



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

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10211

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT

NGI

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)

Executing Partner Type

Other Executing Partner(s)

CRFM - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Communications, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Biomes, Mangroves, Sea Grasses, Coral Reefs, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Certification - International Standards, Certification -National Standards, Climate Change Adaptation, Small Island Developing States, International Waters, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Large Marine Ecosystems, Coastal, Learning, Marine Protected Area, Seagrasses, Mangrove, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Indigenous Peoples, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Education, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Innovation, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

559,982

Submission Date

11/6/2019

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-1	GET	3,573,217	23,032,200
IW-1-2	GET	1,759,943	11,364,100
BD-1-1	GET	287,934	1,934,400
BD-2-7	GET	600,924	3,868,550
	Total Project Cost (\$)	6,222,018	40,199,250

B. Indicative 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.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Implementing cross-sectoral Marine Spatial Planning	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1	Output 1.1.1	GET	4,124,082	26,761,215
		Governments and key stakeholders enabled to support the sustainable use of fisheries and key marine habitats	National MSP conducted in project countries, with a participatory, climate- and gender-sensitive approach[1]			
		<i>Target 1: 5 countries with comprehensive MSPs (building on synergies with the WB GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project MSP activities)</i>	Output 1.1.2			
		<i>Target 2: 6 countries with national blue economy strategies in place and /or updated</i>	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 OECM in targeted countries.			
		<i>Core Indicator IW -8: Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels:</i>	Output 1.2.2			

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Inclusive Sustainable Fisheries Value Chains	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2.1</p> <p>New and strengthened national and regional seafood value chains supporting realization of blue economy opportunities and sustainable development goals</p> <p><i>Core Indicator IW - 8: Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels: 45,000 mt</i></p> <p><i>Target 4: 6 countries mainstreaming FAO's Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and related policies into the value chain</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1.1</p> <p>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>Output 2.1.2</p> <p>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>Output 2.1.3</p> <p>National policy recommendations developed promoting enabling environment for strengthening of seafood value chains and markets, including empowerment of woman, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Output 2.1.4</p> <p>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	1,130,000	7,657,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Regional Coordination, Project Management & Knowledge Management	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1 Strengthened regional BE cooperation and coordination, and increased governments' capacity to adopt ecosystem-based fisheries management practices</p> <p><i>Core indicator IW-7.2: Level of regional management institutions to support (CLME+ SAP) implementation: TBD at PPG phase</i></p>	<p>Output 3.1.1 Assessment and compilation of existing MSP planning efforts in the CLME+ to inform regional ecosystem-based management of key fisheries (<i>building on MSP plans from GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project</i>)</p>	GET	671,650	3,866,785
			<p>Output 3.1.2 At least 1 regional MSP for ecosystem-based fisheries, developed</p>			
			<p>Output 3.1.3 New national and regional partnerships to foster cooperation on ecosystem-based fisheries management and the development of seafood value chains</p>			
		<p>Outcome 3.2 Project implementation</p>	<p>Output 3.2.1 Project monitoring and evaluation plan and system, in place</p> <p>Output 3.2.2 Project mid-term and terminal evaluations</p>			
			<p>Output 3.3.1 Final implementation report and lessons learned</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	5,925,732	38,285,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	296,286	1,914,250
				Sub Total(\$)	296,286	1,914,250
				Total Project Cost(\$)	6,222,018	40,199,250

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Government	National government ministries	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9,000,000
GEF Agency	Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)	Loans	Investment mobilized	25,000,000
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,000,000
Others	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	300,000
Others	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,899,250
			Total Project Cost(\$)	40,199,250

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

CAF - In regards to the PIF, CAF's business area Direction of Productive and Financial Sectors - North Region (DSPF - North) has special interest and considers relevant to accompany the project through uncommitted lines of credits granted by CAF. FAO - Co-financing for blue growth initiative.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
CAF	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	2,891,345	260,220	3,151,565
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	2,441,815	219,763	2,661,578
FAO	GET	Barbados	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,884	8,000	96,884
CAF	GET	Belize	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,884	8,000	96,884
FAO	GET	Jamaica	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	444,434	39,999	484,433
CAF	GET	Panama	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	177,772	16,000	193,772
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	88,884	8,000	96,884
Total GEF Resources(\$)					6,222,018	559,982	6,782,000

