by Executing Agency Staff	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>40,000</b>	At least 4 times during the project cycle
Supervision Missions (technical experts)	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>40,000</b>	At least 4 times during the project cycle
Project Implementation Reports (PIRS)	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>25,000</b>	Annually
M&E of Gender, Indigenous, and Stakeholder Engagement Plans	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>30,000</b>	Annually
Monthly Financial Reports & SOEs	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>PMC cost</b>	Within 10 days of each completed month
Project Progress Reports	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>PMC cost</b>	At least every 3 months and due within 10 days of completed 2-month period.
Measurement of project indicators including GEF Tracking Tools and Core Indicators	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>\$42,800</b>	At Mid-Term and End of Project
Publication of Lessons Learned	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>\$10,000</b>	Project closure
Semi-annual Progress and Operational Reports to CAF-FAO	?	CRFM	Indicative Cost: <b>\$8,000</b>	Semi-annually
External Mid-Term Evaluation	?	Lead by CAF/FAO	Indicative Cost: <b>\$30,000</b>	Within 15 days of completion of the project's mid-term
	?	CRFM		
	?	RSC		

External Terminal Evaluation	? CAF/FAO ? CRFM ? RSC ? Consultants	Indicative Cost: <b>\$45,000</b>	Within the last 3 months of project implementation
Project Final Report	? CRFM ? RSC ?	Indicative Cost: <b>10,000</b>	Within 2 months of the end of the project
Audits	? CRFM develops TORs to be vetted by CAF/FAO ? CRFM hires local auditfirm after no objection from CAF	Indicative Cost: <b>PMC cost</b>	At end of project  CAF reserves the right to request a partial or complete audit at any time
<b>TOTAL INDICATIVE COST EXCLUDING CAF STAFF TRAVEL</b>		<b>US\$ 518,800</b>	

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?**

In addition to the Global Environmental Benefits described above in Section 5, in the Core Indicators, the Gender Action Plan, and the Indigenous Peoples Plan, there are broader ecosystem and socio-economic benefits to be derived at the national and regional levels. Blue Economy and MSP objectives to be delivered by this project will help to restore, protect and maintain the diversity, productivity, and resilience of marine ecosystems and contribute to resilient communities to maintain and preserve cultural heritage through sustainable fisheries management, improved livelihoods, and alternative livelihoods, while strengthening the integration of fisheries and ecosystem management. The project seeks to balance the sustainable management of aquatic resources with economic and social benefits for local communities through capacity development and knowledge sharing, food security and nutritional benefits, an increased voice in resource management and policymaking, while securing the role of women and men. The role of science and technology in innovating solutions and that of community leaders in Blue Economy decision-making, transparency and accountability frameworks will be visibly strengthened while ensuring that communities witness tangible benefits of project implementation. Institutional reform and political support

to Public-Private Partnerships in seafood value chain strengthening and development will create a much-needed enabling framework for private sector investment in the Blue Economy, and in particular in seafood value chains to reduce waste and optimize socio-economic returns.

#### Cost-Effectiveness:

The project is expected to be cost-effective by complementing the baseline investments defined under the ?GEF Alternative?, while contributing to the GEF International Waters Focal Area (IW-1-1 and IW-1-2), the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area (BD-1.1 and BD- 2.7) and to GEF Core Indicators 2, 5, 7, 8 and 11. The project is also expected to be cost-effective as a result of its ability to bring together many partners from multiple sectors at the regional and national levels including regulatory, productive (private sector) and Civil Society entities in Public-Private Partnerships, which will produce tangible outcomes in favour of Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas and the development of Seafood Value Chains within a broader Blue Economy context, with extended socio-economic benefits to the countries and communities in the project intervention area.

Investments in the generation and exchange of knowledge, capacity building, institutional strengthening at the national and regional level will achieve tangible economy of scale in knowledge management through the maximization of experiences and lessons learned. The 25,000,000 USD in credit facilities being made available by CAF will directly affect the cost-effectiveness of project outcomes by creating the enabling environment for financing the upscaling of investments in BE initiatives in project countries and the region, thus ensuring replication of project results and multiplication of return on investment. The project is expected to achieve a far-reaching impact with the relatively limited amount of resources available, at the local, national, regional and global scale, with socio economic benefits to 80,000 males and at least 8,000 females.

The cost-effectiveness of the project is further strengthened through the involvement of two GEF Implementing Agencies (Development Bank of Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism as Project Executing Agency, together with the national focal point ministries of the project in the six participating countries. This ensures that a competent organization with substantial project implementation and management experience will be supporting project execution, thus ensuring optimum oversight and fiduciary management of the project.