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**PPG Amount (\$)**

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

18,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
CAF	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	92,938	8,364	101,302
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	78,490	7,064	85,554
FAO	GET	Barbados	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,858	258	3,116
CAF	GET	Belize	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,858	258	3,116
FAO	GET	Jamaica	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	14,284	1,284	15,568
CAF	GET	Panama	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	5,714	514	6,228
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,858	258	3,116
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000	18,000	218,000

Core Indicators

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park TBD during PPG	125689	Select	230,000.00			<input type="checkbox"/>

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	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
Akula National Park	125689	Select							

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)

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates 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 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
1	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

Metric Tons (expected at PIF) Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement) Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR) Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

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

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			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				
Caribbean sea	4			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

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)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 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)
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Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 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	1			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				
Caribbean sea	1			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

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

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

45,000.00

Fishery Details

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	8,000			
Male	80,000			
Total	88000	0	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

To review Core Indicator Worksheet - please see attached Annex B

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. *Project Description.*

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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]¹ 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 fishes, 76 sharks, 45 shrimp, 30 cetaceans and 23 species of seabirds. The Caribbean contains approximately 10,000 square kilometers of reef, 22,000 square kilometers of mangrove, and as much as 33,000 square kilometers 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]² Similarly, the Caribbean coast of Panama, and in particular in 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]³

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.[4]⁴ The combined land area of CRFM Member States is 433,549 km² whereas the area of the combined Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is 2,046,948 km²; however, some Member States are still negotiating delimitation issues with neighbouring

States.[5]⁵ The five CRFM Member States participating in the project collectively possess a continental shelf of 79,108 km² and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 673,128 km². On the other hand, Panama's EEZ is 319,118 km² and its continental shelf is 250,900 km², inclusive of both Atlantic and Pacific coasts.[6]⁶

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, with 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.[7]⁷ 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.[8]⁸ 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 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.[9]⁹

1) Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers (systems description)

The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (CLME TDA) found that the major transboundary environmental threats affecting the Wider 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 fishery in the region faces weak governance, and limited 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 annually¹². 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).¹⁰

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 undermines 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 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. 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 limits conservation and biodiversity protection efforts. Further, lack of an 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. 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 address 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.

Addressing the marine environmental threats to realize national blue economies in Caribbean are hampered by several key barriers and management and policy gaps. These include: i) Limited implementation of the ecosystems approach to fisheries management and low understanding of blue economic development; ii) 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; and iii) Insufficient capacity at both the regional and national levels to institutionalize sustainable fisheries within blue economic development approaches that promote sustainable development benefits.

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 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 data-poor fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries are often extremely limited. But, 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 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 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 linkages and economic potential of fisheries with blue bio-trade and the blue economy opportunities.

Another critical barrier is the fact that the value chains of Caribbean fisheries are poorly understood. 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 the 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 as well as investigate and enhance the ability to export 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 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.

Underpinning these barriers are poor experiences and knowhow on ecosystem-based fisheries and integration with blue economy approaches to maximize socio-economic and environmental benefits. Limited capacity from institutional to fisherfolk has been a persistent barrier for long-term success in fisheries management. While collaboration among country governments has been growing thanks to efforts such as CFRM, CARICOM, and previous GEF investments, including the CLME and CLME+ projects, not all governments participate equally in fisheries 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, compliance mechanisms, as well as poor documentation of successful experiences and practices from weak management, collaboration mechanisms and limited engagement of fisherfolk 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). 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.^[10]¹⁰ 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.

2) Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The proposed project builds off the significant progress made by the series of GEF investments in the CLME+ 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 resources for the Caribbean and Northern Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems. The development of the CLME TDA and SAP documents 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, Trinidad and Tobago. Under the CLME project the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was developed. This project will 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, thereby promoting blue economy priorities.

As a key regional actor, 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.

In addition to the CLME+ SAP, 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), 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 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.

Closely aligned with CARICOM is the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). 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 extensive record of fisheries 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 *Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)* is a key player in regional and national fisheries. 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'.

The project will build off 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, St Vincent and the Grenadines. The key baseline programs 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 areas of complementary between the two projects will be further defined during the full project development phase of this project and described in detail for GEF CEO Endorsement.

All countries participating in the project have national fisherfolk organizations as key entities advocating for and protecting the private interests of fishers, 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 fisherfolk organizations also play important roles in implementation of Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

Of the participating countries, 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. In Jamaica, the government launched a national level marine spatial planning in 2018. In St. Luca, 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.

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.

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 valorization 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 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 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.

3) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

The overall project objective supports national and regional development priorities through cross-sectoral marine spatial planning that promotes blue economic growth, including ecosystem-based fisheries management and sustainable seafood value chains in Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, and Saint Lucia. The proposed project supports these Caribbean countries by building on outcomes and recommendations of GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem SAP Implementation (CLME+) project, associated Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs), and the recent marine spatial planning efforts of the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (#9451). As the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project is scheduled to end in 2020, this proposed project will provide opportunities to build onto the outcomes and recommendations of the Project and provide a strategy for the uptake of the outcomes of the CLME+ Project, and tailor them to each countries' needs. This project will help in building country ownership and commitment to invest in implementing the CLME+ SAP through NAP+ strategies, under the advancement of national blue economy strategies.

The project will contribute to Blue Economic development and implementation plans for the Caribbean/CARICOM region, with tailored national blue economy and financing strategies to support sustainable development, and includes the use of MSP to inform establishment of MPAs and promotion of ecosystem-based fisheries management. These activities are aligned with the GEF-7 International Waters and Biodiversity strategies that highlight the importance of investments to strengthen the relevance of marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, private sector for improved management of natural resources linked with blue economic growth, and a strengthening ecosystem-based marine management that mutually maintains healthy fish harvest while mainstreaming biodiversity protections. The proposed US\$7 million five-year project contains three technical components. The project has been designed with a Theory of Change to meet GEF Global Environmental Benefits, the overall project objective, and assist countries to address the key transboundary environmental threats highlighted by the CLME+ SAP, including marine habitat degradation and community modification, pollution and unsustainable fisheries.

The first project component supports marine spatial planning efforts as a basis for establishing blue economy strategies that leverage existing information from CLME SAPs/NAPs, relevant marine spatial planning efforts from the GEF-World Bank Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP), stated national sustainable development priorities, and key country-specific economic sectors. The second project component focuses on national-level activities that promote implementation of blue economy priorities, namely seafood value chains as a key economic growth opportunity for Caribbean countries. The third project component supports regional cooperation and capacity building, specifically aimed at increasing awareness and use of marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management, as part of a larger effort towards adopting blue economy priorities. The project is supported by a fourth project component focused on project monitoring and evaluation, regional and national capacity development, and knowledge dissemination and experience sharing through South-South cooperation, regional knowledge exchanges, and participation in IW:LEARN activities.

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. Each participating country has its own unique challenges and opportunities, and the focus of this component will be set on assessing this situation through the lens of marine spatial planning tools and latest experiences in development of national blue economy planning.

The component has three outcomes. The first outcome (Outcome 1.1) will empower government and key stakeholders with the information to implement spatially-based national blue economy strategies. This will be accomplished through three outputs that target development of national marine spatial plans, blue economy strategies, including sustainable financing strategies. As the largest priority of the project, this set of outputs will yield at least one comprehensive marine spatial plan per country, including where relevant complementing the GEF-6 Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project marine spatial planning activities. The outcome will also yield at least one national blue economy strategy per

country in place and/or updated that builds on national marine spatial plans (six strategies in place and/or updated). The second outcome (Outcome 1.2) will build off the first outcome and promotion of national blue economic development by strengthening mechanisms that support ecosystem-based fisheries management. This includes the establishment or expansion of marine protected areas in at least five countries (Jamaica, Belize, Panama, Barbados and Saint Lucia), with an estimated area coverage of 230,000 HA, as informed by national marine spatial planning efforts (Output 1.1.1). The outcome will also assess climate change impacts and data gaps in national level fisheries management to yield stronger ecosystem-based management approaches to meet long-term sustainability. National-level MPA activities in Jamaica, Panama, Belize, Saint Lucia and Barbados and will be directly supported by national GEF STAR Biodiversity funding (BD 1.1 and BD 2.7). The final outcome (Outcome 1.3) will pull the national level efforts together to strengthen regional blue economic cooperation and coordination, including increased institutional capacity to support government adoption of ecosystem-based fisheries management practices, through the development of at least one regional marine spatial plan focused on promotion of ecosystem-based fisheries management at the regional scale. This will be accomplished by conducting an assessment of existing marine spatial planning and other geospatial analysis efforts at the national and regional level, including outputs from the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) and CLME+ GEF projects to inform a regional ecosystem-based management of key fisheries. These efforts will be complemented by technical manuals and targeted trainings to promote blue economy development, which focuses on use of marine spatial planning for ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Project Component 2 focuses on establishing inclusive sustainable seafood value chains. The first outcome of this component (Outcome 2.1) 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, 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 woman, 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.