#### Technical Soundness of the Project:

The project is considered to be technically sound, given that:

- a. Approaches to Blue Economy strategies, MPAs, and Value Chain analysis and development will be guided by established and evolving science and methodologies used at the global level and developed by agencies with known expertise in these fields, including but not limited to the World Bank, UNESCO, UNCTAD, FAO, UNEP, among others.
- b. The project builds on the technical objectives and achievements of the CLME SAP and on progress being made in the region in terms of BE and MSP under multiple initiatives as described in the project's baseline, but in particular the CROP, and will complement the technical approaches to be used by the World Bank's 'Unleashing of the Blue Economy' project currently being designed for countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and the Dominican Republic.
- c. The Project will minimize technical difficulties in applying innovative approaches by developing and implementing agreed protocols for collection, processing and dissemination of information, technology transfer and knowledge management.
- d. The involvement of the private sector, fisherfolk organisations, and civil society brings years of experience, technical know-how, and complementary financing thus providing a high degree of assurance to the quality and sustainability of projects outputs and outcomes.
- e. The Blue Economy, MSA, MPA and value chain objectives of the project are perfectly aligned with technical approaches defined in numerous national, regional and global commitments to which all project countries have signed.
- f. The project employs decentralized structures that ensure the participation and contribution of local stakeholders at the level of countries and fisherfolk organizations in the project intervention area and productive sectors.

**11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks**

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

**Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \***

<b>PIF</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement/Approval</b>	<b>MTR</b>	<b>TE</b>
<b>Medium/Moderate</b>			

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Table 6. Identified Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measure
MSP not mainstreamed into political policy prioritization	H	The project will spare no efforts to ensure all stakeholders are fully onboard, especially the private sector and representatives of relevant authorities. Political support will be almost impossible without the support of industry and the private sector.
Low private sector engagement from the multiple economic sectors active in the coastal zone	H	The project will apply both adaptive and assertive management in ensuring private sector participation, by inviting private sector organizations to form part of the project's governing bodies, as well as in specific engagement activities as listed above in Section 4: Private Sector Engagement. Moreover, the project will aim to creating awareness among key stakeholders, including the Private Sector about MSP and its likely role in improving the investment climate and involving private sector organization in NICs, etc.



<p>Impacts of climate change, including ocean warming and acidification in the Caribbean Sea, that may disrupt fish populations and impact fish catch and aquaculture operations. However, the Caribbean region has moderate vulnerability and high adaptive capacity to weather related threats.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Central to the project is employing marine spatial planning (MSP) tools to assess the impacts of climate change on Caribbean fish stock ? both currently and forecasting into the future. The project will make use of science-based adaptive management and MSP to advise regional fishing bodies like CRFM as ocean conditions and fish stocks adjust to prioritize sustainability over short- term profit.</p> <p>Fisheries need to have access to climate and weather information to manage risks to ensure safety of fishers. The timescale and spatial resolution of the climate/weather information required by fishing communities varies according to the distance from coastline and species targeted. As a result, <b>climate services</b> need to be tailored to end-users needs. The project will seek to support countries in accessing data on high swell forecasts, high tide forecasts, visibility forecasts, wind forecasts, potential lightning zones and SST, El Ni?o and La Ni?a seasonal forecasts which are essential for determining the fishing quotas for sustainably managing available resources and for the planning processes linked to MSP.</p> <p>The project will conduct a feasibility assessment for the introduction of a <b>climate-based insurance scheme</b> for fishers, which may consider compensation for damages and lost income due to postponement of fishing activities in extreme weather conditions, replace and repair fishing boats, gear, tools and infrastructure destroyed or damage by storms, etc. This assessment will include the evaluation of relevant existing climate-based insurance schemes in the region.</p> <p>The project will evaluate the fisheries value chains carbon footprint, leading to climate mitigation action plans which will reduce risks and be instrumental to guarantee the long-term competitiveness of fisheries production and added value products for local markets and particularly for exports to key markets.</p> <p>Expansion and diversification of seafood value chains to be supported by the project also will increase the resilience of fishing communities in project countries, as well seaweed culture as an alternative to fisheries, in the case of Panama.</p>
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Government engagement declines during life of project	L	The project has been designed and directly supports CARICOM and CRFM and its member states participating in the project. The project will leverage existing coordinating and cross-cutting intergovernmental and transboundary mechanisms that govern these institutions to ensure participation remains strong.
Weak implication of private sector and/or investment for sustainable fisheries development is low	M	Long-term impact of the project and implementation of blue economy principles are key to the project's success. The project will engage private sector groups directly from early project design. Further, the project is directly aiming to identify financial and risk barriers to encourage market interventions, while also empowering fisherfolk (especially youth and woman) with skills and financing to engage in entrepreneurial programs. This bottom-up approach aims to make for a strong enabling environment. Lastly, CAF has a long history courting private financial investment and will make use of its numerous resources and networks in support of the project's objectives.
Lack of communication and coordination between participating agencies	M	Set up communication procedures customized to each country's situation particularly through National Project Focal Points and Project Committees and/or National Inter-sectoral Coordination Mechanisms, as appropriate.
Low participation and support from stakeholders due to a limited understanding of the ecosystems approach to fisheries management	M	Training and outreach to fishers and local communities on blue economy and sustainable fisheries management. The project will carry out a structured knowledge management approach and targeted awareness raising campaign to increase public understanding and awareness of blue economy; the socioeconomic benefits to be derived from implementing the ecosystems approach to fisheries management and strengthening of fisheries value chains, and including benefits to women; this will be initiated in the very early stage of project implementation.
Difficulty in defining fisheries value chains results in ineffective project interventions intended to strengthen these	L	Value chains and opportunities to strengthen these will be identified, and an information campaign launched early in project implementation to ensure buy-in necessary for successful project intervention.
High staff turnover in participating Government agencies	H	Designing the implementation of the project so it will not overly rely on individual staff, but on institutions and organizations. Additionally, attempts will be made to spread capacity development within individual countries so that as many individuals are involved and trained as possible.
Low political interest to prioritize blue economy	M	Political buy-in will be secured through strategic and periodic communication to key decision-makers, including parliamentarians, through a regional blue economy forum and carefully crafted messages to targeted audiences at the national level.