Project Component 3 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. Collectively the two 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.

It is worth recognizing the key role marine spatial planning (MSP) and marine protected areas (MPAs) will play in the project to support implementation of blue economy priorities across the project components to meet specific country priorities. Where possible and politically supported, the project will aim to establish or strengthen national intersectoral coordination mechanisms (usually referred to as NICs) or equivalent arrangements, which are multi-sectoral bodies aimed at addressing intersectoral issues, using tools such as marine spatial planning. Through key regional partners and technical expertise, organizations like FAO and CAF can provide advice and blue economy relevant information for MSP, such as on aquaculture site selection and zoning, location of fish landing areas, etc. As a process that brings together multiple ocean stakeholders (e.g. tourism authorities, energy sector, shipping and transportation, as well as forestry and agriculture), MSP will provide data-based and coordinated decisions about the sustainable use of marine resources, using geographic information systems as a tool to analyze the multiple uses.

MPAs are considered to be an essential element in fisheries management and have become increasingly popular as policy instruments. Globally, MPAs have been shown to increase fish size, density, biomass as well as species richness (Starr et al., 2015). They are considered an important tool in stock replenishment, long-term food security and fishing-related livelihoods (Reuchlin-Hughenoltz and McKenzie, 2015; Brander et al., 2015). In the Caribbean, MPAs are widely used as a tool for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management. For this reason and in response to international commitments, the number of MPAs has increased to approximately 385 within recent years (FAO-WECAFC, 2015). While most MPAs appear to address certain ecological objectives well, their performance in terms of meeting social and economic objectives is considered low (McConney and Pena, 2012). The latter thereby warrants a strengthening of 'triple bottom-line' performance of existing MPAs in the region. Targets have been set through the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 to develop representative networks of MPAs by 2012, and through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2006 to protect 10 percent of ecological regions in marine areas under national jurisdiction by 2010. Initiatives such as the Caribbean Challenge Initiative are attempts to address these conservation targets, which the project will support through strengthening national marine management plans and implementation support. Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have signed on to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative to effectively conserve 10 percent of marine resources by 2012 and protect 20 percent of their nearshore area by 2020. Several protected areas now have effective revenue generation strategies, and as a result are among the best managed in the region. The most successful cases in the region include Nelson's Dockyard National Park (Antigua), Bonaire and Saba Marine Parks, Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park (St. Kitts), and Pigeon Island National Park (Saint Lucia). In Belize, the economic evaluation of the Hol Chan Marine Park's justified the increase in user fees, making it one of the few self-financed marine parks in the Caribbean (Waite et al., 2014). In the Dominican Republic, La Caleta Marine Reserve, user fees were increased as a result of economic evaluation, and the additional revenue has been used to help establish an aquatic center, a conservation fund to support park

management, and a community fund to support local development projects (Wielgus et al., 2010). As noted in Project Component 1 above, the project will promote establishment or expansion of MPAs in at least five countries (Jamaica, Belize, Panama, Barbados, Saint Lucia), as a key mechanism to strengthen blue economic development.

The project is receiving GEF Biodiversity Focal Area STAR contributions of Jamaica (\$500,000), Panama (\$200,000), and Belize (\$100,000), Barbados (\$100,000) and Saint Lucia (\$100,000). Each is linked to specific national baseline investments under the BD focal area aligned with BD 1.1 and BD 2.7. The specific national level investments are detailed below and linked with the respective national level MSP and MPA activities of Component 1.

Barbados: The \$100,000 national level investment from Barbados will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and seascapes through spatial and ocean-use planning (BD 1.1) to ensure that marine resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without undermining or degrading biodiversity, including commercially important fisheries. To advance the blue economy priorities of the newly established Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, the project will indicatively support the development of a nation-wide MSP, building on current Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans. In doing so, the project will help develop a detailed management plan for Barbados' 12 nm Territorial Waters, which has been identified as a key source of potential to blue economic growth. Such sustainable oceans management will also include ecosystems-based fisheries management and improved governance recommendations, as well as a focus on national capacity building on MSP.

Belize: The \$100,000 national level investment from Belize will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and seascapes through spatial and ocean-use planning (BD 1.1) to ensure that marine resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without undermining or degrading biodiversity, including commercially important fisheries. This will including supporting existing baseline efforts of national blue economy strategy development by addressing key policy and technical gaps, including: a) targeted Ministry of Fisheries support with integration of socio-economic and other data gaps into existing Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan; b) support towards spatial planning and integration of recent national legislation for expansion of no-take zones from 4.5% to 11.6%, and; c) standardization and harmonization of co-management frameworks of all marine protected areas. These efforts will be closely aligned with development of seafood value chain creation under Component 2 to ensure overall blue economic sustainable development outcomes are achieved.

Jamaica: The \$500,000 national level investment from Jamaica will focus on support for the newly established National Fisheries Authority (NFA) in 2019 with mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and seascapes through spatial and ocean-use planning (BD 1.1). The BD investment will address the current lack of any comprehensive aquatic spatial

planning processes prevents proper use of MPAs as a tool for effective implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management. Support within Jamaica will support sustainable fisheries management goals as outlined by the NFA, leveraging baselines such as the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines

Panama: The \$200,000 national level investment from Panama will focus on improving individual and institutional capacity to manage protected areas such that they achieve their conservation objectives (BD 2.7). More specifically, the project indicatively aims to support: a) development of the expertise on restoration on beaches, coastal lagoon or coral reefs leading to the development of a MPA management framework; b) creation of protocols for the restoration of beaches, and coral reefs, including a national strategy for the control of invasive lionfish, and; c) development of a complete MPA geodatabase with all the economic and socio-environmental aspects. Collectively these BD national actions will contribute towards Panama's development of a National Oceanic Policy that advances SDG 14 goals and the promotion of blue economy priorities, including linkages to sustainable fisheries management and promotion of seafood value chains.

St Lucia: The \$100,000 national level investment from St Lucia will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and seascapes through updating MSP work from CROP and St. Lucia's Ocean Policy to ensure that marine resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without undermining or degrading biodiversity, including commercially important fisheries (BD 1.1). Specifically the project will be indicatively enhancing existing spatial efforts with development of blue economy strategy that includes updating mapping and zoning, development of governance and management structures, and sustainable financing recommendations. These efforts will be supported by seafood value chain development (as CAF cofinancing) through capital investment, potentially including infrastructure development, value chain and market analysis, and promotion of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS).

4) 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) catalyzing sustainable fisheries management. The project is also receiving US\$1,000,000 of investment from GEF Biodiversity Focal Area STAR contributions of Jamaica (\$500,000), Panama (\$200,000), and Belize (\$100,000), Barbados (\$100,000) 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*.

5) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, GEFTF, and co-financing;

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 projection 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 M 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 has been 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.

The project's total co-financing is US\$40,199,250 between in-kind and cash contributions from project partners. The six countries collectively through their liaison ministries for the project are providing a combined US\$9,000,000 in in-kind co-financing in the form of staff time, use of equipment, office space, etc. 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 in-kind contributions. CAF anticipates cofinancing 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.

6) *Global environmental benefits (GEFTF);*

The proposed project will generate global environmental benefits that 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 or expansion of marine project areas (MPAs) in at least five countries, with an estimated area coverage of 230,000 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 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 80,000 males and nearly 8,000 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.

The proposed project also is in support of Target 6 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 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.”

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: Central to the project’s goal is implementing innovative concept of blue economy. More than just concepts though, 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 analyze 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 and associated NAPs, the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), and the CARICOM and CRFM Strategic Plans. 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, 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.

[1] UNEP. 2010. State of Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and Division of Environmental Law and Conventions. 12p

[2] CEPF. 2011. Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspots. Ecosystem Profile Summary. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. Arlington, Virginia, 20p

[3] Gobierno de Panama 2014. Quinto Informe Nacional de Biodiversidad de Panama ante el Convenio de Diversidad Biologica

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[5] CRFM. 2018. CRFM Statistics and Information Report - 2016. 82pp.

[6] Exclusive Economic Zone. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive_economic_zone

[7] FAO. 2017. Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (Stewardfish) Project; GCP/SLC/211/GFF

[8] Cyrus, Rustumjee. 2016. Developing the Blue Economy in Caribbean and other Small Island States. *Policy Brief, No.75 of 2016*.

[9] CRFM. 2018. CRFM Statistics and Information Report - 2016. 82pp

[10] The State of Biodiversity in the Caribbean Community: A Review of Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat. ISBN 978-976-600-419-4.

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.