<p>Gender risk - Gender mainstreaming by the project may be undermined without a series of activities aimed at understanding women's challenges, and if the project does not take advantage of their capabilities and leadership roles within the family unit and the local community.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>The project will have to be genuinely gender mainstreamed, from the initial design phase, through the implementation, and impact evaluation. Particular attention has to be paid to addressing all possible information gaps that may place women in an unfavourable position. The project has developed a Gender Mainstreaming Plan, inclusive of a Gender Action Plan, to ensure that the project truly gender-sensitive and minimize any potential gender risks.</p>
<p>Indigenous peoples - The technical nature of project activities may potentially lead to exclusion or limited participation of indigenous peoples, in the event that they may be directly affected or relevant for the project's intervention</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>An Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) for the Nga'be-Bugl? peoples of Panama has been prepared and approved during the PPG, which outlines a series of principles, actions and budget to ensure effective participation by the Nga'be-Bugl? peoples. All efforts will be made by the project to ensure communication and outreach materials are sensitive to the needs and inclusion of the Nga'be-Bugl? peoples as necessary and relevant consistent with the IPP. Local community leaders, including those of indigenous peoples, will be invited to participate in all local events where project results will be presented and interpreted for the local community.</p>
<p>Covid-19 pandemic - Prolonged social distancing measures and recurring national quarantine measures in project countries.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>To guarantee the continuation of the project despite prolonged social distancing requirements, project meetings and the engagement processes could transition on-line or a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize contagion risks. Remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement including easily accessible videoconferencing services, etc. For those who cannot participate remotely, in-person meetings could be held with a reduced number of participants and holding social distancing and hygiene best. The development of the crisis will be closely monitored, and creative responses will be explored and implemented along the way focused on advancing project outcomes through alternative forms of engagement, and flexibility in case meetings have to be rescheduled.</p>

<p>Changes in the restrictions and accessibility to countries sites and regional travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic affect project implementation.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Short term impacts will affect engagement and planning activities with project stakeholders.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has required a considerable shift in the way meetings and workshops, rural consultations and fieldwork are conducted.</p> <p>Over the medium term, the contracting and supervision of local teams to operate in field locations is now necessary, with international or regional backstopping provided remotely.</p> <p>In terms of regional coordination and between country sharing, the use of virtual meetings has been relatively successful. It is expected that this will be increasingly used in place of traditional face to face meetings. The advantage is that more meetings can be held. There are also cost savings which could be transferred to increased costs incurred at local level.</p> <p>Long term it is expected that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project activities will gradually decline or cease to be relevant during the project lifetime.</p>
<p>Reduction in financial (co-financing) support from Government, development partners, and private sector, due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-19-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID-19, since Government expenditure and prioritization of different programs and sectors, including agriculture, food security and natural resources, might change.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>If reductions in co-finance do occur, then partners to work closely to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas. This would include accessing potential COVID-19 rehabilitation funds or budgets, if these become available, in particular those relating to promoting suistanbale fisheries and food security.</p> <p>These options will be thematized in consultations with participating Governments and partners, including private sector entities, during the inception phase and monitored during implementation.</p> <p>In these consultations the overarching requirement for observing the principles of sustainable development, and in particular ecosystem-based management, will be emphasized.</p>

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

**Title**

**Module**

**Submitted**

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>CEO 09OCT22</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Final BE CLME Project Budget - Clean- 17SEP21_ fv</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>BE Annex J _ CAF GEF Safeguards Screening</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>SLU_GEF7-BD-TrackingTool- Protected Area Projects_final</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Panama -BD-TrackingTool 7- FEB-21</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Jamaica GEF7-BD- TrackingTool-</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Guyana -BD-TrackingTool 08FEB2021</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Belize - BD-TrackingTool SWCMR-GRMR-SCMR</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>BARBADOS GEF7-BD- TrackingTool-West Coast Marine Management Area</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>BARBADOS GEF7-BD- TrackingTool-Brianna H reef fish replenishment area</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>BARBADOS GEF7-BD- TrackingTool- south coast marine management area</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

**?BE-CLME+?: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus**

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Targets	End of Project Targets	Means of Verification	Assumpti
<b>Project Objective:</b> To promote blue economy development in the CLME+ through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas (MPAs), ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), and sustainable seafood value chains.						
<b>Objective Level Indicators</b>						
<u>Core Indicator 2:</u> -	Marine Protected Areas Newly created or Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness  <b>Unit: (ha)</b>	7,799,158	Baseline + 96,746	<b>Baseline + 540,774</b>	MPA declaration instruments and METT results as presented in completed and updated GEF BD Tracking Tool.	Government carry through their commitments contribute to global target marine under prote status.  Support MPAs delivered in project, METT is ap at least during pr cycle.
<u>Core Indicator 5:</u>	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas)  <b>Unit: (ha)</b>	TBD at Mid-Term	TBD at Mid-Term	TBD at Mid-Term	National and Regional Marine Spatial Plans and MPA declaration instruments to calculate non-protected areas that are under improved management under MSP regimes	Government industry em the mutli-s approach to and the proj able to er inMSP proc in all 6 cou early in pr implementat

<p><u>Core Indicator 5.2:</u></p>	<p>Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia</p> <p><b>Unit: #</b></p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Regional MSP documents that clearly illustrate policy approaches to reduce pollution and eutrophication due to nutrient overloading.</p>	<p>Government embrace transboundary nature req for a Reg MSP appr and the pr is not ham by sover issues.</p>
<p><u>Core Indicator 7:</u></p>	<p>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management*</p> <p><b>Unit: #</b></p> <p><i>*For purposes of this project, this indicator considers water ecosystems shared by <b>all</b> 6 countries in the project.</i></p>	<p>0</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Regional MSP documents that clearly illustrate transboundary management approaches that encompass multiple ecosystems, including Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Government embrace transboundary nature req for a Reg MSP appr and the pr is not ham by sover issues.</p>
<p><u>Core Indicator 8:</u></p>	<p>Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels</p> <p><b>Unit: metric tons</b></p>	<p>0</p>	<p>20,000</p>	<p>45,000</p>	<p>Species catch data validated against official reports and audited statements.</p>	<p>Catch Data reliable auditable.</p>

Core Indicator 11:	Number direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment  <b>Unit: # of males and # of females</b>	0	Males: 60,000 Females: 28,000	Males: 60,000 Females: 28,000	Project Progress Reports, Mid-Term Evaluation Report, Terminal Evaluation Report	The baseline indicator assumes persons in project intervention not benefitting project investments. Because of integrated approach to used by project in MPA fisheries chain process to implemented simultaneously in 6 countries the mid-term 88,000 persons would already be benefitting.
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**Component 1: Implementing Cross-sectoral Marine Spatial Planning**

<b>Outcome 1.1:</b>  Governments and key stakeholders enabled to support the sustainable use of fisheries and key marine habitats	# of countries with comprehensive MSPs	0	2 countries with comprehensive MSPs	5 countries with comprehensive MSPs	Copies of MSP documents  MSP consultation reports  MSP adoption instruments	Government and economic sectors embrace MSP concept and support consistent meaningful participation and support the process.
	# of countries with new or updated National Blue Economy Strategies	2 Draft National Blue Economy Strategies (Barbados and Belize)	4 countries with national blue economy strategies in place and/or updated	6 countries with national blue economy strategies in place and/or updated	Copies of BE Strategy documents  BE Strategy consultation reports  BE Strategy adoption instruments	Government and economic sectors embrace BE Strategy development concept show consistency and meaningful participation and support the process.



	# of Sustainable Financing Strategies for National Blue Economy	0	1 Sustainable Financing Strategies for National Blue Economy with multi-country applicability	At least 3 Sustainable Financing Strategies for National Blue Economy with multi-country applicability	Copies of Sustainable Financing Strategies  Feasibility Report for Multi-country Applicability	Private Sector and financial institutions show assets leadership in this process and sympathise with economic opportunities that a Strategy bring.
	# of National decision-support systems developed and implemented for sustainable fisheries management	0	2 National decision-support systems developed and implemented	6 National decision-support systems developed and implemented for sustainable fisheries management	Documentation on structure, function and institutional and legal identity of the decision-support systems  Instrument for adoption of decision-support systems	Political directorate amenable to second decision-making structures for key economic sector such as fisheries.
	Tonnes of exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels	0	20,000	45,000 mt of exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels	Species catch data validated against official reports and audited statements.	Catch Data reliable and auditable.
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b>  The protection of critical fish habitats has been established/expanded, and informed by national marine spatial planning (MSP).	Area of MPAs created or expanded in project countries (Ha)	0*  *Baseline is zero since the indicator measures <u>new</u> or <u>expanded</u> , not current # Ha of MPAs	+ 96,746	540,774Ha of MPAs created or expanded  *Actual total area subject to outcome of public consultations and support during project implementation	MPA declaration or expansion instruments inclusive of maps with coordinates	Government carry through on commitments to contribute to the global target for marine space under protective status.