The CLME+ Region



2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

During project identification phase, the project has 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 more recently, a PIF consultation workshop in February 2019 in Barbados led by CAF. The project is building off existing planning documents where local organizations have been engaged, but the project also fully intends to do its own due diligence during the full project document development phase. The following table provides an overview of stakeholder consultations to date:

Stakeholder	Participation in project preparation	Participation in project implementation
Government Institutions		
BARBADOS		
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 licensing
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 Agencies and the project's Executing Agency
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
Barbados Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing
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

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
BELIZE		
Fisheries Department	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research, marine reserves, licensing, and fisheries enforcement
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration	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 Agencies and the project's Executing Agency
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.
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 economy context
Belize Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing
Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management
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
GUYANA		
Fisheries Department	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research, marine reserves, licensing, and fisheries enforcement

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 Agencies and the project's Executing Agency
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
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
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
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
Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing
JAMAICA		
Fisheries Division	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research, marine reserves, licensing, and fisheries enforcement
Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	GEF Operational Focal Point	Liaison with the GEF Implementing Agency and the project's Executing Agency
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
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.

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
Jamaica Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing
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
PANAMA		
Coastal and Marine Management Division	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for supporting the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.
Ministry of Environment	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country 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 Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research and licensing
Tourism Authority	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management
Panama Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing
National Customs Authority - Panama	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
SAINT LUCIA		
Department of Fisheries	Project Focal Point and Liaison Office in country	Direct responsibility for ecosystem-based fisheries management, research and licensing

Ministry of Ministry 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
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
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
Coast Guard	Consultation on operational opportunities to promote fisheries MCS	Key partner for capacity building and definition of strategies to promote legal fishing
Ministry of Tourism, Information and Broadcasting	Source of information on tourism within the context of blue economy	Important project partner for capacity building, blue economy advocacy, and Knowledge Management
Inter-governmental Institutions		
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 Agencies
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
OSPESCA	Promotes the development and the coordinated management of regional fisheries and aquaculture activities, helping to strengthen the Central American integration process	Coordinates communication between all project stakeholders and knowledge dissemination in Central America
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Key consultation partner on region-wide fisheries management approaches and lessons learned.	Key partner for coordinating and ensuring coherence in regional fisheries management approaches, including sustainable blue growth/economy catch strategies
Civil Society Organizations		

Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA)	Important partner to be consulted on strategies to engage fishers and civil society on blue economy approaches	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for the ecosystems approach and Knowledge Management within a blue economy context
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	Important partner to be consulted on ecosystem based strategies and civil society participation within the context of blue economy	Key capacity building and advocacy partner for the ecosystems approach and Knowledge Management within a blue economy context
Academia		
Center 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 economy in the Caribbean	Source of technical expertise and consultations in processes to develop blue economy engagement and awareness strategies
Private Sector		
Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations	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.
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.
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.
Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations	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.
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.
National Fisherfolk Cooperative Association – Saint 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.
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.
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.

Central American Confederation of Artisanal Fishers (CONFEPESCA)	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.
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.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

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 woman in all project activities. Additionally, specific project activities have been developed that target creating opportunities for woman and youth (Component 3). Further, the proposed project recognizes that the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Woman (UN Woman) 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 is being developed under the CARICOM Common Fisheries Policy. The project has set an initial Core Indicator target of generating direct benefits to approximately 80,000 males and 8,000 females across the six countries participating in the project.

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; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project’s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

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.

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Risk	Rating	Mitigation
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	H	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.

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 and top-down approaches 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.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will be co-implemented by CAF (as the lead agency) and FAO. The main executing agency will be Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), which will host a Project Management Unit at its office in Belize. Project monitoring will be led by dedicated M&E staff at CRFM, leveraging existing M&E mechanisms in the region, including continued alignment with CLME+SAP and national monitoring frameworks and common use of monitoring indicators. Monitoring of fisheries will continue to stay aligned with FAO and CAF policies and recommendations. The project will also follow GEF IEO third-party evaluation policies at project midterm and upon project completion. The project mid-term evaluation will be critical in providing an independent view on project progress and an opportunity to adjust/improve project execution. The project will also 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.

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, and respective national plans.

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), University of Florida, 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).

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

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 Common Fisheries Policy 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 entities 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.

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

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

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.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Gilian Guthrie	Jamaica- OFP	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	11/7/2019
Caroline Eugene	St Lucia - OFP	Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development	11/6/2019
Gustavo Padilla	Panama - OFP	Ministry of Environment	11/11/2019
Anthony Wiltshire	Barbados - OFP	Ministry of Environment and Natural Beautification	11/12/2019
Vincent Adams	Guayana - OFP	Environmental Protection Agency	11/12/2019
Percival Cho	Belize - OFP	Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries, Forestry , the Environment , Sustainable Development and Immigration	11/7/2019

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