	<p>% increase in METT Score among project countries*</p> <p>*Average METT score of MPAs being expanded or with management enhancement as a consequence of the project's support</p>	<p>TBD*</p> <p>Barbados:</p> <p>Belize:</p> <p>Guyana: 0.0</p> <p>Jamaica:</p> <p>Panama:</p> <p>St. Lucia:</p> <p>*Baseline refer to METT score only for MPAs being expanded or with management enhancement as a consequence of the project's support</p>	<p>Baseline + 10%</p>	<p>Baseline + 30%</p>	<p>METT Scorecard and descriptive reports</p>	<p>Support MPAs delivered in project, METT applied at twice during project cycle</p>
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**Outputs under Component 1**

Output 1.1.1: National MSP conducted in project countries, with a participatory, climate- and gender-sensitive approach

Output 1.1.2: National BE strategies designed, validated and deployed in project countries (with key marine economic sectors).

Output 1.1.3: Sustainable financing strategies for national BE, designed and validated, highlighting marine-based economic opportunities

Output 1.1.4: National decision-support systems developed and implemented for sustainable fisheries management (including climate change impacts and data gap analysis, strengthened use of field monitoring, GIS and other spatial data collection technologies)

Output 1.2.1: Newly created marine protected areas or Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM) in targeted countries.

Output 1.2.2: Enhanced marine protected areas management capacity in select countries.

**Component 2: Inclusive Sustainable Fisheries Value Chains**

<p><b>Outcome 2.1:</b> New and strengthened national and regional seafood value chains supporting realization of blue economy opportunities and sustainable development goals</p>	<p># of seafood value chains assessed and incorporated into national blue economy strategies and marine spatial planning efforts</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>At least 9 seafood value chains assessed and incorporated into national blue economy strategies and marine spatial planning efforts</p>	<p>Seafood Value Chain Assessment and MSP documents  Process Consultation Reports</p>	<p>Seafood Value Chain and processes planned implemented in manner allows for integration.  Government key economic sectors, fisherfolk organization fully participated in and supported MSP Seafood Value Chain processes</p>
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<p># of Seafood value chain added-value opportunities identified, and market and economic feasibility assessed</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>At least 6 Seafood value chains added-value opportunities identified, and market and economic feasibility assessed</p>	<p>Market Assessment and Feasibility Reports for identified Seafood Value Chain</p>	<p>Project is able to secure appropriate expertise to work with fishery organisation and the private sector to assess willingness to make operational and methodological changes, promote changes, apply for investment and ultimately feasibility.</p>
<p># of national policy recommendations developed promoting enabling environment for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>At least 1 regional and 6 national policy recommendations developed promoting enabling environment for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets</p>	<p>Regional Policy Paper on Seafood Value Chains  National Policy/Cabinet Papers on Seafood Value Chains</p>	<p>Project is able to secure support from fisherfolk organisation and the private sector as a prerequisite for consolidating political support for Seafood Value Chain</p>
<p># of regional and national fisheries authorities and other relevant regulatory agencies trained</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>At least 18 regional and national fisheries authorities and other relevant regulatory agencies trained</p>	<p>Training Needs Assessment for BE Development  Training Manual  Training Completion and Evaluation Report inclusive of participants? list</p>	<p>National institutions to build the value chain for development commitment making personnel available to receive training</p>

	<p># of countries mainstreaming FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related policies into the value chain</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>6 countries mainstreaming FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related policies into the value chain</p>	<p>Seafood Value Chain Assessment documents</p> <p>Market Assessment and Feasibility Reports for identified Seafood Value Chain</p> <p>Revised Fisheries Policies that clearly embrace the FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related policies as a key element of seafood value chains</p> <p>Training Manuals that clearly embrace the FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related policies into seafood value chains</p>	<p>Project is to support fisherfolk organisation and the private sector as a requisite for consolidating political support for the FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines related policies to be included as a key element of Seafood Value Chains.</p>
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**Outputs under Component 2**

Output 2.1.1: Key seafood value chains assessed and incorporated into national blue economy strategies and marine spatial planning efforts, including identification of future value chains and end market requirements.

Output 2.1.2: Seafood value chain added- value opportunities identified, and market and economic feasibility assessed, including testing innovative post-harvest processing methods and reduction of post-harvest loss and improved/creation of new seafood products to reduce waste

Output 2.1.3: National policy recommendations developed promoting enabling environment for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets, including empowerment of woman, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities.

Output 2.1.4: Regional and national fisheries authorities and other relevant regulatory agencies trained in seafood value chain analysis and development within the context of blue economy.

**Component 3: Regional Coordination, Project Management & Knowledge Management**

<p><b>Outcome 3.1</b></p> <p>Strengthened regional BE cooperation and coordination, and increased governments' capacity to adopt ecosystem-based fisheries management practices</p>	<p># of fisheries in the CLME being informed by MSP</p>	0	2	<p>At least 6 fisheries in the CLME being informed by MSP</p>	<p>Revised Fisheries Management Plans</p> <p>Revised Fisheries Policies</p>	<p>Project national counterparts are able to secure requirements from fisherfolk, private sector and political support necessary for reforms.</p>
	<p># regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries developed</p>	0	0	<p>At least 1 regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries developed</p>	<p>Regional MSP document</p> <p>Adoption Instrument</p>	<p>National MSP developed to provide uniform baseline approach to inform regional MSP.</p>

	# of new national and regional partnerships to foster cooperation on ecosystem-based fisheries management and seafood value chains	0	6	At least 12 new national and regional partnerships to foster cooperation on ecosystem-based fisheries management and seafood value chains	Signed Partnership Agreements  Signed Memoranda of Understanding  Joint project concepts or proposals on ecosystem-based fisheries management and seafood value chains	Project successful promoting ecosystem-based fisheries management and seafood value chains within a Blue Economy approach.
	# of regional management institutions supporting (CLME+ SAP) implementation	3	4	6 regional management institutions supporting (CLME+ SAP) implementation	Institutional strategic plans, work plans, management plans, project proposals or policies show clear inclusion and/or alignment with CLME+ SAP.	Regional management institutions embrace recognize CLME+ SAP as a strategy and enable vehicle MSP, MPA ecosystems-based fisheries management within context of development
<b>Outcome 3.2</b> Project implementation according to result-based management and lessons learned systematized and disseminated	# project monitoring & evaluation systems in place	0	1	1 project monitoring & evaluation system in place	Project Monitoring Reports produced by the M&E system	GEF Implementing Agencies the project Executing Agency ensure proper diligence project implementation and management
	# of mid-term evaluation conducted	0	1	1 mid-term evaluation conducted	Mid-Term and Final Evaluation Reports	
	# of terminal evaluation conducted	0	0	1 terminal evaluation conducted		

<b>Outcome 3.3</b>  Knowledge shared between Caribbean countries and organizations, and GEF IW projects in partnership with IW:LEARN	# of MSP-informed technical manuals on ecosystems-based fisheries management developed and disseminated	0	2	4 MSP-informed technical manuals on ecosystems-based fisheries management developed and disseminated	Copies of manuals  Manuals available through-out the region on publicly-accessible online portals and clearinghouses.	Region-specific needs identified ensure manuals not capture global approaches, also is fit for purpose for region project countries.
	# of knowledge management & information platform established	0	1	1 knowledge management & information platform established	Knowledge Management & Information Platform available through-out the region on publicly-accessible online portals and clearinghouses.	Project's results, experiences and lessons learned systematized and made available in format optimizes their use on platform.
	# of engagements in IWLEARN	0	At least 2	At least 4 engagements in IWLEARN	Engagements evident on IW:LEARN portal	Project's planning results, experiences and lessons learned systematized and made available in format optimizes their engagement with IW:LEARN



### Outputs under Component 3

Output 3.1.1: Assessment and compilation of existing MSP planning efforts in the CLME+ to inform regional ecosystem-based management of key fisheries (*building on MSP plans from GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project*)

Output 3.1.2: At least 1 regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries, developed

Output 3.1.3: New national and regional partnerships to foster cooperation on ecosystem-based fisheries management and the development of seafood value chains

Output 3.2.1: Project monitoring and evaluation plan and system, in place

Output 3.2.2: Project mid-term and terminal evaluations

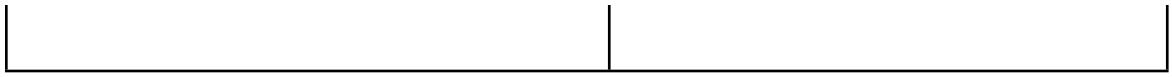
Output 3.3.1: Technical manuals on ecosystem-based management of fisheries informed by MSP, developed and disseminated within the region

Output 3.3.2: One knowledge management & information platform established (focused on project lessons learned from MSP, seafood value chain, and national blue economy implementation)

## **ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

**Annex B: Response to Project Reviews** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion, and responses to comments from the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Comments & Observations	Agency Response
<b>GEF Council Comments</b>	



21st January 2020

## **NORWAY/DENMARK**

### **Related projects:**

Training of CARICOM fisheries authorities in collecting and processing catch data. Norad (Norway), through the University of Bergen, supports the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) - Other Executing Partner of the GEF project - with the aim of improving collection, storage and analysis of capture date from small scale fisheries in the Caribbean region. (The project ends in 2020). Funding: about 326 000 USD. It may be relevant to coordinate and find synergies between these projects.

Climate adaption within fisheries and aquaculture with the FAO (FAO project ID: GCP/GLO/959/NOR). This project may have useful experience for this GEF-project to build upon. Project funding roughly 1,3 million USD and is extended to December

2020.

### **General:**

We are pleased that such a program is suggested for SIDS as they are especially vulnerable to these issues and have limited resources.

It should be commented on the fact that Barbados is not eligible to receive Official Development Aid (ODA), the Norwegian funding to GEF is ODA.

The project description is not as broad as the title suggests 'National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning'. Although there is a component on crosssectoral blue economy strategies and cross-sectoral marine spatial planning, fisheries is the main focus and this could be made explicit. As fisheries clearly is an important sector for employment in the region, and has biodiversity effects, it is reasonable to target this sector but the problems facing this sector will not be solved by management measures in this sector alone. The project description could have given more detail about how 'blue economy priorities' and 'marine

Agency Response (8th February 2021):

NORAD supported Project entitled 'Strengthening Evidence Based Decision-making in CARICOM Fisheries'. The overall aim of the project is to build capacity of national fisheries administrations to improve data collection and use, in order to promote evidence-based development and management of the region's fisheries resources. All efforts will be made by the project to find synergies and coordinate with the NORAD-funded project.

The project: 'Supporting member countries implement climate change adaptation measures in fisheries and aquaculture' (GCP/GLO/959/NOR) seeks to improve capacity of partner countries and key stakeholders, including trade and industry experts, policy and management experts, fishers and fish workers, to implement climate change adaptation actions that promote socio-economic development in fisheries and aquaculture. It developed a range of tools (guidelines, roadmaps, targeted capacity building frameworks) that will be considered for this project through close collaboration and coordination.

The project recognizes and embraces Marine Spatial Planning as a multi-sectoral process. The approach to be used by the project will include all sectors in the consultation processes, since it would be impossible to achieve successful MSP approval and implementation without the consent and support of the tourism and maritime transport sectors. Representatives from these sectors will also be on the project's Technical Advisory Committee to ensure appropriate technical inputs are received from these other sectors for MSP and Blue Economy strategic planning purposes.



21st January 2020

## U.S.A

This project appears to prioritize spatial planning efforts, inclusive sustainable seafood value chain establishment, and knowledge management and project monitoring and evaluation, over actual implementation or improvement of existing sustainable fisheries management in the region. It would be useful to have greater clarity on how the proposed activities are expected to influence fisheries management.

We would appreciate greater clarity on how the proposed project builds on the outcomes of the CLME and CLME+ projects, and if the BE-CLME+ project will make use of the policy coordination mechanism that is being established under the CLME+ project.

It is encouraging to see fisheries agencies and several regional/subregional organizations referenced as partners in the project. FAO is referenced as a key consultation partner, however, it may be appropriate for the project to more specifically mention the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) as a partner. The

objective of this Regional Fishery Body under FAO is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources in the wider Caribbean, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common fisheries management problems faced by Commission members.

Within Panama, there are several governmental, private sector and NGO stakeholders that would be useful additional partners. We recommend adding Panama's Authority of Aquatic Resources (ARAP) and Maritime Authority to the list of government institutions for their role in implementing the Panamanian government's effective water management, environmental conservation, and food security programs. The Panama Maritime Chamber of Commerce is an experienced organization with over 200 company members that advance sustainable development in shipping industry, ports and auxiliary maritime services. Finally, MarViva is a particularly effective implementing NGO partner in marine conservation in Panama and should be considered for

Agency Response (8th 2021):

The project contains provisions for the update of Fisheries Management plans to be consistent with the ecosystems approach to fisheries management. The project also embraces the declaration, expansion, and management enhancement of 290,239 hectares of Marine Protected Areas as a critical fisheries management tool in providing protection to reproductive stock and juveniles of commercially fished species and as a source of replenishment to the exploitable stocks in non-protected marine areas.

The entire Theory of Change of this project builds on the CLME+ SAP. This project will also coordinate and make use of the policy structures already in place and functional in the region, including that established by the CLME+ project and the Blue Economy institutional frameworks initiated under the CROP.

WECAFC has been specifically mentioned for coordination purposes; FAO is co GEF Implementing Agency of this project, thus strategically positioning the WECAFC for coordination purposes.

The Panama's Authority of Aquatic Resources (ARAP) is a critical partner for the project's success in Panama, and has been instrumental in the PPG phase in terms of data and technical support. The Panama Maritime Chamber of Commerce will be a key stakeholder in the consultative processes for MSP in project's intervention area on Panama's Atlantic Coast.

8th January 2020

**Germany** welcomes the project, which includes the implementation of blue economy strategies supporting ecosystem-based fisheries management practices, as well as the expansion of marine protected areas.

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The establishment of inclusive sustainable seafood value chains is highly appreciated. In particular, the implementation of the FAO - Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as the FAO - Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (VGSSF) is seen as crucial for the project's success.
- Germany positively notes the regional knowledge exchange and capacity building based on best practices. Germany would however encourage seeking further engagement with civil society in this matter. Intersectoral cooperation further increases the likelihood of achieving co-benefits.
- Scaling-up to other island ecosystems bears high potential. Germany would however recommend identifying risks associated to coordinating and synchronizing the different planned activities in the manifold countries, especially to avoid ineffective dispersal of funds. In addition, appropriate mitigation measures should be devised.

Agency Response (8th February 2021):

Inclusive sustainable seafood value chains and mainstreaming of FAO - Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries have been defined in the project as specific outputs with corresponding indicators and targets in the Project Results Framework.

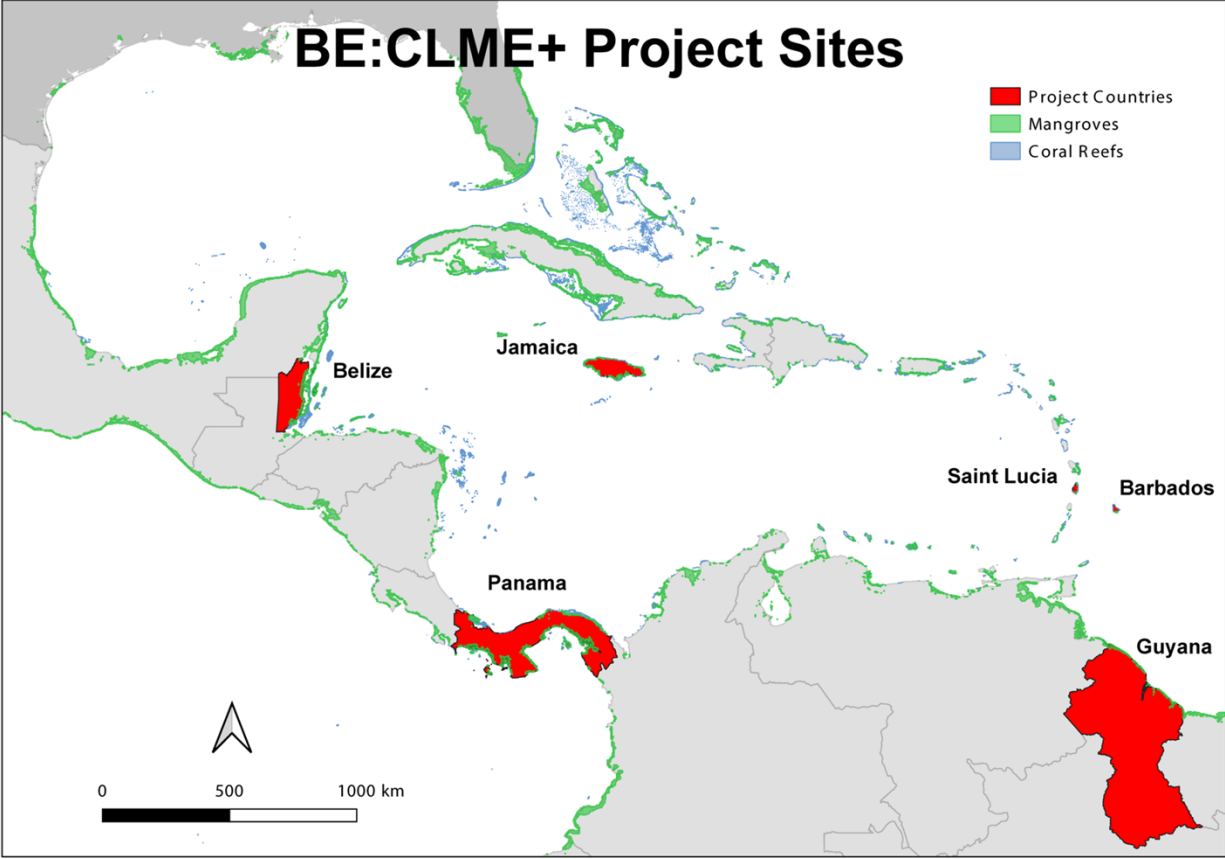
The project has identified a series of opportunities for coordination and collaboration, in the spirit of avoiding duplication, upscaling of results, and the optimization of available resources. All opportunities for coordination and collaboration during project implementation will be assertively pursued.

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**  
**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status**  
**in the table below:**

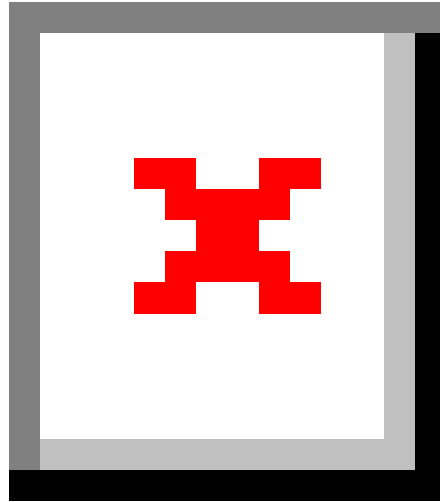
<b>PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 200,000</b>			
<b>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</b>	<b>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</b>		
	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Amount Spent To date</b>	<b>Amount Committed</b>
(FAO)Recruitment of MSP and value chains specialists, ESS expert and operation officer	29,925	20,988	8,937
(FAO)Travels	21,565		21,565
(FAO)Workshops	5,000		5,000
(FAO)Contracts - Organization of stakeholder consultations with countries and due diligence.	42000	40000	2000
(CAF)Recruitment of Safeguards specialist and PRODOC Elaboration	73,000	48,350	24,650
(CAF)Travels	14,000	1,459	12,541
(CAF)Translations and other support documents.	14,510		14,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>110,797</b>	<b>89,203</b>

**ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**







**ANNEX E: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**



**ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet**

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).